



From  
your  
Pastor

Many of you know that my wife and I go on an annual vacation with two other couples—Jim, who is a retired pastor with his wife Joyce, and Ed, who is still serving as a pastor with his wife Susan. Jim and Ed are both marathon runners (silly, silly boys!) who select a different locale each year that hosts a marathon. We have traveled to the Outer Banks, New England, South Carolina, Niagara Falls, the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Nashville, and this November, we will travel to Madison, Wisconsin. I have become caught up in the world of marathons—without actually being a runner myself (I get tired just driving 26 miles!)

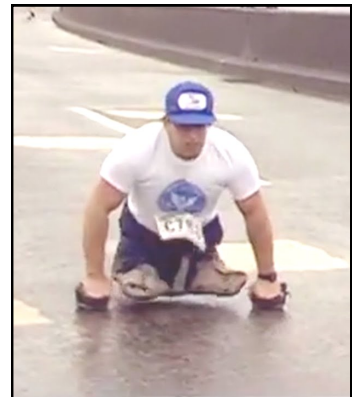
On our first marathon vacation with these couples, we went to the Outer Banks of North Carolina in November of 2019. The day before they ran the marathon (26.2 miles), I participated in a 5K (3.1 miles). Now, this was just 8 months after learning how to walk again after my bilateral quadriceps tear. I knew that I would be the last one across the finish line... as I was only walking the route, not running... but I did it to show that I could. I completed the 5K in 83 minutes. Someday, I want to walk another 5K to get a better PR (that stands for Personal Record for you non-runners! ☺)

I was feeling quite pleased with myself... that is, until I read the inspiring story of a man named Bob Wieland. Bob participated in the 1986 New York City Marathon, finishing as the 19,413<sup>th</sup> racer, finally completing the race in four days, two hours, 48 minutes, 17 seconds.

“Why so slow?” you might be asking. Bob may have been the slowest ever participant in this historic marathon, but he was also the first to run a marathon with his arms instead of his legs! Bob is a veteran whose legs were blown off in a Vietnam battlefield years ago. He recorded what race officials said was the slowest time in marathon history: but he was greeted like a champion by race director Fred Lebow, who had written Wieland off as a dropout. When he finished, Wieland shouted, **“We love New York!”** and repeatedly pumped his arms in the air. He claimed his finisher’s medal and explained why he did it: **“For the same reason as 20,000 other people. It’s the greatest marathon in the country.”**

He also cited three specific reasons to run:

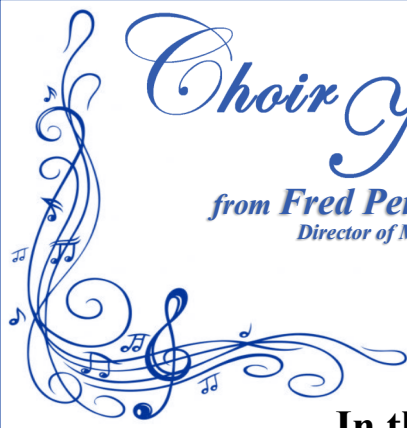
- 1) to show his born-again Christian faith;
  - 2) to test his conditioning; and
  - 3) to promote the President’s Council on Physical Fitness, of which he is a member.
- He said, **“Success is not based on where you start; it’s where you finish, and I finished. The first step was the most difficult; after that, we were on our way home. The joy has been the journey!”** Wieland started Sunday at 8:23 am, more than two hours before the main body of runners. But, moving at an average speed of about one mile an hour, his lead soon vanished.



The champion, Gianni Poli, ran the entire race in the time it took Wieland to cross the Verrazano Bridge! Wieland runs in a sitting position, using his muscular arms like crutches to lift his torso and swing it forward. He sits on a 15 pound saddle and covers his clenched fists with pads he calls **“size 1 running shoes.”**

The courage, faith, and integrity of this devout man of God are quite inspiring to me. As we run the race of faith, the victory is not seen in which of us run the fastest, but rather, that we finish strongly, with integrity, and giving God all glory, honor, and praise. We are not to be distracted by the lure of worldly sin, but we must remain focused on the gospel message of Jesus Christ. As a friend used to say all the time: **“the journey continues...”**

Embrace grace!  
Pastor Kevin (aka Rev Kev)



# Choir Notes

from Fred Pershing  
Director of Music

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless His holy name.* Psalm 103:1

We are truly blessed, and so are our adult choirs who take their rest this summer. Individual surprises are forthcoming, even so. Solos, duets, and the like will fill July and August.

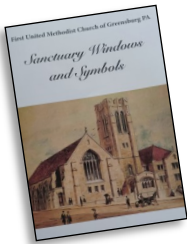
**Do you have any questions?  
In the fall, would you like to take part in this weekly fellowship?  
Please contact the church office at 724-834-3111.**



We hope you can join us on July 14, after the 10:45 service, at the Heather Lund Pavilion at Mt Odin Park for the **Church Picnic**. All are welcome. The United Methodist Women will provide chicken, hot dogs, drinks, and paper products. If you would




like to bring a side dish to share, that would be wonderful. This is a great time of fellowship with our church family. Please join us!!!



If you look at all the stained glass windows in our sanctuary and wonder if there is a story behind them, you will want to get a copy of the book, "Sanctuary Windows and Symbols" that was written and organized by the late Rev. Bob Wilson, with pictures by Bob Garris. In this book, you will learn all about the rich history of our church, as told by the windows. A copy of the booklet is only \$10, and it will benefit our funeral meal fund, in memory of Rev. Bob Wilson. Contact the church office to purchase one.

**Faith • Hope • Love in Action**



## Centering Prayer

Continues to meet in the prayer room

**Monday evenings at 6:30**

Questions? Contact the church office at 724-834-3111

## Adult Bible Study

w/ Pastor Kevin

will be on summer break...resuming Aug. 6



The **Upper Room** Daily Devotional for July/August

is NOW available in the media rack in Sanctuary Hall.



**"Pocket Change for a Purpose"**

June TOTAL: \$654 benefitting Jumonville (Camp)

Next Collection Date: July 21<sup>th</sup> to benefit Blackburn Center (Greensburg)

**Thank You!!!**



We Graciously Thank  
the anonymous sponsor of the  
**July Gnome Americana Truck of the Month**  
in Honor of our many Precious Volunteers



**Next Distribution: Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am**

**Thursday Afternoon “Set-up Team” July 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Arrive 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to help prepare boxes & bags on tables.

**Friday Morning “Distribution Team” July 12<sup>th</sup>**

(arrive 8:00 a.m. -or whenever you can- at glass doors on S. Maple)

- We need to unload the truck, pack boxes & bags in Fellowship Hall, & distribute at 10.

**Distribution-Day Instructions**

All activity will be outside

- Stay in your car, register in parking lot adjacent to YMCA on S. Maple
- Continue across street, in front of glass doors, and your car will be loaded



**Food Pantry Ministry Contact:** Mallory Baker  
570-765-0781  
mallory.n.baker@gmail.com



**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, July 24 @6:30 pm**

This is the regularly scheduled meeting for the Church Council...  
**and the congregation is strongly encouraged to attend** to discuss options regarding the reports from General Conference.  
Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

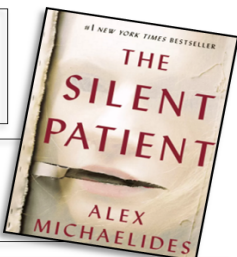


**Relaxed Readers**

Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, at the Greensburg Eat'n Park at 12 noon.

**NO Meeting in July**

August 7<sup>th</sup>  
“The Silent Patient”  
by Alex Michaelides  
discussion led by Diane Miller



If interested in joining us, please contact Olivia Graham at 724-420-5614.

**Sponsorships Available**  
**Chancel Flowers (\$35)**

Forms available in media rack in Sanctuary hall.

**Worship Bulletins (\$20)**  
Just fill out a **green slip (for flowers)** or a **purple slip (for bulletins)**

“in memory” or “in honor” of friends or family, and return to the church office with payment. This will provide beautiful flowers for our weekly worship services in the Sanctuary, and the bulletin sponsorship will help defray some of our copying/ administrative fees...Thank You.



CHANCEL FLOWER RESERVATION FORM S35  
DATE CHOSEN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I will pick up \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ Please send to someone who is that is  
YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*The cost of each arrangement is \$35.  
Please make payment 2 weeks prior to your chosen date.  
Make checks payable to YWCA and include "Chancel Flowers" and the date chosen on the memo line.

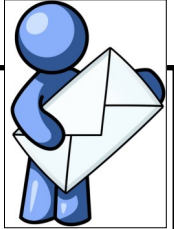


as listed in recent weekly bulletins

Bob B. ~ Ken B. ~ Connie Barone ~ K. Beavers ~ Becky ~ Dave Berlin ~ Bill ~ Joann Black ~ Bob ~ Paul Carnes ~ Carolyn ~ Judy Cavallo ~ Debbie D. ~ David ~ Darlene Erney ~ Evvy ~ Linda & Marty F. ~ Nancy G. ~ Leigh Gorman ~ Dave & Ginny Grandey ~ Pastor Kevin & Amy Haley ~ Diane & Michael Hall ~ Pat Handlin ~ Janet ~ Jimmy ~ Carol K. ~ Eric & Cheryl K. ~ Shirley Kahler ~ Kathi ~ Kathy ~ Linda ~ Lucas ~ Dorothy M. ~ Evelyn Makarsky ~ Melanie Marody ~ Carole "Penny" Minerva ~ Sharon Mochnaly ~ Nan ~ Rose P. ~ Allan Pierce ~ Lois Prinkey-Clark ~ Mary R. ~ Robin & John ~ Mark S. ~ Sam S. ~ Shirley ~ Terry ~ Kerry Thompson ~ Tracey ~ Edward W. ~ Betty & Clarence White ~ Ed White ~ Doreen Zalakar ~ Sisco & Chrisofano families

### Remembering those who wish to, but cannot be among us.

**Allan Pierce, Marge Trumbetta** Brookdale (500 Brouwers Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650) *Mail a Note of Encouragement*  
**Paulette Hood** Hempfield Manor (1118 Woodward Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601)  
**Vivian Engel** Loyalhanna Care Sr. Suites (543 McFarland Road rm. 209, Latrobe, PA 15650)  
**Donna Bush, Norma Gump** Westmoreland Manor (2480 S. Grande Blvd., Greensburg, PA 15601)



A red rosebud was placed on the Altar on Sunday, June 23, 2024, to honor the June 17<sup>th</sup> birth of **Alexander Francis Litzinger** to Drew & Sarah (Stillman) Litzinger. Great Grandfather: Frank Stillman



▶▶▶▶▶ **PLEASE NOTE** ◀◀◀◀◀

The Pastor's Bible Study, Board of Trustees, and the Finance Committee will not meet in July...

### Prayer Chain Partners



Contact the church office, or make note on your Welcome Card, to get the prayer chain going...  
724-834-3111  
churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601 Phone: 724-834-3111  
Church website: www.greensburgfirst.org

Rev. Kevin R. Haley	Pastor	pastorkevin@greensburgfirst.org
Peaches Clark	Secretary	churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org
Fred Pershing	Director of Music	tumusic@comcast.net
Jim Caffrey, Jr.	Associate Director of Music	puppycat1955@gmail.com
Terry Lasut	Director of Youth	alasuterry@gmail.com
Ruth K. Hughes	Organist	ruthkhughes@gmail.com
Bob Coder	Treasurer	
Anthony McKenna	Outdoor Maintenance	
Custodians	Simply Spotless Cleaning LLC	

**Find us on FACEBOOK:**  
First United Methodist Church – Greensburg

**Regular Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday 8am-4pm**  
*(May change without notice...thank you for your understanding & patience)*

**WiFi Network**  
**Name: Greensburg First**  
**Password: Jeremiah2911**

## Healing Hearts Support Group

As we continue through the summer months, our July gathering will be off site, but we would love for you to join us. Please call Sherry Miller at 412-932-5309, to learn the time and location of our get together on July 22. Moving on from the loss of a loved one is difficult, but you don't have to do it alone. Please join us, because you are not alone!



We do not have to **Walk** this path alone...

**Find Encouragement with us... Be an Encouragement to us.**

# Board of TRUSTEES

**Jim Swank (chairperson)**

Richard Briggs

Karen Pershing

Mike Sweeney

Ellen Matthews

Mark Steeves

Randi Wichrowski

Chad Miller

The Trustees are embarking on an expensive project that, we hope, will prevent future breakdowns of the boiler motor. The electrical supply to this equipment is currently mounted on an outside basement wall which is under the back porch. There is an ongoing problem of water seeping under the porch and onto that wall and basement ceiling. While we are taking steps to alleviate the water issue too, it is a bit of guess-work and slow going. In the meantime, we simply can't risk having the boiler shutdown, because of dampness effecting the electrical components which operate its motors. So, *Gilroy Electric* has been hired to relocate all of these electrical boxes, conduit, sensors, and disconnects to an inside wall adjacent to other electrical components. This will put them away from any water or damp conditions. This project will cost \$14,576 to complete. Most of that is for replacing parts with new and water-resistant types that won't rust as the old material had done. Of course the hours of labor are not cheap either. We decided to fund this project with money from the United Methodist Foundation Trustees Accounts, which is the main source of funding for the Board expenses. Once completed, the Committee and congregation can rest assured that the boiler will operate as expected, during this coming winter.

We continue to wait for *Raimondo Restoration* to start work on the exterior church refinishing. They have been paid \$10,000 from the *Ross Fund*, for startup expenses. They are waiting for coordination with West Penn Power, to cover lines for worker safety, and they are also looking for the best weather to get this done.

Some repairs have been put on the back burner, since we believed the boiler electrical issues should be our number one concern. The restroom exhaust fan unit will have to wait until later this year or possibly into 2025. Upgrading sanctuary and hallway stage lights to LED will also be put off. Instead, we will attempt to continue with the usual replacement bulbs.

*Submitted by Jim Swank*



**Church Picnic**

Sunday  
July 14  
12:30 pm

**Mt. Odin Park**  
in the Heather Lund Pavilion  
*(additional information is on page 2)*

**Wednesday, July 3**  
**Staff Meeting**  
**10:00 am**

The staff will gather in the church office.  
*(Staff: please note the special date for this month)*






You will see the Happy Feet banks in the back of our Sanctuary, throughout the months of June, July, and part of August. We are collecting donations for shoes for students in our elementary schools whose families may not be able to provide them. Any donation is welcomed and as often as you like. This is a great local mission that supports families in our community. They will appreciate our support.



**A Christmas Tree... COMING SOON to a Narthex near you!!!**

The tree will be decorated with ornaments, denoting monetary amounts. This is our "Christmas in July" project that will support our Holiday Dinner Fund. The money that we collect will be given to Nicely and Hutchinson Elementary Schools at Thanksgiving, to help families in need have a special meal for the holiday. With the prices of everything going through the roof, this is one way we can help our local families celebrate Thanksgiving. Just take an ornament from the tree, make your check out to FUMC with Holiday Dinners on the memo line and place it in the offering plate or take it to the church office. As we are blessed, so may we be a blessing to these families.

**Questions... Volunteer Opportunities... Fundraising ideas?**

Contact Sherry Miller 724-537-9366 [sherrymiller8966@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymiller8966@gmail.com)



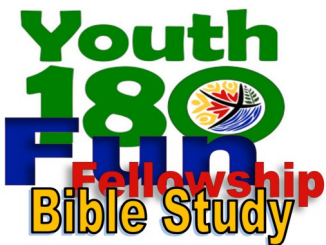
**fella♦ship**  
**men and boys**  
**♦ prayer breakfast**



**Please RSVP by July 10 to the Church Office or Rev Kev**



Six-month contribution summary statements, covering **Jan. 1, 2024 - June 23, 2024** have been mailed out. Please call the church office with any questions, or to request a detailed statement.



From the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Realm of...  
Terry Lasut, Director of Youth Ministry

**Summer Schedule**




Youth 180 will not meet weekly, during the summer, but keep up-to-date on coming special summer activities through information with our Facebook page, Bulletins, Newsletters, and Texts.



Stay up-to-date with our youth activities and events  
Facebook page **Greensburg First: Youth 180.**



gets its name from the way we are called to turn from our sins towards Jesus (doing a 180 degree turn away from mistakes!)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)</p> <p><b>-NO Trustees</b> (resume Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>NO Adult Bible Study</b> (resumes Aug. 6)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am Staff Meeting (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>Church &amp; Office CLOSED</b></p> 	<p>6</p>	
<p>7 <b>Communion</b></p> <p>8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall)</p> <p>9:40am Sunday School for Adults (Library)</p> <p>10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>NO Adult Bible Study</b> (resumes Aug. 6)</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>RSVPs due for FellaShip</b></p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am-1pm 12-Step (Library)</p> <p>1:30pm Food Pantry Set-up (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step (Fellowship/North Hall)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8-10am <b>Food Pantry</b> unload Truck &amp; Set-up</p> <p>10am <b>Food Pantry Distribution</b> (S. Maple glass doors)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am <b>FellaShip</b> Men/Boys Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall)</p> <p>9:40am Sunday School for Adults (Library)</p> <p>10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Church Picnic</b> (at Mt. Odin Park)</p> <p>2:30pm Worship@Redstone (Greensburg)</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Circuit Rider Articles DEADLINE</b></p> <p>6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)</p> <p><b>-Healing Hearts</b> meets offsite during the summer</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>NO Adult Bible Study</b> (resumes Aug. 6)</p> <p><b>-NO Finance</b> (resumes Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am-1pm 12-Step (Library)</p> <p>6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step (Fellowship/North Hall)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 "Pocket Change for a Purpose"</p> <p>8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall)</p> <p>9:40am Sunday School for Adults (Library)</p> <p>10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>NO Adult Bible Study</b> (resumes Aug. 6)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Church Council</b> (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30am <b>Circuit Rider</b> Assembly Team (Church Office)</p> <p>10am-1pm 12-Step (Library)</p> <p>6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step (Fellowship/North Hall)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall)</p> <p>9:40am Sunday School for Adults (Library)</p> <p>10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>NO Adult Bible Study</b> (resumes Aug. 6)</p>	<p>31</p>			



First United Methodist Church of Greensburg  
15 E. Second Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601



*July 2024 Circuit Rider*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Greensburg PA 15601  
**PERMIT NO. 453**

Address Service Requested



15 EAST 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
GREENSBURG PA 15601  
[www.greensburgfirst.org](http://www.greensburgfirst.org)



**Circuit Rider**  
Monthly Newsletter July 2024