



The Messenger

A publication of the Effort United Methodist Church

June 2026

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 contact Jan at the church office (570-629-1890; eumc103@ptd.net).

Newsletter distributed generally monthly via email, at church or via mail. Information for the combined July/August 2026 Messenger is due to Roxane Martin by **Thursday June 25, 2026**. Email Roxane at martgr@ptd.net or place in Newsletter mailbox across from the church office.

REMINDERS:

Office closed Fridays June 5 through September 4th.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

— Psalm 23:1–3 (NRSVue)

Pastor's Corner

Make it your mission to invite!

This summer, we are all going to have some wonderful opportunities for outreach! Let's all make it our mission to invite people to come and see how God is at work at Effort UMC. Summer Community Events postcards are available every week on the church welcome desk. Take as many postcards as you would like and use them as invitational tools. Also, when you see any summer events on our social media platforms, like and share to get the word out.

Below is a list of all the upcoming summer outreach events – mark your calendars and think about whom you would like to invite:

- **Saturday June 6: Free Community Concert featuring the Kings of Queen Street Band.**

Free light dinner at 5:30; concert from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Organized games provided for children; the playground will be open for the young ones. Bring a lawn chair. This event is rain or shine.

- **Saturday June 13: Free Family Movie Night from 4:00 – 6:00pm.**

Kid friendly dinner and an animated Bible-based movie provided.

- **Monday July 6 – Friday July 10: Vacation Bible School (9:00am – 12:00pm daily).**

All children ages 4-12 welcome. Daily games, snacks, crafts, songs, and Bible lesson.

- **Sunday July 12: Breakfast, Blues, and Worship. *Bring a friend to church Sunday!***

Worship services at normal times (8:30am and 11:00am) with a breakfast and bluegrass worship concert in-between the two services (9:45 – 10:45am) featuring Doc Pappa and the Renegade Ramblers.

- **Saturday August 1: Free Community Concert featuring Randy Blakeman (acoustic; vocalist; country).** Free light dinner at 5:30; concert from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Organized games provided for children; the playground will be open for the young ones. Bring a lawn chair. This event is rain or shine.

I am looking forward to this summer season of outreach, and I am excited to see how God uses each one of us and the power of a simple invitation.

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Happenings

Summer Sunday School: A class for those who are ages 3 to 8 will be held on Sunday mornings at the 11am service starting on **June 7th**.

Sunday is Fun Day: Will be held once a month during the **summer months** (June 28, July 26, August 9 & August 23). This is available during the 11am service and will be for youth ages 3 to 13.

Father's Day Bulletin Sponsorship: Let's celebrate our Fathers, Dads to be, grandfathers, or the men in our life that have been like a father to us. Forms for the Father's Day bulletin can be found on the Welcome Center. The cost to sponsor is \$1.00 per name. Last day to submit is **June 14th**.

"The Chosen," Season 2 Bible Study: Every Wednesday through June 24th. Free dinner at 5:30pm, viewing of one episode and discussion 6:00 – 7:00pm. Led by Jeff Albert.

Free Community Outreach Concert: Saturday June 6th, 5:30 – 7:30pm. Free light dinner and a concert from "*The Kings of Queen Street*" band in the church's outdoor pavilion. Rain or shine!

Free Family Movie Night: Saturday June 13th from 4:00 – 6:00pm. Kid friendly dinner and an animated Bible-based movie provided.

The Garden of Giving has a mission to provide high quality vegetables and eggs for Monroe County food bank facilities. Its website is gardenofgiving.org. You can reach the Director, Tammy Graeber, at 570-402-1282 or by email, gardenofgiving1@gmail.com. She is seeking volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am - 12:30pm. And they are needed all season! The Director of the Garden will be having surgery and will need a lot of help during her recuperation. The Garden also has an extensive Wish List that includes gift cards, etc. There will be a Joyful Noise for this ministry on **June 7th**.

On **July 9th** there will have a rock painting event. A copy of the flyer and registration information can be found on the last page of the Messenger/Newsletter.

Special Notices

Sight and Sound Theatre (potential): Inviting all those 60 and older who may be interested in going to see the show *Joshua* at Sight and Sound Theatre in late July or early August. If we get a group of 15 or more the cost would be around \$95 per ticket. We are looking at possibly an 11:00 am show, stopping for a late lunch after the show. We would take the church van. Should there be enough interest and more than 15 people, we may have to have a few drivers and personal cars go. Please let Jan Decker or Brenda Mitchell know if you might be interested by **June 8th**.

Uprise Festival! The youth group is looking to attend a weekend at the Uprise Festival (a Christian music festival) the weekend of **September 11th-12th**. They are planning on camping out in tents, however, in order to do this, there needs to be at least one RV/camper on the site. If you have a camper and would like to share in this event with the youth, or need further information, please contact Alison Laxton at: alaxton@ptd.net.

2026 Offering Envelopes: If you do not have an envelope and would like one, please see Jan in the office. Likewise, if you have been assigned an envelope number and wish to go to EFT, contact Jan so that the number can be reissued. We are trying to be good stewards of our finances.

2026 Altar Flowers & Bulletin Sponsors: The sign up sheets for 2026 Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsors are now posted on the bulletin board next to the Library. Altar Flowers are \$30.00 per vase and the Bulletin sponsorship is \$15.00. Hurry on over to sign up for those special dates you want as they go pretty fast.

Opportunities to Serve

Financial Review: Each year the church is responsible for having a review of our finances conducted. The person conducting the review cannot be our Treasurer, check signers, or our counters. We are currently seeking an individual who may have some financial knowledge to conduct this review for the finances of 2025. If you may be interested, please contact Jan Decker and a guideline of what to do will be provided.

Nursery Volunteers: The Nursery is normally open 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.

Liturgist, Scripture Readers, & Communion Stewards: We are in the process of updating our various lists of volunteers who serve in one or several of the aforementioned areas. Should you be interested in continuing to serve or would like to be added to specific area of serving, please contact the church office and we will get you on the schedule. The schedule will be on a rotational basis. Great opportunity for our young people as well to get involved with service.

Singers where are you?: We are calling for all those who love to sing and want to share your gift. If you have sung in a choir, previous cantatas or in the shower or car...we need you to join with Steve Johnson and others who are interested, to sit in the choir area and help lead the signing of the weekly hymns at the 11am service. New voices are welcomed!! See Steve Johnson sjsa@ptd.net with any questions.

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.

Summer Sunday School: A class for those who are ages 3 to 8 will be held on Sunday mornings at the 11am service starting on **June 7th**; provided that there are volunteers. Please contact Brenda Mitchell for more information and to schedule your time with the children.

Sunday is Funday: We will also continue with our once a month (in lieu of class) and that will be open to children ages 3 to 13. (**June 28, July 26, August 9 & August 23**)

Summer Camps at Pocono Plateau: If you have child that is interested in a summer camp (day and/or overnight) please contact Brenda Mitchell by **June 28th, 2026**. There are scholarship/grants available to help offset costs.

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

Vacation Bible School will be here sooner than you think!



It runs from **July 6th through 10th** and theme is “Rainforest Falls- Exploring the Nature of God”. So mark your calendars and reserve the dates!

For more information, contact Deb Audett, daudett@ptd.net.

Want to volunteer? Check with Deb as clearances are needed.

NEW THIS YEAR: There are opportunities to Sponsor a child or children for VBS! Your donation of \$20 will help offset the costs associated with VBS and we will provide you with the name of a child(ren) that you would be encouraged to pray for that week. Sponsor envelopes are available on the Welcome Center.

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. Classes will resume on September 14th!

Wavewalkers Youth Group

Hello and Happy June to EUMC!!! During the month of May we met with our youth on the 3rd and the 17th. On the 2nd of May the church held their semi annual flea market. The Wavewalkers had some donated items up for grabs with a simple free will donation! And we were able to raise over \$200. This was a tremendous blessing for our youth, as they are hoping to go to Sight and Sound and see "Joshua ". Thank you to the youth that helped out and contributed their time.

The Wavewalkers hope everyone's mom had a great Mother's Day and got to do their favorite things with their children.

On May 17th, we were very fortunate to have Pastor Scott lead our lesson for the youth. He focused in on what GOD says about us instead of what others or even what we say about ourselves. The youth had a lot to contribute to this discussion. We can all benefit from speaking words of encouragement, but I believe our children need it the most during these years of uncertainty and vulnerability. Thank you Pastor Scott for this important message to our youth!

In June we will only be having a meeting on the first Sunday, the 7th. The third Sunday is Father's Day and we want to encourage the youth to spend time with Dad on this day. But our meeting on the 7th is going to fun and a nice surprise. Stay tuned to find out what the Wavewalkers do!

There are so many events, outings and activities coming up for our youth to be a part of: the mission trip, VBS, Community Concert Nights, and our youth group meetings continue all summer long. We have a pool party planned, water games, new outdoor games and activities, Sight and Sound, and even an overnight lock-in at the church. Please check the summer newsletter to see exactly when these events are or see one of our leaders. The children love to be together and do fun things and there's always something coming up. It is never too late to get your teen involved! Remember anyone from fourth grade to a senior in high school is welcome to participate.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

Our meetings are normally the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

June 7th, 12:30 to 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

Wallingford, Connecticut, here we come! At the moment, there are 10 youth and 6 adults registered to serve. This Youth Mission Trip will be held the **week of June 28th to July 4th, 2026**

There will be a “Commissioning to Serve” service held during the 8:30 and 11:00 am services on **Sunday, June 21st**. We would love to have you there!

We wish to thank everyone who supported our fundraisers! The funds raised will greatly help to offset the costs associated with the trip. Something new this year: Instead of sending notes or cards of encouragement to the school where they will be staying, Jan is asking that those notes and cards be given to her by **Friday, June 26th** so that she can take them along and give out (some each day) for the entire week. Last year some of the mail was not received before the week ended. Keep your Youth Mission Team in your prayers. Mission Team 2026: Jaylee Belstra, Jasmine Broome, Evan James, Jesse Laxton, Allison Mayo, Claire, Corbin & Melissa Roberti, Jada Timothy, Emma, Kat & Ron Wichman, Kelsy Washbourne, Sharon & Josh Gerhart, & Jan Decker.

Continuing Fellowship/Bible Study Opportunities

RightNow Media: Did you know that we have a place that you can go to on line and seek out a multitude of Bible studies and information? If not, why not check it out. All you have to do is provide the office (or Pastor Scott) with your email address and an invitation to join in and peruse the many studies and information available.

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: Meetings will resume September 13th.)

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 are usually held on Mondays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and 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.

NOTE: *Summer meetings will be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12-1:30pm: June 2, 16; July 7, 21; August 4, 18. Monday meetings will resume September 14th.*

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.

Extra Mile--

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

Finance Committee Update—

Thank you for the increase in generosity this Easter season and during the month of April—we have climbed out from under the Winter doldrums!!!

Look for Giving statements from the beginning of the year that should be coming your way soon. Enjoy your summer plans and please remember EUMC.

WEST END FAIR FOOD STAND:

Please help support our food stand at the West End Fair to be held from **August 23-29**. Look for the sign-up board in the Welcome Center soon. If you worked at the stand before, please encourage someone new to work a shift with you. If you are unable to serve in the stand, there will also be a donation board to help offset some of the costs.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW: Are you financially savvy? Would you like to do our annual financial review. We have a procedure with instructions, and you work with the treasurer and financial secretary and review our financial operation and follow a few transactions from start to finish and ensure that financial procedures are followed properly. If you would like to serve the church in this role, please contact myself or the church office.

Be grateful and therefore generous of the gifts giving to you by God.

Thank you for your support.

Bob Decker Finance Committee chairman and the Finance team.

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 June 2026: **June 13th and 27th 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. Please contact Deb Audett (570-350-0335) if you can make a bi-weekly commitment.

SFRC is seeking donations for the month of: **June:** Pasta, sauce, as well as canned goods and/or any non perishable item. (See a good sale? Bring it for SFRC!)

Ladies Retreat: Reservations for the 2026 Ladies Retreat are in process. There has been a change in how Pocono Plateau is requesting deposits and payments so it is important that deadline dates are met. Final payment will be due just prior to the retreat dates of **September 18th-20th**. A registration/sign-up sheet can be found on the Welcome Center. Any questions, please contact Janet Pierson at: janetp@ptd.net

Men's Group: The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, June 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: Men's group will be off for July/August.*)

Missions:

Joyful Noise Offering during worship services for June 2026:

6/7 - Garden of Giving

6/14 - World Service Fund

6/21 - Hillside Cemetery Association

6/28 - EUMC Outreach

Other important dates to keep in mind are: Saturday, October 18th for the Fall Family Fun Day (1-3pm), and Saturday, December 5th for the Family Christmas Celebration Dinner.

Pastoral Care: If you know of someone from our congregation that would like a visit from the Pastoral Care team or Pastor Scott, please contact Dee Juris and she will make arrangements for those who may need a cheerful visit. Dee can be reached at: deedoloresj24@gmail.com,

For Father's Day, **June 21st**, we will be distributing gifts at both services to men 18 years & older.

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. (**NOTE: For summer, times will be 10am-noon.**) 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 (maylsworth@pa.metrocast.net) for more information.

Our next meetings are scheduled for: **Tuesday, June 2nd, June 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. The group has begun a new book, “Experiencing the Heart of Jesus” which they will continue in the Fall. Please note that Seekers is off for June/July/August. **Seekers will resume September 14th.**

Women’s Group of Effort: The next meeting will be held on **Monday, June 8th at 7:00 pm.**

Devotions: Betsi Bradrick

Hostesses: Pat Mackes, Barbara Reade & Betsi Bradrick

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! Contact Sharon Gerhart, idohair191@yahoo.com, for more information.

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.*** 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.

Recycling: 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.

2026 June Birthdays



06/01 Brenda Falco
06/02 Brittanie Farrington, Trenton Laxton
06/04 Heather Daube
06/06 Thatcher Roberti (TJ)
06/08 Amy Binkley, Bill Brangan
06/09 Alison Jochen, Jesse Broome Jr.
06/10 Monica McDuffy, Andrew Binkley
06/12 Michelle Wichman
06/14 Bradley Laxton
06/15 Ron Wichman
06/16 Janice Brown, Jeffrey Albert
06/17 Katie Wichman
06/19 David Burns
06/22 Lucille Smith, Adriana Benincasa
06/26 Danial Fink
06/27 Susan Yetter
06/28 Evan James
06/30 Phyllis Conklin, Gil Kuhnle

July (early)

07/01 Alan Young, Richard Reade
07/06 Jacqueline Taylor-Tremble
07/07 Alison Laxton, Troy Haydt
07/08 Kathy Clawges

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
Mert & John Wolfe, 3215 Cherry Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058
Sarah Brecht, 800 Houseman Road, Apt. 387, Allentown, PA 18104
Tammy Graeber, 2556 Rising Hill Drive, Saylorsburg, PA 18353
Ann Sanders, Sunrise at Randolph, 648 NJ-10, Randolph, NJ 07869 Room 322
Diane Doll, 185 Skyview Circle, Sciota, PA 18354

**the
Garden
of Giving**



Fun & Fancy Faces

Christine (Cas) Schoeller

Professional Face & Body Art

ROCK PAINTING in the Garden

**\$10 Per
Person**

**All
Ages
Welcome**

**Garden
Tour**

**Rock Painting
with
Christine
"Cas"
Schoeller**

**100% of the
Proceeds
Help Our
Neighbors in
Need**

**Thursday July 9th
9:30-12**

**at The Garden of Giving
2556 Rising Hill Drive, Saylorsburg, PA**

**Limited Space
Available**

**To Register Scan the QR Code
or visit gardenofgiving.org**

