



The Messenger

A publication of the Effort United Methodist Church

September 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)

(Hours: 8:30am – 2:30pm Mon-Fri)

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 October 2025 Messenger is due to Roxane Martin by **Thursday, September 25, 2025**. Email Roxane at martgr@ptd.net or place in Newsletter mailbox across from the church office.

Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person. (Matthew 15:10-11)

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Pastor's Corner

Proverbs for Living

During the month of August, we have been working our way through the book of Proverbs. On Sunday mornings during worship, we have learned from this book, and during the week I challenged you to read a chapter a day in Proverbs (31 chapters – 31 days). The book of Proverbs is an Old Testament book, which is marked by the wisdom of Almighty God. Although written primarily by Solomon, God's wisdom flows through these pages. In both your personal reading time and during Sunday worship, I hope this past month has been a blessing to you.

The Apostle Paul tells us, that, *"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)."* As we conclude our month-long journey through the book of Proverbs, I will leave you with these words of wisdom, straight from the source of all wisdom:

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge... (Prov. 1:7a).
- A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother (Prov. 10:1).
- When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom (Prov. 11:2).
- A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Prov. 15:1).

May God's wisdom be your guide!

Pastor Scott Kuhnle

Upcoming Happenings

Church Security: We have contracted with Ravenpoint for a six (6) month period and Security services for the church will commence on Sunday, **September 7th**.

Choir and Christmas Cantata: Practice will resume on Sunday, **September 7th** right after the 11am service. Contact Steve Johnson at sjsa@ptd.net for more information.

Concerts in the Pavilion: *Erin McClean* will be here on **September 13th** and on **October 11th** *Doc Poppa and the Renegades* will be here to entertain us with some great music. A light dinner will start at 5:30pm with the concert beginning at 6:00pm. Bring your lawn chair and a friend or two for an evening of food, fellowship and music!

Fellowship Breakfasts: will be back on Sunday, *September 14th* from 9:30 to 10:30 am in Wesley Hall. Bring the family, a few friends and your appetite for a delicious meal. This is a free will offering event that is open to all. See you there!

Soup Sale: They're Back!! Soup sale for September includes the following soups: Chicken Corn Chowder, and Minestrone with Sausage \$6.00 per quart. Sale runs through *September 24th* with the pick-up date of Sunday, *September 28th* after each service. Order form is on the Welcome Center.

Fall Flea Market: The Women's Group of Effort will be holding their semi-annual Flea Market on Saturday, *October 4th* from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Space rental is \$15.00 with your own table; utilizing a church table and space is \$20.00. If you are interested in renting a space/table, contact Joyce Aylsworth at 570-643-3334 as soon as possible. Lunch and bake sale will be available for purchase.

St. Peter's United Methodist Church Quilt & Craft Show: Will be held on **November 15th** from 9am to 3pm. Quilters welcome to display their creative pieces. Crafters needed. For additional information call 484-226-5601. Help to support our sister church family and start your Holiday shopping!

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.net

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).

Classes are grouped as follows:

Body Building—3 years of age through 2nd grade

Intermediate—3rd, 4th, 5th grade

Middle School—6th, 7th, 8th grade

High School—9th – 12th grade, meeting 2x/month

Young Adult Group: Is a self-run group meeting monthly or as scheduled for ages 18-26. Interested persons can contact Deb Audett, daudett@ptd.net, for additional information.

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 school year 2025-2026 are currently being accepted.

WaveWalkers Youth Group

The summer break has come to an end and the Wavewalkers want to send everyone lots of blessings for the 2025-26 school year. Most of our youth have already started their school year and are ready to face their goals head on with Christ leading the way. During our back-to-school , we discussed with the teens that the beginning of a school year is a great time to reflect and think of things that you may like to improve on this coming year. Everyone wrote their goal down in their notebooks. And their object is to work on these goals for glorifying Christ and not themselves. This is to encourage making Christ #1 in their life and understanding the sacrifice that we need to make in life, because He sacrificed for us.

Over the summer we had a fun pool party and even had our first lock-in as Wavewalkers. We spent the entire weekend together, eating together, playing together, and worshipping together. We even got to have a campfire and s'mores on Saturday night. It was a great end to the summer and can't wait to do it again next year. Thank you to all the volunteers for making it such a great experience for the youth.

Coming up this fall we have many activities planned. One of those events is the Fall Weekend Youth Retreat at Blue Mountain Christian Retreat Center on October 24, 25, 26. This will be our second time attending and the Wavewalkers are very excited to return. If you know of someone who just entered 3rd grade all the way up to 12th grade, they are welcome to join us.

Please make a note that we have changed our meeting Sunday to the 1st and 3rd week, starting this September.

September 7th and 21st , 2025 12:30-2:30 pm

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

Youth Mission Trip-2026

We just finished up a very successful trip to Middletown, Ohio and we are now making plans for 2026! We are looking to go through Group Missions to Wallingford, Connecticut the week of June 28th to July 4th, 2026. Prior to finalizing any plans we would like to know who may be interested in participating. This information is needed by **September 20th**, 2025 (this year). The trip is open to youth going into 7th grade and up in September 2026. We need to know interest so that registrations and fundraising events can be held to help offset the cost of **\$548** for each camper. **Please let Jan Decker know if you or your child is interested.** As a side note: In the event we do not have enough interest, the Youth Mission Trip for 2026 may not happen. ☹️

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 until 10:30 am in the former Day Care Kitchen area from September 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 resume on September 7th.

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 Library. 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

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.

The pantry will be open as follows for the month of September 2025 are as follows:

September 13th and September 27th 2025 from 10 am to noon

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.

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

SFRC is seeking donations for the month of September: Holiday foods (corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, yams, beets, cranberry sauce, free turkey/ham...)

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

Missions:

Joyful Noise Offering during worship services for September 2025

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| September 7 th | Pastor's Discretionary Fund |
| September 14 th | Campus Ministries (CRU) |

September 21st
September 28th

Connectional Ministries
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, September 2nd and September 16th.**

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. Bible studies reconvene **September 8th!**

Women’s Group of Effort: The next meeting will held on Monday, **September 8th** at 7:00 pm. Our Guest Speaker is Mrs. James from the *Foster Care program of Monroe County*. They do always need pillows, blankets (throw blanket size), and duffle bags. If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of any of these items, you may do so by making a check out to Effort Women’s Group or by purchasing the item directly and bring it to the meeting. No donation is too small. We are looking to “stuff” 24 duffel bags with a new bed pillow, a blanket and maybe even a stuffie/loveable item. Remember that there are boys and girls from all ages, even teens.

Fall Flea Market: The Women’s Group of Effort will be holding their semi-annual Flea Market on Saturday, **October 4th** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Space rental is \$15.00 with your own table, utilizing a church table and

space is \$20.00. If you are interested in renting a space/table, contact Joyce Aylsworth at 570-643-3334 as soon as possible. Lunch and bake sale will be available for purchase.

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 programs. 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.

West End Fair: A "HUGE" Thank you to all who volunteered and/or supported our Food Stand at the West End Fair. This was our 3rd year and our BEST year. We still await some invoices to be paid as well as the "tax" amount before we are able to confidently say our netted amount.

St. Peter's United Methodist Church Quilt & Craft Show: Will be held on November 15th from 9am to 3pm. Quilters welcome to display their creative pieces. Crafters needed. For additional information call 484-226-5601. Help to support our sister church family and start your Holiday shopping!



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
09/09 Wendy Kudla
09/10 Mindy Wolfe
09/12 Fritz Daube
09/12 Noah Donaghy
09/13 Luna Manarino
09/14 Josephine Kudla
09/15 Liam Wichman
09/16 Rebecca Benincasa, Kelly VanDerheyden
09/17 Michael George
09/18 Diane Lechleitner
09/20 Brianna Benincasa
09/22 Diane DeBarry
09/23 James George
09/24 Joyce Aylsworth
09/25 Teresa Broome
09/26 Lucy Boomer
09/27 Tanner James
09/29 Margaret (Meg) Borys

Early OCTOBER 2025

10/01 Oliver Bonser, Dickson Borger, Mackenzie Borger, Dale Brown
10/02 Pamela Hubbard
10/03 Leroy Bonser III

10/04 Oliver Zambetti

10/05 Colville Brown

10/06 Sarah (Johnson) Ruggiero

10/07 Rich Pierson, susa Shupp

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

Tammy Graeber, 2556 Rising Hill Drive, Saylorsburg, PA 18353

Karen Brangan, 23 Foothill Road, Albrightsville, PA 18210