

A cooperative ministry of

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Hello Churches!

This is Pastor Eric. I thought I'd use this first newsletter to introduce myself a little. You may have read some of this already, but in case not, here it is and I added some things too. I'm originally from Ellwood City, PA where I grew up attending First UMC. After graduating from the University of Mount Union in 2010 and from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2013, I served in the Corry, PA area at Corry Evangelical, Elgin, McCray, and Wayne Valley UMCs from 2013 to 2018. The last couple of years I've worked at Corry Manufacturing and the domestic violence shelter Safe Journey. I'm excited to get back to pastoral ministry after working these "secular" jobs for a season and having time to experience God working in and through me in a different way.

This time has made one of my favorite quotes resonate with me in a new way. As Richard Rohr says, "We cannot attain the presence of God because we're already in the presence of God. What is absent is awareness." Going from college studying religion, to seminary, to ministry, I didn't really have much time to experience what it was like to trust in God and look for how God was working outside of that sort of "bubble." But as that quote says, God is always present and working, not just in the church or in the places we expect. We need to keep our eyes open to seeing how God might meet us or lead us to unexpected places or people.

My journey of faith has led me to being passionate about helping people see how God is with us, even in our doubts, weaknesses, and struggles. I have struggled with shyness and anxiety in my life, but somehow God has led me to ministry. A favorite scripture that I hold onto because of this is: "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

In my free time I enjoy writing songs and playing music as a singer-songwriter and a drummer. I also love collecting vinyl records and playing tennis. Recently, I've been learning to cook more since I got an Instant Pot last Christmas, so if you're brave to test my cooking, maybe I'll make you something. Or I'm always up for having lunch or a coffee. (Once all this social distancing is lifted). I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and beginning this journey together.

*God bless,
Pastor Eric*

New Newsletter Format for the duration of the Crisis

We look for ways to worship and fellowship during these difficult times. Until we can operate on a regular schedule, the newsletter will appear in abbreviated form to keep everyone as informed as possible. If you have any input you would like to share, please inform Marie Howard.

The church treasurers are accepting tithe contributions through this period by mail.

If you think there is someone who may be out of the loop, please feel free to share any of this information with them.

Below are the guidelines that the Bishop has given for guidance to the churches.

Our other method of communication is the One Call Now phone chain. If you need to enroll or re-enroll in the One Call Now system, please inform Marie Howard.

Dear church families,

The Lay Leaders of all three churches and I met on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 to discuss potential re-opening of our worship services. We know that we will not resume worship this month as per the direction of the Bishop's office. However, we wanted to think about what church would look like when we do re-start worship.

I believe that the following things should be in place if we are to meet together. These are offered with personal safety as our highest goal for all present.

One, social distancing of at least 6 feet will be the rule.

Two, wearing of masks will be required for all participants.

Three, we will limit the attendance to a maximum of 25 persons.

Four, we will not be singing hymns (at least for awhile).

Five, we will keep an attendance record of all participants in worship (should contact tracing be initiated due to someone contracting the virus)".

Six, we will make every effort to have no physical contact with other worshipers. We can share the love from a distance!

Seven, all hymn books, song books, Bibles will be removed from the pews. Bring your own Bible to read or study.

Eight, we will not resume communion (at least for awhile).

Nine, offerings will continue as we had started to do—a common plate where your giving may be placed without passing the plates through the pews.

At this time I do not know what other directives or guidelines may be coming from the Bishop's office, and/or what the governor may put in place for our zone. So, we continue to pray for divine guidance as we navigate these strange and perilous times. Eventually we will return to our places of worship, but when that day will be is still an unknown. So, stay tuned for further developments and up-dates. We will amend and adjust our strategy as new information emerges. Remember, the church is not the building! We are the church, together!

Jerry Gray, Interim Pastor

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Robb Reynolds Sid Hotchkiss Terry Smith	2 A—Mike & Bobbie Evans 2000 Elizabeth Higby	3 Bethany Heckathorn Allyson Waldinger A—Terry & Aleta Pattison	4 Debbie Bow-ersox	5 Marsha Brandon Barry Wey-ant Jayde Eastman	6 Centerville Yard Sale 9 am is going to hap-pen Adah Ander-son
7 A—Mike & Carol More A—Jared & Amber Reed 2008	8 Alissa Fuller	9	10 Food Distri-bution see <u>page 4</u> for details 10 am	11 Carol More	12	13 Centerville Clean-Up Day Colton Allen A—Curt & Britt Foltz Ellen Trebik Gene Bearce Harrison Burek
14 Tyler St John George Clark	15	16 Jean Wise Cody Rose Jason Bly-stone A—Maury & Kelly Allen 2007	17 Peggy Hatch Laura Bailes	18 A—Marv & Cathy Miller	19 Maria Wolfe A—Tim & Ginny More A—Chris & Danielle Evans Izzabellah Higby	20 Sarah Ongley A—Ray & Susan Speakman 1981 Stephanie Lassit-er A—Dan & Ellen Trebik A—Eric & Tami Fosburg
21 Brian Foltz Phyllis Pattison	22 Kaitlynn Howard Kaylee Cham-berlain	23	24 Reese Stew-art A—Matt & Amy Pruess	25 Ann Smith	26 A—Adri & Kevin Hunt 2010	27 Bonnie Allen A—Leon & Kathy Henry
28 Britt Foltz Brian Walding-er Brianna Waldinger	29 Chris Kosarek Mike Cooney Mike Wright A- Mike & Sandi Wright	30	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> <p>Centerville VBS</p> <p>There will be a virtual production for Vacation Bible School this year under the production efforts of the Baptist Church. If you have participated in the past they will be bring you a craft kit, schedule and lesson materials in June. If you would like to participate and need to be on the list for materials, please contact Marie Howard</p> </div>			

Food Distribution—June 10—10 am

has changed due to several factors. Please keep to the following instructions.

Volunteers will park at the Baptist Church and report to the United Methodist Church for sign in and operations. Please wear a mask. Wearing gloves is optional

Clients will park at the Free Methodist Church—they will not exit their cars. Clients will be directed when to cross the street to pick up food.

The food truck will park at the United Methodist Church. We will need a dozen people to help with distribution. Volunteers will be placing food into the clients cars.

Pray for a “no rain” day

THE FACE IN THE WATERS

We walked for some time until we came to a pool of water hidden at the foot of a desert mountains. We sat down by its edge.

“Smile,” said the teacher.

So I did.

“No,” he said, “smile into the waters. Lean over the waters and smile.”

So I did.

“Now make a face of anger.”

So I did.

“Now open your hand and stretch it over the waters as if giving a gift.”

“Now do the opposite.”

“What is the opposite?”

“Stretch your hand to the waters, close it, and withdraw it, as if taking something away.”

“I’m not seeing the point of this.”

“Oh, but there is a point,” he said, “and the point is critical for you to learn. When you smiled at the waters, there was a man smiling back at you.”

“My reflection.”

“And when you glared at it, the face of an angry man glared back at you. And when you stretched your hand out to the waters to give to it, the hand in the waters stretched back to give to you. And when you reached toward the waters to take from it, the hand reached back as if to take from you. This is the law of reflection. As you do, so it will be done to you. If you bless others, you will be blessed. If you withhold blessing, your blessings will be withheld. If you live by taking, it will, in the end, be taken from you. If you live a life of giving, it will, in the end, be given to you. Condemn others, and you will be condemned. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Live with a closed hand, and His hand will be closed to you. Live with an open hand, and His hand will be opened to you. What you give will be given back. What you take will be taken back. Therefore, live a life of love, of giving, of blessing, of compassion, of an open hand and heart. Whatever you do, remember what you saw here. Live your life in view of the face in the waters.

June Prayer Calendar for
Centerville—Riceville—Parade Street

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always In every prayer
of mine making request for you with all joy...."

Philippians 1:3,4



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Marion Smith	2 Chris Stewart [Rylee]	3 Harm & Barb Miller	4 Terry & Ann Smith	5 Christopher Stewart [Reese & Harper]	6 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
7 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jerry Gray Pastor Eric Oliver	8 Marv & Cathy Miller	9 Eric St John	10 Heather Stewart	11 Nancy Most	12 Louise St John	13 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
14 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jerry Gray Pastor Eric Oliver	15 Roy & Louise Ward	16 Ed III & Tanya Smith	17 Michael St John [Autumn, Montana, Maggie, Micah, Maya, Milo]	18 Jason & Sandy Van Tassel [Alivia]	19 Chad & Heather Van Tassel [Jadyn]	20 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
21 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jerry Gray Pastor Eric Oliver	22 Dan & Ellen Trebik	23 Beth Acton [Emily & Elizabeth]	24 Frank Pikutis	25 Aimee Tyn-dall [Mya]	26 David & Bonnie Allen	27 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
28 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jerry Gray Pastor Eric Oliver	29 Cory & Renda Van Tassel [Bradley & Brooke]	30 Jean White-neck				

Our Military family

Kaitlyn Russell—Navy, Groton, CT * Lee Foltz—Navy, deployed Middle East * Michael Smithers—Rangers, deployed Kuwait * Frank Pikutis—Navy, CA * Shane Reynolds—Air Force, deployed Korea * Jayde Hoban—Navy, FL * soldiers in Afghanistan

@blessedlifeofficial

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be
discouraged, for the Lord
your God will be with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



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Riceville United Methodist Church [RUMC]

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June