



The Messenger

A publication of the Effort United Methodist Church

July and August 2025

Our Mission

“The purpose of the Effort United Methodist Church is to know, love and serve God and one another in Christian Community, welcoming all to grow as followers of Jesus Christ.

Ways to Connect:

Address: 178 Merwinsburg Rd. (PO Box 545), Effort, PA 18330

Office phone: 570-629-1890 (Jan Decker, Administrative Assistant)

Email: eumc103@ptd.net

Website: www.effortumc.org

Facebook: Effort United Methodist Church

Instagram: [effortunitedmethodist](https://www.instagram.com/effortunitedmethodist)

Youth Group Instagram: [e.u.m.c.wavewalkers](https://www.instagram.com/e.u.m.c.wavewalkers)

Help Us to Connect with You:

Should you want to get on our contact list for email, or have a change in your email address (or home address, phone number), please ensure that you contact the church office by contacting Jan (570-629-1890; eumc103@ptd.net).

Newsletter distributed generally monthly via email, at church or via mail. Information for the September 2025 Messenger is due to Roxane Martin by **Monday, August 25, 2025**. Email Roxane at martgr@ptd.net or place in Newsletter mailbox across from the church office.

Church office Summer closure: Church office will be closed on Fridays for the summer **through Friday, August 29th**. Office hours will be Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 2:30pm. Regular work schedule will resume after Labor Day.

“Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.”

UMH 420, Breath on Me, Breath of God

Pastor's Corner

“Love is...”

In the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote a (now famous) passage to the church in Corinth. You see, a few years earlier, Paul had helped establish the new Christ following church in the province of Corinth. Since the whole Christian movement was still in its infancy, the people of the church at Corinth had many questions for Paul. Their questions generally centered around how their new church should operate and how they should be treating one another. Throughout the entire book of 1 Corinthians, Paul answers those questions, and instructs the church at Corinth in how they should proceed as devoted followers of Christ.

With that background in mind, we come to the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. This passage is now famous, because it is seemingly read at every wedding we have ever attended! While this passage is certainly applicable for a married couple, the original intent of this passage, was to guide the Church of Christ and its people. As followers of Christ, and members of His Church at Effort, Pennsylvania, listen to Paul's instruction: *Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.*

What a beautiful description, and an extremely high calling, for how followers of Christ are to treat one another and how we can show love to one another. While it may be difficult for us to always show this kind of love to our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called by God to do so. Because this is such a difficult task for us to complete, God, being full of grace, mercy, and love, has provided us with His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to empower us to love one another as He calls us to.

What is even more amazing, is that God does not simply call us to love each other in this way, but He showed us how it is possible. God, through Jesus Christ, showed us that it is possible to live life this way. Jesus Christ was born, raised, lived, and ministered to God's people while He walked this earth. In His time on this earth, Jesus Christ lived out 1 Corinthians 13! He showed us the way. So, to end our Pastor's Corner this month, I want us to consider 1 Corinthians 13 from a different perspective: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the very definition of LOVE:

My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is so patient with me! He is so kind, he does not envy, He does not boast, He is not proud. Jesus never dishonors me, He is not self-seeking, He is not easily angered. Jesus Christ keeps no record of wrongs for those who have put their faith and trust in Him. Jesus Christ does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. Jesus always protects me, always trusts God the Father, always hopes, and has persevered on behalf of us.

Jesus has shown us this kind of unconditional love, and now we are called to pass on that kind of love to one another. Wishing you all a blessed Summer Season!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Happenings

Vacation Bible School: July 21-25th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. For more information, see VBS under Opportunities for Children and Families section.

Concerts in the Pavilion: *The Kings of Queen Street* will be returning on **August 9th**, and *Erin McClean* will be here on **September 13th** to entertain us with some great music. A light dinner will start at 5:30 pm with the concert beginning at 6:00 pm. Bring your lawn chair and a friend or two for an evening of food, fellowship and music!

West End Fair: As you may know, the church has a food stand at the Fair and is always in need of volunteers to help work and serve. There are many daily opportunities. Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older to help out (18 and over to work the grill). This is a fun time and a great opportunity to meet new people, invite people to church and to enjoy some great food and entertainment! Sign up sheets are in the Narthex! Hurry and sign up so to get the “job” you want! And while you are wandering around the WE Fair, don’t forget to stop by and purchase some of the delicious offerings—they’re mighty yummy! See you at the fair **August 17th through the 23rd**...and let’s pray for NO RAIN!

Fellowship Breakfasts: The Trustees have taken a break for the summer. Breakfasts will resume on Sunday, **September 14th** at 9:30 am. See you then!

Opportunities to Serve

Nursery Volunteers: The Nursery is normally opened only during the 11:00 am service. If you love children and are willing to volunteer one hour of your time to tend for and to care for those little ones in our church. Background checks and clearances are required. If you need background checks, please contact Jan in the office. Thanking you in advance for your support of this ministry.

Ushers and Greeters: We have reconvened the use of Ushers and Greeters at our services! This means we will be in need of a few people who would like to participate in accepting the offerings and greet people as they enter the church. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Wichman who will be coordinating this opportunity for service. You can reach Michelle at: mlwich@ptd.netD

Do you love Jesus? Do you love it here at EUMC? Do you love the people, the preaching and the fellowship? Then maybe you would love to be a part of our Church family! And we would love to have you! Obviously, there is a whole lot of love circulating around this place! **NOTE: We will be holding classes for the next group of New Members for 2026 in the months of January, February and March of 2026.**

Opportunities for Children and Families

Christian Education

Any questions or concerns, please see Brenda Mitchell, Christian Education Director (eumchrist@ptd.net)

Nursery: available at the 11:00am service for ages Newborn to 3 years old.

Sunday School Classes are held during the 11:00 am services (September through May).

Summer Sunday School Program: “Sunday is Fun Day” runs through the end of August. The ages of the children attending will be 3 years of age, and up to and including 11 years of age. Anyone 12 and above will remain at the service.

Young Adult Group: Is a self-run group meeting monthly or as scheduled for ages 18-26. Interested persons can contact Brenda Mitchell, Christian Education Director for additional information.

Vacation Bible School

Get ready for fun and adventure as we make plans for VBS for 2025. This year’s program will be held the week of July 21st through July 25th, 2025. The theme for the week is: *Egypt- Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace*. This program will be held Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. If you are willing to volunteer at VBS, please contact Deb Audett at daudett@ptd.net and she will assist in signing you up and ensuring clearances are up to date. A sign up sheet to register the youth has been placed on the Welcome Center. Remember....Whom will you invite???

Preschool at Effort UMC

Do you know of anyone looking for a wonderful Pre-school program or if you have any questions about either the 3 year old or Pre-K programs, please call the church office or speak with Miss Gail by calling 570-629-1890 ext. 201. Registrations for the upcoming school year 2025-2026 are currently being accepted.

WaveWalkers Youth Group

Hello EUMC and hello summer! The WaveWalkers are ready for the heat and some fun activities and group meetings. Yes, that's right we still meet regularly through the summer months! So if you are looking for a way to get your child or teen involved, how about giving our WaveWalker Youth Ministry a try this summer!

We have a lot to do this July and August. We have a pool party planned with swimming, of course, and some food and games; we have a meeting on July 27th during our summer picnic; and we have VBS, a weeklong fun journey where many of our youth attend and our teens help out.

In August we are not done yet. We are planning our very own lock-in on August 1,2,3--a weekend full of fun, worship, important messages geared towards teens, and, of course, food. And as they are getting ready for their return to school, we have our West End Fair where they can be seen helping out at our food tent. And you never know--we could be planning other community events or day trips.

Remember, it's never too late to jump into the EUMC youth ministry! The WaveWalkers meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. It's never too late to register your child. We welcome anyone from 3rd grade to 12th grade, and we are always excited to meet and see new faces! Cubbies are from 3rd to 6th grade with the Youth group from 7th to 12th grade. Lunch is provided! Join them for a great time of fellowship together! For our meeting details please see any of our adult leaders or check out our postcards in the narthex.

Contact Alison Laxton, alaxton@ptd.net, Deb Audett, daudett@ptd.net, Theresa Mayo, mayo43093@aol.com or Melissa Roberti, mlenjr@frontier.com for additional information.

July 13th, July 27th, August 10th & August 24th 12:30-2:30 pm

Youth Mission Trip-2025

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to those that have sponsored and supported this trip; we couldn't have done it without you!

There will be a video presentation of our trip on Sunday, July 20th at both services. We invite you to come and take a look at some of the work and accomplishments our youth in service have made.

As a side note: Mission opportunities for youth for 2026 are available. Interested youth are encouraged to contact Jan in the church office for more information. In the event we do not have enough interest, the Youth Mission Trip for 2026 may not happen. ☹️

Participants on the trip this year were: Jaylee Belstra, Allison Mayo, Jayda Timothy, Kelsey Wasbourne, Evan James, Claire Roberti, Corbin Roberti, Jasmine Broome, Joyce Aylsworth, Sharon & Josh Gerhart, Jan Decker and Bud Gouger.

Continuing Fellowship/Bible Study Opportunities

RightNow Media: We launched this program on March 30th. To receive an “invite” for access to the church wide Bible Studies and other related resources, we will need an email. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex (or contact Jan in the office). A heartfelt thank you to all of the sponsors for this program whose generosity has allowed the church to receive a reduced rate for the subscription (annual) and we have sponsorships through March 2026.

Basement Bunch: Basement Bunch Bible Study/Sunday School class meets from 9:45 and until 10:30 am in the former Day Care Kitchen area from Septemeber until May. Coffee, tea and some sort of goodies are always available. We would love to see a few more people join us. There is a book that we follow that you can read ahead or just look at it once we are in class. Come on out and learn a little bit more about the Bible. Hope to see you there! Please contact Steve Johnson at sjsa@ptd.net to register and/or if you have any questions.

Note: Classes concluded on May 25th for the summer. See you in September.

Christian Connection: A group designed specifically for fellowship and sharing. This group welcomes all to share and to let you know you’re not alone. Meetings will be on Mondays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and will be held in the Day Care Kitchen area. Bring a lunch and join them in a relaxed atmosphere of sharing God’s love. If you are interested in participating, please contact Betsi Bradrick at: duckharbor21@gmail.com

Financially Speaking: We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued financial support of your church whether it was through the US Mail, EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer), in person, by giving through or Pay Pal. Reminder that **Extra Mile Giving** (either through your envelopes or EFT) are greatly appreciated. All Extra Mile Giving goes directly to the General Fund for general operating expenses (electric, oil, office supplies, youth education and youth group, etc.) and is in addition to your weekly tithes and offerings. An extra few dollars goes a long way! Please consider going that “extra mile”. Contact Finance Chair for any questions—Bob Decker, bdecker@schiffs.com

The Giving Statement for the period January 1 to May 31 should be sent out during the first half of July. If you do not receive yours either by email or postal mail, please contact Brenda Mitchell at: effortum@gmail.com or by calling 570-629-1890 ext. 102.

Food Pantry (SFRC): Member of Feeding America through Second Harvest Food Bank

The Lord inspired us to help feed families who have need, that are not eligible for local, county or state programs. The program serves the communities of Albrightsville, Blakeslee, Brodheadsville, Effort, Gilbert, Kunkletown, Kresgeville, Saylorsburg and Sciota on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, from 10:00 am to noon.

SEEKING FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR! *After serving for 7 faithful years, John Ostovich has made an announcement that he will be stepping down as the director of the Food Pantry at the end of August. We thank him for his dedication to the Pantry and hope he knows he will be leaving with our gratitude and appreciation. While we wish John the best, it does leave a volunteer vacancy for which we have a need to fill. In the event you would like to explore the opportunity, please contact Pastor Scott for responsibility information and of your potential interest.*

Volunteers:

Youth: Must be in high school. If 16-17, must complete volunteer paperwork, but background checks are not required.

Adults: Must complete volunteer paperwork. Must complete state background checks (and Federal checks if not in Pennsylvania for 10 years). Must complete youth protection training. Contact Jan Decker for all volunteer paperwork at: eumc103@ptd.net or 570-629-1890 ext. 103. Contact a food pantry director to find out where to put your talents to work: eumcsfrc@ptd.net or 570-629-1890 ext. 109.

Our biggest volunteer need continues to be associated with picking up items from our suppliers. These are often mid-day/mid-week activities.

The pantry will be open as follows for the month of July & August 2025 are as follows:

July 12th and July 26th, August 9th and August 23rd, 2025 from 10 am to noon

SFRC is seeking donations for the month of July and August : Back to school products (juice boxes, snacks, lunch supplies....)

Men's Group: The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th at 9:00 am in the former Day Care Kitchen area. (There are always snacks and coffee available). Our meetings are normally held on the third Saturday morning of each month. For more information contact Steve Johnson at sjsa@ptd.net

NOTE: There will be no meeting in July and August as we will be busy preparing for the West End Fair

Missions:

Joyful Noise Offering during worship services for July and August 2025

July 6	Pocono Area Transitional Housing (PATH)
July 13	Zimmerman Family (Missionaries)
July 20	Connectional Ministries
July 27	EUMC Outreach
August 3	Pocono Plateau (No campership)
August 10	Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FA)
August 17	World Service Fund
August 24	Hillside Cemetery Association
August 31	EUMC Outreach

UMCOR Cleaning Buckets: The Mission Committee is sponsoring UMCOR by filling 16 cleaning buckets. Items that are needed are: Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3mm thickness) *please no surgical masks!* 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes), 36-50 Clothes pins, (1) 50-200ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic), 5 scouring pads (no stainless steel or pads with soap in them), 18 re-usable clean wipes (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels), One scrub brush (with or without handle), 40 oz bottles of liquid concentrate household cleaner—please no spray cleaners, 32-64 oz bottles of liquid laundry detergent. There are some buckets in front of the Welcome Center for your donations. Thank you.

Pastoral Care: The Pastoral Care Team has resumed their visitations and continue to update their card files. If you know of someone from our congregation that would like a visit from a pastoral care member or Pastor Scott, please let Dee Juris know and she will make arrangements for those who may be in need of a cheerful visit. Dee can be reached at: deedoloresj24@gmail.com *If you are interested in serving on the Pastoral Care Team or need more information as to what it is all about, please see Dee Juris, so she can “fill” you in.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The Prayer Shawl Ministry group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn, please join the ladies they would love to welcome you and have you join the group. Contact Joyce Aylsworth 570-643-3334 for more information.

Our next meetings are scheduled for: Tuesday, July 1st and July 15th and August 5th and August 19th.

The ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to extend a gracious and heartfelt “thank you” to all who have donated yarn and/or monetary donations in support of this ministry. We couldn’t do this without you and God’s grace.

Seekers: Just come on out and join them on Monday mornings at 10:00 am in Friendship Hall. Classes have concluded for the summer. **Note: See you on September 8th!**

Women’s Group of Effort: The next meeting will actually be the church picnic to be held on Sunday, July 27th immediately following the 11:00 am church service. We will be holding the picnic out in the Pavilion so bring your appetite, lawn chairs and a side dish to share. Games will be available for all ages. So come on out for some great fellowship and a fun time. This is a rain or shine event. Look for the sign up sheet on the Welcome Center. For more information, contact Sharon Gerhart at: idohair101@yahoo.com

There will be NO meeting for the month of August.

We are always looking for others to join in on the fun with us and to serve as part of a group that supports the church and various mission projects!

Our meetings are generally held the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.....come on out... there’s always terrific food!

Miscellaneous

Space available for rent: Looking for a comfortable and friendly place to hold your next party, family gathering or meeting? Look no further! EUMC has the perfect areas for such events. Wesley Hall (seats 125) and an outdoor Pavilion available to rent to non-profit organizations. Fees are: \$75 for Church members and \$100 for non-members with an additional \$50 for the Custodian. Contact the church office at 570-629-1890 for availability and additional information.

Shop Rite and Weis Market Register Tapes: The church is still collecting the register tapes from Shop Rite (Brodheads ville store only) and Weis Market (from any store). The church receives 1% of each qualified amount. As with all things, there are some guidelines and restrictions. One of which is that ***we cannot submit a tape that is more than one (1) year old.*** So if you would, please bring your tapes in on a timely basis that way we won't lose out on benefits associated with these program. Also, please note that these are the only register tapes/receipts we are able to apply to these programs. Receipts from CVS, Dollar General, Tractor Supply etc., are **NOT** applicable to these programs. The Shop Rite and Weis register tapes may be dropped off in the box in the Narthex, on the Welcome Center.

Upper Room Devotionals: Just a reminder that the Upper Room Devotionals are located in the back of the Narthex. To help offset some of the costs, a donation of \$1.50 for the smaller books and \$1.75 for the large print is requested. Thank you. (Note: we have to increase the cost after having it remain the same for over 10 years. Publishing costs have increased).

Recycling: Please be mindful when attending church and church events that we do recycle plastics (including bottles), glass and cardboard and to use the appropriate recycling bins located in both Wesley and Friendship Halls. Please ***DO NOT*** throw in the regular trash or garbage cans. Thank you.



JULY 2025

07/01 Alan Young, Richard Reade
07/06 Jacqueline Taylor-Tremble
07/07 Alison Laxton, Troy Haydt
07/08 Kathy Clawges, Karen Conklin
07/10 Mia Szydlowski
07/11 Brian Everett
07/12 Dylan Borger
07/14 Ed Kuc
07/15 David Miller

07/16 Jacob Possinger
07/18 Belle Peters, Jasmine Broome
07/23 David Gouger, Zondra Belstra,
Brie Olsommer
07/24 Carl Falco, Joshua Gerhart, Corbin Roberti
07/25 Linda Fullwood, Luke Donaghey

AUGUST 2025

08/01 Sarah Kuhnle	
08/02 G. Brian Smith	08/20 Robert Hoover
08/03 Hannah Csaszar, Beth Milburn	08/21 Lynette Possinger, Jared Frost
08/06 Mark Shields	08/22 Danielle Donaghy, Walt Strohl
08/07 Leroy Bonser II, Nate Conklin, Nayda Burns	08/23 Janet Ackers, Ruth Flechsig
08/08 C. Allen Conklin III, Aden Broome	08/24 Emily Dzwonkowski
08/09 Effie Howarth	08/25 Benjamin Conklin
08/11 Carol Esdale, Belle Scarpone	08/28 Camille Brown, Jessica Kuc, Barbara Reade
08/15 Matthew Laxton	08/31 John Ostovich
08/18 Gwendolyn Binkley, Claire Roberti, Terri Ostovich	

Early SEPTEMBER 2025

09/02 Dakota Everett
09/03 Iris Turney
09/04 Gail Schellman
09/05 Nathan Smith
09/06 Faith Fink
09/07 David Esdale, Jace Frost Jr., Theresa Decker-Robinson, James Possinger
09/08 Reta Romanco, Joan Frost, Ruth Hughart

Card Showers: (send cards and shower them with love)

Phyllis Conklin, c/o Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home, 302 Kunkletown Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058
Lucille Smith, 1308 Brian Lane, Effort, PA 18330
Sue Gellock, c/o Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Drive, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Room 112 (Jeff Albert's mom)
Helen Correll, 4 S. Kistler Street, Apt. 215 East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Mert & John Wolfe, 3215 Cherry Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058
Ed & Sarah Brecht, 800 Houseman Road, Apt. 387, Allentown, PA 18104
Evelyn Miller, PO Box 154, Effort, PA 18330
