



The Messenger

A publication of the Effort United Methodist Church

September 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 or snail mail, or you can pick one up at church Welcome Center. Information for the October 2026 Messenger is due to Roxane Martin by **Friday September 25, 2026**. Email Roxane at martgr@ptd.net or place in Newsletter mailbox across from the church office.

REMINDERS:

Office closed Friday September 4th and Labor Day Monday September 7th.

Pastor's Corner

I want to offer a big, “THANK YOU!” to all who supported the Effort UMC Food Stand at the West End Fair. It takes many people giving their time, talent, and energy to make this ministry happen. In addition to being the biggest fundraiser of the year for the church, the fair is also a wonderful outreach opportunity. As each customer ordered their food, they were given an informational postcard and a personal invite to come check out Effort UMC. When we reflect upon the number of people that passed through the food stand over the seven days of the fair, we should feel encouraged that we extended invitations and planted seeds of faith. Well done everyone!

As the calendar turns to September, I want to encourage you to keep inviting and keep planting those seeds of faith. We have some upcoming events and programs that might be good opportunities for you to invite someone:

- **Free Community Concert featuring Regina Sayles – Saturday September 12.**
 - Dinner 5:30; Concert 6:00pm.
- **The Chosen Bible Study – Wednesdays starting September 9.**
 - Dinner 5:30; Video and discussion 6:00 – 7:30pm.
- **Contemporary Style Worship Service**
 - Second Sunday of every month – starting September 13 at the 11:00 service
- **Breakfast is back!**
 - Second Sunday of every month – starting September 13.
- **Fall Family Fun Day – Saturday October 17, 1:00 – 3:00pm**
 - Trunk-or-treat, food, games, bounce house, and more!

And finally, I want to offer this word of encouragement, from our August “Psalms for Living” Sermon Series: Psalm 149 and Psalm 150 instruct us to “Praise the Lord” eighteen times. When we come to worship on Sunday morning, we experience the many blessings of worshipping together as a church family and being unified under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. At the same time, these psalms also instruct us that worship goes far beyond Sunday morning. We can worship God every day in every way. Worship of God is a posture of the heart as we go about our lives.

Wishing you all a blessed fall season!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Happenings

The Chosen Season 3 study: begins *Wednesday September 9th*, 5:30-7:30pm. For details, see the Bible Study Opportunities section.

Pavilion Concert: Our last Community Concert for the 2026 season is scheduled for *Saturday, September 12th* featuring Regina Sayles. Light dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 pm Music from 6-7:30 pm. Rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair!

Contemporary Worship Service: On the second Sunday of each month at the 11:00 am service, ~~we~~ will be having a Contemporary Worship Service. The first is scheduled for *Sunday, September 13th*. See you there!

Fellowship Breakfasts: will be back on *Sunday, September 13th* 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 "Piggy" (cabbage, hamburger and tomato base) \$6.00 per quart. Sale runs through *September 23rd* with the pick-up date of Sunday, *September 27th* 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 3rd* 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.

Special Notices

School Supples-PVEN: Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network needs our help! Seeking items for back to school such as pencils, pens, spiral notebooks & toothpaste. If you are able to donate, please place the items in the box located in the Narthex.

Praise Music Worship Team: Those who expressed interest and those who wish to join the Praise Music Worship team are encouraged to attend the first practice on *Wednesday, September 9th* from 6-8:00 pm. Bring your instruments and singing voices. Additional practices will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am prior to the 11 am Contemporary worship service.

Christmas Cantata: the music for this years Cantata is "*God With Us, a Christmas Celebration.*" We are looking for you to join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior through music. Why not consider sharing your gift and love of music with us. Practice CD's are available along with the music books so you can listen to the music and get a head start before formal practices begin. Contact Steve Johnson sjsa@ptd.net for more information. (Note: we normally practice on Wednesday evenings 7:00 pm but this is subject to may change due to the Chosen Bible Study).

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 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

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: 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: 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.

Sunday School: Classes are held during the 11:00 am services (September through May).
Resuming Sunday, September 13th.

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

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 everyone at Effort United Methodist Church! The Wavewalkers would love to know where the summer went. We hope you enjoyed the summer. We stayed busy with many events. Many of our Wavewalkers went on the Mission trip. We also had our annual summer pool party, where the youth got to kick back and relax out at the pool. Deb Audett grilled burgers and hot dogs for the youth. And then we got to celebrate a few of our summer birthdays.

In August we had 2 meetings filled games of 9 square and dodgeball. We weren't able to do our slip and slide because the day we picked was cool and very rainy. So we have postponed that for the September 6th meeting. We had a very special ceremony for our only graduating high school senior this summer, Allison Mayo, who said goodbye to the Wavewalkers as a youth member by placing her handprint on our wall in the youth room. She was given a devotional and gift certificate as a thank you and encouragement to continue her journey.

As the children return to school for the new year, we are busy planning the next events that they love to partake in.

- Coming up in September, 6th and 20th we have meetings.
- In October, we have the flea market on the 3rd, so come see what we Wavewalkers have to offer and consider supporting the youth of our church.
- On October 4th we are going to Mazezilla.
- October 18th, we have a meeting and October 23rd, the youth head to Blue Mountain for their fall retreat.
- We also have Sight and Sound tickets for November 20th.
- And our annual Christmas party is on December 11th, now on a Friday night! Please share these with the youth in your life and see if these are things they would enjoy. We always have room for more!

As always, thank you for your time learning about what this ministry does for our communities youth and future and your support through prayer and monetary blessings. We could not do this without you.

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

September 6th and 20th, 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 2027

We just finished up a very successful trip to Wallingford, Connecticut and we are now making plans for 2027! We are looking to go through Group Missions to Belle, West Virginia the week of June 20th to June 26th, 2027. Prior to finalizing any plans we would like to know who may be interested in participating. This information is needed by **September 20th**, 2026 (this year). The trip is open to youth going into 7th grade and up in September 2027. We need to know interest so that registrations and fundraising events can be held to help offset the cost of \$568 for each camper. **Please let Jan Decker know if you or your child is interested.**

NOTE: a \$50 non-refundable deposit will be due by October 15th.

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. 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. Please contact Steve Johnson at sjsa@ptd.net to register and/or if you have any questions. **Meetings will resume September 13th.**

Season 3 of the Chosen Bible Study: You're invited to join our Adult Bible study of the *The Chosen*, season 3. If you have never watched *The Chosen*, you have plenty of time to catch up. How? *The Chosen* is free to watch on Amazon Prime Video or you can download *the Chosen App* on your smart phone/device. Season 1 will introduce you to the cast and season 2 will introduce you to Jesus in a way you've never seen him. Each season has 8 episodes. Season 3 is exciting and begins with The Sermon on the Mount and ends with the feeding of 5,000. In this exciting mad-for-TV series, you will see many of your favorite New Testament stories come to life in a unique way. Follow Jesus' journey with your fellow Church members.

Classes begin on Wednesday, **September 9th** and go for 8 straight Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30, including dinner at 5:30 sharp. Please sign-up in the Welcome Center and as Pastor Scott always says, whom will you invite? Returning/new students, you have been challenged to invite someone to join us. Be sure to educate them on how to watch Seasons 1&2 before September 9th. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Albert, 72hopsing@gmail.com.

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. 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.

Monday weekly meetings will resume September 14th at 12:00 pm.

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— Here is hoping everyone had a splendid summer, be it going on a much-anticipated special vacation, catching up with some old friends, making family memories or just soaking in the warmth of summer. Now it's back to the regular weekly routines and for young families, getting those children off to school and other activities. For our Church it is also back to weekly bible studies, Sunday school and youth activities, preparing for the Christmas Cantata, monthly breakfasts and making soup.

It is also the time to attend worship on a regular basis and financially support the church with your weekly offering. We just finished our 4th year of running the food stand at the West End Fair and a successful week it was! Only the scary Thursday forecast, which didn't occur until after fair hours, however, it was enough to keep the crowds light that day. The rest of the week was equal or better than prior years. A debt of gratitude to all who served one shift or multiple shifts and a big thanks to those who were there all week long. It is hard but rewarding work and as I write this, there is still a week or two of cleanup and preparing to shut the stand down for the winter. Thank you also to those who supported the food stand with financial donations to help offset the costs. I will have more about the financials in next month's newsletter.

Forecasting ahead, the financial benefits of the food stand will bring us back into the black for the year and we pray and anticipate that through the fall and into the Christmas season we will be blessed by regular weekly tithings, Christmas giving and end of the year tax reduction giving.

Just a reminder, we are blessed with the grants from George T. Walker through the Lehigh Valley Foundation to be used for major physical projects to maintain the church buildings and grounds, thus all our giving and fund raising can go to ministry and regular operating expenses. With these funds we put in new flooring in Wesley Hall kitchen area, preschool, Jan's office, and Friendship Hall. We also did major maintenance on the hydraulic operations for the elevator, which we know is used by many. As autumn approaches, followed closely by winter, when you pray for that White Christmas, pray for one that doesn't require a snowplow!!

Humbly in His service,
Bob Decker Finance Chm and his committee.

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 September 2026: , **from 10 am to noon:**
September 12th and 26th

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: **September:** canned soups, canned yams, as well as any 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. 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 **September 19th** 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 2026:

9/6/26 - Pastor's Discretionary Fund

9/13/26 - Campus Ministries (CRU)

9/20/26 - Connectional Ministries

9/27/26 - EUMC Outreach

10/4/26 - Valor

Fall Family Fun Day is Saturday, October 17th from 1-3pm. We are looking for someone to be our Farmer for the Day and watch over the pumpkin patch. We are also looking for people to do trunks for our Trunk or Treat and the donation of candy for the candy shoot. Anyone interested in helping out with being our Farmer, doing a trunk and donation of candy, please see either Brenda Mitchell or you may reach out to Melinda at 570-977-6853 or contact Melinda Knitter by email at mknitter@ptd.net

Family Christmas Celebration will be held in December. We are looking at making some changes. If anyone has suggestions as to what to change, please contact Melinda at the above phone number or email.

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.

The Pastoral Care team will meet in September, date to be determined.

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 (maylsworth@pa.metrocast.net) for more information.

Our next meetings are scheduled for: **Tuesday, September 1st, 15th.**

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. **Seekers will resume September 14th.**

Women's Group of Effort:

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 14th** at 7:00 pm.

Hostesses are: Michelle Wichman and Joyce Aylsworth

Devotions will be provided by Michelle Wichman.

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 Joyce Aylsworth at maylsworth@pa.metrocast.net 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 \$150 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 (Brodheadsville 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.

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



September 2026

09/02 Dakota Everett
09/03 Dan Smale, Iris Turney
09/04 Gail Schellman, Bill Reiss
09/05 Nathan Smith, Lainey Meixsell
09/07 David Esdale, Jace Frost Jr., James Possinger
09/08 Reta Romanco, Joan Frost, Ruth Hughart
09/09 Wendy Kudla
09/12 Fritz Daube
09/13 Noah Donaghy
09/14 Josephine Kudla
09/15 Liam Wichman
09/16 Rebecca Benincasa
09/17 Michael George
09/18 Diane Lechleitner
09/19 Alexis Scheller
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

Early October 2026

10/01 Dickson Borger, Mackenzie Borger
10/02 Pamela Hubbard
10/03 Leroy Bonser III
10/04 Oliver Zambetti
10/07 Rich Pierson, Susan Shupp
10/09 Dee Juris
