

Spruce Street UMC Newsletter

386 Spruce Street Morgantown, WV 26505 304.292.3359

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. In-Person & 10:45 a.m. In-Person & Online

August Newsletter 2026

August Birthdays

8/2 Sam Spears
8/4 Roger Britton
8/6 Mark Clingan
8/6 Lauren Kennell
8/6 Pat Pierce
8/10 Josh Osborn
8/12 Teresa Johnson
8/13 Greg McCracken
8/13 Orson Redden
8/14 Will Burton IV
8/14 Carolyn Carr
8/14 Shirley Hill
8/15 Cindy Cramer
8/15 Sam Lee
8/17 Piper Hetrick
8/19 Mary Belle Rowe
8/21 Brandi Helms
8/23 Bill Kennell
8/23 Barbara Johns
8/26 Em Pechon
8/28 Lori Britton
8/28 Kayla Lindsey
8/28 Bob Losh
8/29 Sara Fuqua
8/29 Gary Schlobohm
8/29 Joe Schlobohm
8/31 Tim Koon

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Responding with Love for as Long as it Takes

As the flood recovery continues and different lives begin again for the people affected by the waters, many of us are asking what we can do in response. Three faithful and tangible offerings are before us: **Pray, Love, and Give**. Through these acts, we share the compassion of Christ, extend grace and hope, and love God by loving our neighbors in their time of need.

- *Pray*—In prayer, we hold the circumstances, needs, hurts, and wounds of others before God, placing our neighbors' wellbeing at the center of our concern.
- *Love*—Love is our why and our calling as the people of God. As people of peace, we extend Christ's compassion to those who are hurting and remind them they are not alone.
- *Give*—We give our time, gifts, and resources to support recovery. Volunteer if you are able, pray for those in need and those who help, and give through the church, the Annual Conference, or UMCOR to help restore wellness and wholeness to the people.

To put compassion into action, use the disaster-response resource below to discern how you are called to help or give through our offerings at Spruce Street UMC.

<https://www.wvumc.org/disaster-response>

Every Blessing,

Pastor Bart



MUSIC MUSINGS



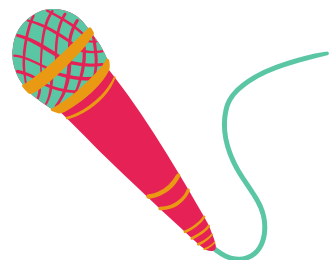
The new year starts in January, of course, but for me, it actually starts in August. Having been in and worked in academia all my life, my brain aligns itself most naturally with the rhythms of the school year. So, for me, August is a time of new beginnings. And, it is certainly a time of new beginnings in the chancel choir!

Through August we are winding down our summer schedule and preparing for a new year. So, if you have ever thought about joining choir, now is the perfect time! Our season runs September through the first week of June with our first rehearsal this season on Thursday, September 3rd from 7:00-8:15. Our choir is one of the most welcoming groups of musicians I have worked with in my career. And we are very accepting of members with busy schedules. Some members sing every single Sunday and some pop in and out as they are able.

Whatever your ability, commitment level, or schedule you are welcome in the Spruce Street Chancel Choir. Regardless of if you choose to join or not, we hope that our 2026-2027 season will be uplifting and renewing for you all!

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth" - Psalm 96:1

-Ashley



Dear Spruce Street Family,

For decades, our church doors have welcomed our community for worship, celebrations, and fellowship. Today, those doors are showing their age and are in need of replacement. We are excited to announce our **"Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds"** campaign to raise \$10,000 (the money includes the doors, hardware, installation, etc.) for beautiful, secure, and energy-efficient new doors for our sanctuary.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate Online:** Make a secure contribution at Givelify
- **By Mail/In-Person:** Drop your gift labeled "New Doors" in the offering plate or mail it to the church.
- **Pray:** Join us in praying for the success of this project and the continued growth of our church family.
- **Gifts:** We will also have a giving plaque and book for people to make a donation in memory or honor of someone or group that will be displayed in the church. *\$25 minimum donation to be in the display book and \$100 for the plaque.* Please indicate which one you want to be in when you make a gift.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Together, we can ensure our church remains a welcoming beacon for generations to come.

Blessings,

The Trustees



Gifts of Love

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. This time of year, we are in need of sunscreen and insect repellent to help our unhoused neighbors. If you have items that you no longer need that are gently used, please consider donating those items to our Gifts of Love. Suggested items include but are not limited to:

- Dishes
- Pots & pans
- Silverware
- Glasses/mugs
- Cooking utensils
- Can openers
- Mixing bowls
- Serving dishes/spoons
- Tupperware
- Cleaning supplies
- Coffeemakers
- Toasters
- Blenders
- Microwaves
- Dishcloths
- Towels
- Baking sheets
- Bakeware
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Potholders/mitts
- Cutting boards
- Storage organizers
- Blankets/quilts
- Linens
- Backpacks
- Flashlights/lanterns
- Batteries
- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Basic hygiene items



SCOTTS RUN DONATIONS

We collect nonperishable food and other items for Scotts Run Settlement House in our Overflow Area. **Please keep our low-income neighbors in mind as you are doing your grocery shopping.** Additional helpful things to donate include non-perishable, high-protein items such as canned tuna or beans and whole grains such as rice or pasta. These items help keep bellies full!



August Lectionary Scriptures

August 2nd - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,15
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 23rd - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 9th - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6,16-22,45b
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 30th - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

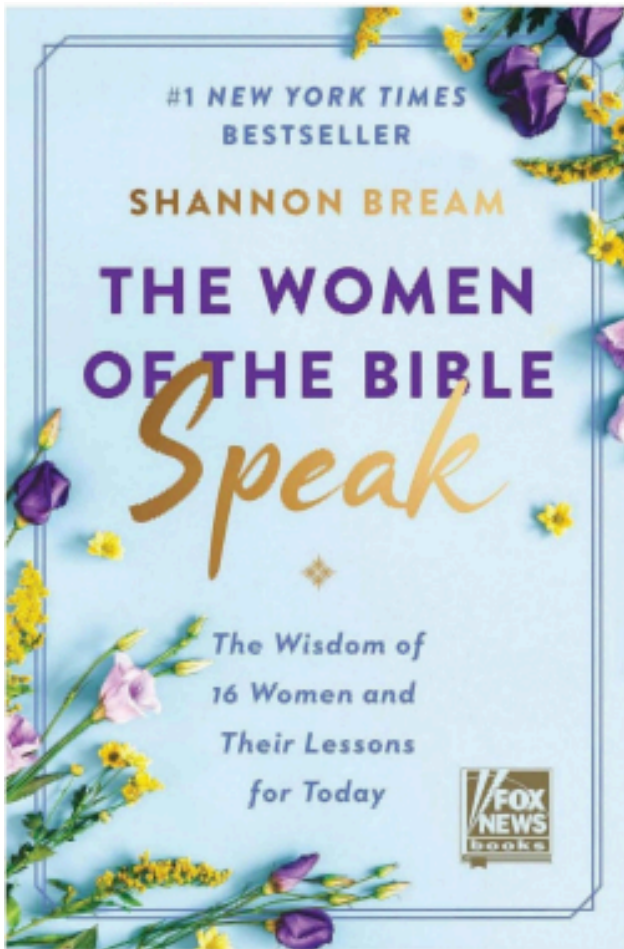
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

August 16th - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28



Upcoming Events



MON VALLEY DISTRICT

UWIF Bookclub

What: Next Book Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 4 @ 6 p.m.

Where: In Person at Wesley United Methodist Church and

Via ZOOM @

<https://zoom.us/j/98629712987?pwd=kBglPl94psl1TtakYFlwRW1M8axl34.1>

Meeting ID: 98629712987

Passcode: 268770

Book: The Women of the Bible Speak

Author: Shannon Bream

SAVE THE DATES!!

MonValley District Conference - Sunday, 8/30 @ Bridgeport UMC

District Day with Bishop Wallace-Padgett - Monday, 9/21 @ LIFE UMC



Where Faith and Curiosity Grow Together ♡

God Keeps His Promise

A Rainbow of Promise!

Join us for
Science & Math Activities
in the Park!



Saturday, August 8
10:30 – 11:30 AM



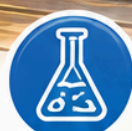
**Star City Riverfront Park
(Tugboat Depot)**

We'll be in the park pavilion
at the lower lot.

**FREE
EVENT!**



Explore



Experiment



Discover



Grow in Faith



The
"Bug Lady"
will be bringing our
special animal guests!



LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES, WVUMC NORTHERN DISTRICT, PRESENTS

Opening Ourselves to GRACE

Basic Christian Practices

A Lay Servant Ministries advanced course featuring video instruction teamed with guided focus discussion groups. This one-day seminar helps servant leaders embrace and communicate to others the basic Christian practices known as “means of grace” which draw us to Christ and keep us rooted in him.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1232 NATIONAL RD, WHEELING, WV



Learn more &
register online
by August 8 for
this FREE course



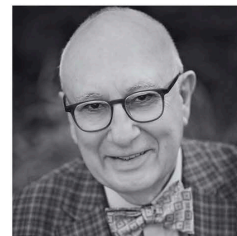
bit.ly/2026grace

SCHEDULE:

- 7:30 Breakfast & Fellowship
- 8:15 Devotions
- 8:30 Session 1: Opening Ourselves to Grace
- 10:30 Session 2: Finding the Means of Grace
- 12:00 Lunch & Fellowship
- 12:45 Session 3: Practice Makes Perfect
- 2:45 Session 4: Living with Grace
- 4:30 Worship & Certificate Presentation

About the Facilitator:

Louis Costanzo is a Certified Lay Minister and a member of the Northern District Lay Servant Ministries Team. He's also a member of the WVUMC Conference Pension Board and the United Methodist Foundation Board of Directors. He serves his home congregation at Christ UMC, Wheeling, as Head Usher, Chair of Trustees, and as a member of the Discipleship Council and Lay Leadership nomination committee.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

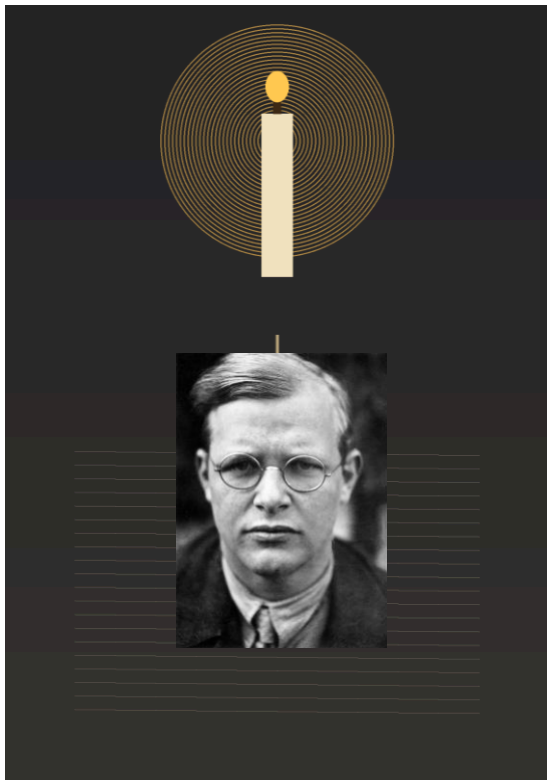
Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Church: _____

To Register by Mail: Complete the form above. Tear off and send to:

Peggy Klages, c/o Northern District Office of the UMC
1060 Chapline St., Rm 111, Wheeling, WV 26003



PRAYING WITH BONHOEFFER

A Spiritual Retreat on Prayer, Psalms, and the Presence of Christ

"When your words fail you — the Psalms will carry you."

Saturday, August 22, 2026

10 AM – 3:30 PM

Through silence, guided Psalm prayer, spiritual direction, and communal worship, discover a deeper way of praying inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Hosted by Pastors Mike Estep, Bart Thompson, and the Center for Spiritual Renewal

In a world overflowing with noise, anxiety, outrage, and exhaustion...
what if prayer was never meant to begin with *your words*?

Join Pastors Mike Estep and Bart Thompson for a deeply reflective spiritual retreat inspired by the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, resistor, and martyr.

Through the Psalms, silence, guided prayer, spiritual direction, and honest conversation, we will discover a different way to pray:

Not performing.
Not pretending.
Not trying harder.
But learning to let Scripture pray within us.

Retreat Theme

"The richness of God's Word... not the poverty of our heart... shapes prayer."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Throughout the day participants will:

- Pray the Psalms slowly and contemplatively
- Explore how Christ speaks through the Psalms
- Practice silence and sacred listening
- Wrestle honestly with anger, grief, waiting, confession, and trust
- Write a personal Psalm
- Experience communal prayer rooted in ancient Christian tradition

This retreat is designed for:

- Pastors and church leaders

- Spiritual seekers
- Prayer groups and small groups
- People carrying grief, questions, exhaustion, or longing
- Anyone who has ever struggled to find words for prayer

No expertise is needed.

Only openness.

Retreat Highlights

Morning Session

“Who Is Praying?” — Praying with Christ

Discover Bonhoeffer’s radical insight that in the Psalms, *Christ himself prays with us and for us.*

Midday Silence

Participants will spend guided time praying with Psalms of:

- Trust
- Waiting
- Confession
- Being Known

Afternoon Session

“Praying What We Avoid”

A courageous exploration of difficult emotions in prayer:
anger, fear, lament, and honesty before God.

Closing Worship

A communal Psalm prayer reminding us: *We are never praying alone.*



Pre-class assignment -

Bonhoeffer (2003) Full HD Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrFxlPnXzc>

- **Saturday, August 22**
- **9:30 AM - Gathering**
- **10 AM – 3:30 PM (Lunch Provided)**
- **Location: LIFE United Methodist Church, 3000 Technology Dr, Fairmont, WV 26554**

Register here: <https://bit.ly/PrayingBonhoeffer>

Suggested donation: \$50.00

Online donation - <https://pushpay.com/g/lifeumc?campusId=&clickOrigin=&itemId=>

Or day of event

Contact: Mike Estep, pastormike@lifeumc.org or 304-288-5220

MINISTERIAL ETHICS

2026-12

Training

This will be a two-part training

- Part 1: Online ethics training course
- Part 2: In-person interactive training
(Part one must be completed prior to part 2)

All participants must be screened and have completed Safe Sanctuaries training.

October 19, 2026

Parkersburg, WV

October 20, 2026

Morgantown, WV

April 19, 2027

Beckley, WV

April 20, 2027

Charleston, WV

NO COST TO ATTEND

**REQUIRED FOR ALL LAITY AND CLERGY
WHO ARE ASSIGNED OR APPOINTED**



SAVE THE DATE

REGISTRATION ANNOUNCED SOON



West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church

www.wvumc.org

MESSY CHURCH

MESSY CHURCH

We're on a break for the summer, but we will be returning in September!



Messy Church is every 3rd Sunday of the month from 5:30–6:30 pm.



Spruce St UMC
386 Spruce St
Morgantown, WV



Q: Why is it called Messy Church?

A: The service isn't really about making a mess—it's about meeting God in the middle of our messy lives.

Life isn't always neat or perfect, and neither are we.

Messy Church is a place where everyone is welcome to come as they are, explore God's love through creativity and community, and discover that God meets us right where we are.



Q: What happens during a Messy Church service?

A: First, we say a Messy Grace, and get a plate of dinner. You can start on some activities while you eat, or just enjoy a moment with family and new friends.

Then we share a brief moment of worship—usually a Bible story.

We finish up activities, and kids often take some time to play, too!



Q: What makes Messy Church different from typical church services?

A: At Messy Church, we don't just hear Bible stories—we experience them!

Through hands-on activities and creative projects, families step into the story together.

We believe learning by doing helps God's Word come alive in meaningful, memorable ways.



Q: When and where does Messy Church meet?

A: Messy Church meets every 3rd Sunday of the month from 5:30–6:30pm at Spruce St UMC, 386 Spruce St, Morgantown, WV.



Q: Do I need to bring anything?

A: No. Everything is provided, from activity supplies, to dinner.

There will not be a collection taken. And every part of Messy Church is free.



Q: Is this for kids?

A: Messy Church is inter-generational. Children attend and experience the service along side people of all ages.

Everyone is welcome to move freely, and the event is low-pressure and flexible. So, kids often feel very welcome and comfortable.

But Messy Church is not just for kids!



Spruce St UMC Office Hours & Contact Info

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

304-292-3359

sprucestumc.org

SPRUCE STREET STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor	Rev. Bart Thompson	304-813-7213 pastor@sprucestreetumc.org
Lay Minister	Eldon Callen	304-290-7142 eldonc45@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant	Em Pechon	304-292-3359 secretary@sprucestreetumc.org
Financial Secretary	Judy Kennell	finance@sprucestreetumc.org
Music Director	Marguerite Bostonia	margbos6@gmail.com
Choir Director	Ashley Lewis	jashleylewis@gmail.com
Children's Ministry	Lena Glowacky	childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org
Building Supervisor	Bonnie Johnson	johnson26541@yahoo.com
Prayer Focus	Carolyn Carr	cdccarr@yahoo.com

YOU'RE INVITED
TO JOIN US FOR

Finding HOPE

Even the smallest things
can grow into something
extraordinary.

Come be encouraged by God's Word,
meaningful worship, and a welcoming community.

SUNDAY SERVICES
8:30 AM
Traditional Worship
10:45 AM
Traditional Worship

WATCH ONLINE
Join us live on
Facebook or YouTube
Search for
Spruce Street UMC

ALL ARE WELCOME
No matter where
you are on your
journey, you have
a place here.

 **SPRUCE STREET**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Love. Grow. Serve.

 386 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV
 www.sprucestreetumc.org
 Spruce Street United Methodist Church

August 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	3 1:30PM Heritage Bible Study 6PM Ad Council	4	5 11AM Bible Study 6:30PM Barnabas Group	6 10AM Chair Yoga	7	8 10:30AM God Keeps His Promise! @ Star City Riverfront Park
9 11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	10 6PM SPPRC	11	12 11AM Bible Study 6PM UMM	13 10AM Chair Yoga	14	15 4:30PM Nina & Andrew's Wedding
16 12th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	17 6PM Finance 7PM Trustees	18	19 11AM Bible Study	20 10AM Chair Yoga	21	22 10AM-3:30PM Bonhoffer Study @ Life UMC in Fairmont
23 13th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	24	25	26 11AM Bible Study	27 10AM Chair Yoga	28	29
30 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 3PM District Conference @ Bridgeport UMC	31	1	2 11AM Bible Study	3 10AM Chair Yoga 7PM Chancel Choir	4	5