

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



*June 2026
Circuit Rider*

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GREENSBURG *First*
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15 EAST 2ND STREET
GREENSBURG PA 15601
www.greensburgfirst.org



Circuit Rider
Monthly Newsletter June 2026

A Note from Pastor Clint

Summer is such a gift. It brings long days, warm evenings, and the chance to enjoy time with family and friends. Many of us travel, explore new places, or simply take a well-earned break. I love hearing the stories of where life takes you. There are so many ways that the warm weather brings adventures, joy, and rest.

At the same time, summer often means that our weekly worship attendance dips a bit. It’s a natural rhythm, and we understand that life pulls us in many directions during these months. Even so, the ministry of the church continues every single day. Our outreach, our worship, our care for one another, and the upkeep of our building all carry on through the summer season.

In recent months, we have seen our expenses rise. I am sure that many of you are experiencing these same challenges in your own homes as well. This has placed some strain on our church’s finances. I share this not to worry you, but to be transparent and to remind us that **your giving truly matters**. Your generosity is what allows our ministries to flourish, our doors to stay open, and our mission to continue in Greensburg and beyond.

If you are traveling or unable to be here in person, I encourage you to continue supporting the work of the church in whatever way you are able. Online giving makes this especially easy — you can give securely at give.greensburgfirst.org from anywhere your summer takes you.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your love for this church. May your summer be filled with joy, rest, and the presence of God in every place you go.



Online Giving We’re excited to offer a simple, secure way to give.

With Online Giving, you can set up one-time or recurring donations in just minutes. Your generosity helps us continue our outreach and ministries in your community.

Visit give.greensburgfirst.org or scan the QR code to get started.

Tuesday Bible Studies w/ Augie Twigg

“The Book of Hebrews...Jesus Christ, Superstar” Bible Study continues to meet in the Church Lounge at 10:30am and 6:30pm on Tuesdays. The topic is the same for morning or evening. You’ll come away from this study more impressed with Jesus than you ever were before! See class dates and topics below. Please note the summer break.

June 2	Hebrews 10:1-18	“The Effective Savior”
June 9	Hebrews 10:18-39	“Save Our Souls”
~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Summer Break	~ ~ ~ ~ ~
September 8	Hebrews 11:1-28	“Heroes of Faith
September 15	Hebrews 11:29-40	“Our Faith”
September 22	Hebrews 12:1-17	“Ever Faithful Jesus”
September 29	Hebrews 12:18-29	“Mt. Sinai vs. Heavenly Jerusalem”
October 6	Hebrews 13:1-16	“Pastoral Care”

October 13 Hebrews 13:17-23 “Church Leaders”

Rise Against Hunger

Something incredible is coming, and we need YOU to make it happen! This fall, our church is leading a community-wide Rise Against Hunger event, and together we’re taking on our biggest goal yet:

200 volunteers packing 30,000 meals in just a few hours!

These meals will go directly to children and families around the world who are facing food insecurity every single day. It’s fast-paced, high-energy, joy-filled work — and every scoop, seal, and smile makes a real difference.

Why this matters

Hunger is one of the most urgent global needs of our time. Rise Against Hunger meals support schools, orphanages, medical clinics, and communities working to break the cycle of poverty. When we pack meals, we’re not just filling bags — we’re offering hope, dignity, and a future.

Why we need YOU

To reach 30,000 meals, we need at least 200 volunteers — families, youth, seniors, neighbors, coworkers, and friends. No experience needed. Kids can help. Everyone has a role. This is the kind of event that reminds us what a community can do when we come together with purpose.

Mark your calendar now

Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 AM on the Pitt Greensburg campus. Doors open early — music pumping, hairnets ready, and stations set. Let’s fill the room, fill the bins, and fill the world with hope.

Let’s rise together

Invite your friends. Bring your family. Spread the word. Let’s show Greensburg what compassion in action looks like. 30,000 meals. 200 volunteers. One unforgettable morning. Are you in?

Donations can be made to the church by marking your giving for RAH and volunteer info will be coming soon.

Eucharistic Ministry Teams to Our Homebound

Pastor Aimée, with Pastor Clint’s support, is wishing to assist in gathering teams of volunteers to take part in home visits and bring Communion to our homebound members. We would like to do this soon and possibly continue on to a more regular basis. At the Last Supper, Jesus shared His final Passover meal with the disciples and instituted Communion, or the Eucharist. The word “Eucharist” comes from Greek and means “thanksgiving,” reflecting how Jesus gave thanks over the bread and wine. Please prayerfully consider being part of this Eucharistic Ministers Team. Once we have a list of volunteers, more details will be shared. If you are interested, contact the church office at 724-834-3111 ASAP or speak with Pastor Aimée Twigg.

Pocket Change for a Purpose

It is our monthly collection of donations for special ministries, received on the third Sunday during our time of the children’s message. The children go all through the Sanctuary with big cups to personally collect for each month’s chosen ministry. Then, they return to the front and dump everything into the big globe bowl and Pastor Clint prays over the funds with all the children reaching out to touch the globe. For the month of May we received \$189.10 to benefit the Rise Against Hunger event taking place on October 17.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Becky B. ~ Bobby B. ~ Isabel B. ~ Mary B. ~ Nancy B. ~ Barb ~ Becky ~ Bob ~ Jim & Bev Bence ~ Dave Beppler ~ Judy Bitzer ~ Bob ~ Carolyn ~ Cassie & family ~ Janet & John Craig ~ Debbie D. ~ Emily & Christy ~ Geary family ~ Nancy Gilpatrick ~ Grandey family ~ Kathy Gustafson ~ Joe H. ~ Rick H. ~ Hall family ~ Hirst family ~ Joe Hixson & family ~ Jerry ~ John ~ Diane K. ~ Donna K. ~ Ken Keiser ~ Carol L. ~ Larry & Cindy ~ Lucas ~ Cha M. ~ Diane M. ~ Dorothy M. ~ Jimmy M. ~ John M. ~ Ron M. ~ Thomas M. ~ Marody family ~ Mary ~ MaryJo ~ Marilyn McSparrin ~ Octavia ~ Melanie P. ~ Kathy Poole & family ~ Ross ~ Roxane ~ Ryan ~ Barry S. ~ Nico Salvio ~ Laurel Sedlacko ~ Kerry Thompson ~ Sally Tomasevich ~ Ken Wable ~ Steve Young ~
Pastor Clint & Karla Phillips and their children (Sarah, Isaiah)

Fella-Ship Men’s Prayer Breakfast

As we move into the summer months, many of us enjoy a little extra breathing room — time with family, travel, slower mornings, and the chance to step back and recharge. In that same spirit, our Men’s “Fella-Ship” Breakfast team will be taking a brief summer break. We will **NOT meet in June or August**, giving our leaders and kitchen crew some well-earned rest. However, we **will gather in July** for a single summer breakfast **on July 11 at 9:00 am**. It will be a great mid-summer chance to reconnect, share a meal, and enjoy fellowship together. Then, in **September**, we’ll resume our regular monthly schedule.

Fella-Ship Kitchen Team Needs You

As we look ahead, we are also hoping to **grow our kitchen team**. Whether you’re a man or woman, if you enjoy simple cooking, light prep, or helping with cleanup, we would love to have you join the rotation. The meals are straightforward, the time commitment is small, and the fellowship is always rich. If you feel nudged to help, even occasionally, your hands would be a blessing to this ministry. Thank you for supporting the Men’s Breakfasts and for being part of the life of our church. Summer may bring a different rhythm, but the joy of gathering around the table remains the same.

The Upper Room

This daily devotional for months May/June is still available in the media rack in Sanctuary Hall. Please help us cover the cost of providing this resource with a \$2 suggested donation.

Ladies’ Art & Appetizers

All ladies are invited to a creatively tasteful evening on Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30pm in our Fellowship Hall. There will be tasty appetizers and refreshments waiting for you and we’ll all be instructed how to paint and take home a lovely scene on canvas....akin to paint & sip but ours is called Art & Appetizers. So that Sue Stillman can prepare and organize this event, **please RSVP by Friday, June 12, via the clipboard in the Narthex or call the church office at 724-834-3111 or email at churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org.**

Food Pantry

Set-Up Team: Thursday – June 11 – 1:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

- set up tables and prepare bags & boxes in Fellowship Hall for supplies coming on Friday

Distribution Team: Friday – June 12 – 8:00am

- supply truck arrives and we separate supplies and load bags & boxes in Fellowship Hall

Distribution Begins: Friday – June 12 – 10:00am

A local distribution of the Westmoreland County Food Bank takes place at our church on the 2nd Friday every month at 10:00am at the glass doors by our S. Maple entrance. Current and new clients are asked to arrive no earlier than 9:45am and to watch for the direction of our loyal volunteers in the yellow/green safety vests who will guide you through the registration process by directing you through the YMCA parking lot across S. Maple from the church. After signing in, you will be asked to pull across the street (behind our church) where other volunteers will load your car, thus never requiring you to exit the car. Each allotment is the same, so we thank you for your patience and understanding that there is no need to be earlier than others.

Need for Volunteers

Volunteers are very welcome and always appreciated, especially during the summer months. It’s a great way for people of all ages to earn volunteer hours (school students, teachers). Please call the church office if you are able to take a few hours to be an encouragement to people of our community and help us to help others. Summer dates: June 12 – July 10 – August 14

Special Thank You

to Packaging Service industries in Connellsville, PA for the generous donation of boxes to sustain our food pantry for many months to come!

Food Pantry “Truck of the Month” Sponsors

In December of every year, we begin accepting sponsors that help to pay the delivery fees for the coming year for our monthly supplies from the Westmoreland County Food Bank. In June, we thank Betty Daverse for sponsoring our Gnome-themed Fire “Truck of the Month” in loving memory of her parents and son.

United Methodist Women...Faith ♦ Hope ♦ Love in Action

Rummage Sale Success

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to or helped with the Rummage Sale set up, sale day, or clean up. We had a record number of goods to sell this year, and we had a lot of help. We will report on our results in the next Circuit Rider.

Church Picnic

Make sure Sunday, July 19, is on your calendar for our church picnic. After our regular Sunday-morning worship at the church, you are invited to join us at Mt. Odin Park at the Heather Lund Pavilion. It’s free to all. If you would like to share a side dish, we would be thrilled. The UMW will provide chicken, hot dogs, drinks, and paper goods. It’s a great time of fellowship with our church family. Please join us to celebrate summer!

WPAUMC 2026 Annual Conference

Thursday-Saturday, June 4-6, 2026

The Western PA Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet at the PennWest University California in California, PA. Pastor Clint Phillips, Fred Pershing, and Jim Caffrey will be in attendance and represent our church. The theme for this year is “Re-engage” based on Philippians 2:13 – “for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill God’s good purpose.” Please be in prayer for the proceedings of these three days and the continuing ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Outreach Ministry

Mother’s Day Blanket Sponsorship

Our Mother’s Day blanket sponsorship brought in \$600 which translates into 60 blankets for Church World Service. It’s a great way for us to do mission that will help people anywhere in the world who are in need. Your continued support of this project shows the importance of mission to our church family.

Happy Feet Banks

You will find the Happy Feet banks taking annual residence 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. It’s a chance to take part in a local mission that supports families in our very own community with help to purchase shoes for school, track, or other sports. They will appreciate our support.

Report from Your Board of Trustees

**Frank K. Stillman (Chair) Fred Pershing (Vice-Chair) Mallory Baker (Secretary)
Jon Hobaugh, Ellen Matthews, Karen Pershing, Randi Wichrowski**

The Board of Trustees has been busy this year addressing maintenance and improvement needs across the church and parsonage. On the church building side, the board is exploring options for air conditioning in the sanctuary and looking into ways to improve security camera coverage to better support our office staff. Landscaping improvements which include weed prevention and mulching are underway, with flowers already planted in the boxes. Additional projects such as a bell tower repair contract, patio drainage improvements, front step repair, and a longer-term electrical system upgrade are also being monitored and addressed.

For the parsonage, the board has completed water damage repairs and is continuing to work on landscaping for both appearance and drainage, floor replacement bids, and repairs to the deck and front curtains.

The trustees are grateful for the support of the congregation and welcome volunteers to help with upcoming landscaping and yard cleanup days. If you'd like to get involved or learn more, feel free to reach out to any board member.

Email Prayer Chain Partners

Contact the church office at 724-834-3111 or make note on your Sunday Welcome/Attendance Card to get the prayer chain going. Or you can email the office at churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org. Often, there will only be a name to pray for because God knows our hearts and for whom we are asking His blessings.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the friends and family of the following member who recently joined the Church Eternal & Triumphant: Patricia Pandolph (April 28, 2026)

[We Need Your Help with Computer Software Changes](#)

As technology continues to move forward, some of the tools we have relied on for many years are fading into the past. Microsoft Publisher, a program that many churches and organizations used faithfully for decades to create bulletins, newsletters, and other documents, will soon no longer be available. That means the files created in it will not be able to be accessed in the future. Our church has many files stored in Publisher files, and we need to act now to preserve them. The goal is to convert these important documents into PDF or WORD format so they can be safely stored and accessed for years to come.

[We are looking for volunteers](#) who are willing to help work through this conversion process. No advanced technical skills are required — just a willingness to help and a little patience. If you are interested in helping with this important project, please reach out to Pastor Clint to sign up or learn more about what is involved. Many hands make light work, and every little bit of help goes a long way toward protecting the records and memories that tell the story of our church family.

[Sight and Sound “Joshua” Bus Trip](#)

The countdown is on! This is your chance to experience *Joshua* at Sight & Sound Theatres. This show is a breathtaking, larger-than-life production that brings one of Scripture’s most powerful stories to the stage. From the rushing waters of the Jordan River to the mighty walls of Jericho, this brand-new show immerses you in the courage, faith, and miracles that shaped God’s people. This trip is a full-day adventure designed for the whole family. You’ll journey with the Israelites through the wilderness, watch Joshua rise as a leader under impossible pressure, and witness God’s faithfulness unfold in dramatic, unforgettable ways. If you’ve ever wanted to see the Bible come alive, this is the moment.

Trip Details — Don’t Wait! — Cost: • Adults: \$250 • Children (ages 3–12): \$200

Includes your show ticket, round-trip motorcoach transportation, family-style Amish meal, snacks/water on the bus, and driver tip. (Show recommended for ages 5+; Family Room available with live feed.)

Our Seats: Section 305, Rows BB–FF — excellent views!

Your Day at a Glance

Depart on a spacious, restroom-equipped 55-seat motorcoach • Enjoy shopping and lunch (on your own) at Kitchen Kettle Village • Optional Amish buggy rides nearby • Experience *Joshua* live at Sight & Sound • Share a delicious family-style dinner at an Amish Farm • Relax on the ride home after an unforgettable day

Registration Deadline Is Approaching...Sunday, June 14th

This is a **private charter trip** sponsored by First UMC Greensburg, and seats are limited. To secure your spot, **register directly through the church** and make checks payable to FUMC/Greensburg.

Questions? Contact **Carrie’s Bus Tours** at 724-640-8828 or carriesbustours@gmail.com.

We Celebrate our Graduates

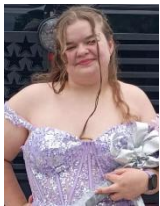
On Sunday, June 7, we will celebrate our Graduates during our 10:00 morning worship and pray over them for God’s blessings and guidance in their future endeavors.



Addison Fabian graduated from River Valley High School in Blairsville PA. She was involved with the Art Club, Future Business Leaders of America. She regularly volunteered for a local Food Bank and she is employed at Valley Dairy in Blairsville. She is a member of the National Honor Society and she was voted “most likely to teach the class” by her peers. Other honors include distinguished honor roll from grades 6-12 (and she will graduate with 4.0+ GPA; top 10% of her graduating class); 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at regional FBLA competitions; perfect attendance in her junior year; and the ServSafe certification. Addy plans to attend West Virginia University (WVU) to earn her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Her career goal is to be a therapist so she can help others reach their full potential and be an advocate for mental health services.



Alex Fleming graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. He was on the Dean’s List (2022-2026) and was the Provost Scholar in Fall of 2024. His activities included U-SOAR (Undergraduate Summer Opportunities for Applied Research) 2024, Voluntary Research (Effects of Autophagy-Promoting Supplements on Planarian Flatworm Regeneration). After taking a gap year, Alex plans on going to graduate school to get his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



Nevaeh Hirst, daughter of Sean and Brandi Hirst, graduated from Greensburg Salem High School. She has participated as a band manager in the Greensburg Salem Marching Band for four years and often helped with the Greensburg First Methodist Tech Team over the years. After graduation, she plans to work full-time at Best Beginnings Learning Center as a teacher.

After-Hour Staff Contact

Our church is blessed with a wonderful and dedicated staff who give so much of themselves in service to our congregation. As we continue to grow as a community of faith, it’s important that we honor the healthy boundaries that allow our staff to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with their families.

We ask the congregation to help us honor our secretary, Peaches, by contacting her only during regular office hours. She gives her very best while she is here, and we want to support her in having the personal time she needs outside the office. If something arises outside of those hours, there are still ways to reach us.

Here are the best ways to get in touch after hours:

- **Email Peaches at the church office churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org** — your message will be waiting for her when she arrives.
- **Email Pastor Clint for pastoral matters pastor@greensburgfirst.org** — he monitors his email and responds as his schedule allows.
- **Text Pastor Clint for more urgent pastoral needs at 724-594-2029.**

We are a community that cares for one another, and that care includes the wonderful people who serve us each day. By being thoughtful about when and how we reach out, we show our gratitude and respect for all they do. Thank you for your kindness and consideration. Pastor Clint

Safe Sanctuary

One of the great blessings of our congregation is the care and dedication shown by those who serve — staff and volunteers alike. Your commitment helps create a church where children, youth, and vulnerable adults can grow in faith within an environment of safety, trust, and compassion. We are deeply grateful for all you do. As you know, our church has adopted a Safe Sanctuary Policy in accordance with United Methodist Church guidelines and the requirements of our insurance provider. This policy protects the most vulnerable among us and also safeguards those who serve. **The deadlines for completing clearances have now passed, which means that all required clearances must be submitted immediately in order to continue serving.**

If you are unsure whether your role requires clearances, please reach out to me directly. Many of you may already have some documents on file, but it is essential that every staff member and every volunteer working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults completes *all* required items.

Volunteer Requirements

- PA ChildLine Background Check
- PA State Police Criminal Background Check
- FBI Affidavit (for volunteers who have lived in PA for 10+ years)
- Online Safe Sanctuary Training

Staff Requirements

- PA ChildLine Background Check
- PA State Police Criminal Background Check
- FBI Fingerprint Background Check (required for all employees)
- Online Safe Sanctuary Training

Please note: Volunteer clearances cannot be used for staff positions. Employee clearances require a small fee, which the church will cover **this time only**.

Clearances can be completed online. If you need the web addresses or assistance navigating the process, Peaches or I will be glad to help. Once completed, please submit emailed or hard copies of your certificates to the office. Clearances obtained through other organizations may be used if they are less than five years old.

Important: Service Cannot Continue Without Completed Clearances

Because the April 15 (staff) and April 30 (volunteer) deadlines have passed, **anyone without completed clearances must pause their service until all materials are submitted.** This is not optional — it is required by our Conference, our insurance provider, and our commitment to the safety of our congregation. If you have any questions as to whether you are required to have clearances, contact Pastor Clint

We Are Here to Help

We know this process can feel overwhelming, and we are committed to walking with you through every step. We can assist with accessing websites, filling out forms, printing certificates, or answering questions. Our goal is to make this as smooth and supportive as possible. Thank you for your continued dedication to the ministry of our church and for helping us maintain a safe, caring environment for all God’s people.

Staff Directory

15 E. 2nd Street – Greensburg, PA 15601 Website: www.greensburgfirst.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm (May change without notice, thank you for your understanding & patience)

Rev. Clint Phillips (pastor) – 724-594-2029 – pastor@greensburgfirst.org

Peaches Clark (church secretary) – 724-834-3111 – churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org

Fred Pershing (Director of Music) – tumusic@comcast.net

Jim Caffrey (Associate Director of Music) – puppycat1955@gmail.com

Ruth Hughes (Organist) – ruthkhughes@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook: First United Methodist Church – Greensburg

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	2 10:30am Bible Study w/ Augie Twigg (Lounge) 6:30pm Bible Study w/ Augie Twigg (Lounge)	3	4 11am-1:00pm NA 12-Step (Lounge) 6:30-8:30pm Women’s AA 12-Step (Lounge)	5	6
7 Communion Graduate Sunday 8:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall) 9:00am Sunday School Adult (Library) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	8 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	9 10:30am Bible Study w/ Augie Twigg (Lounge) 6:30pm Bible Study w/ Augie Twigg (Lounge)	10	11 11am-1:00pm NA 12-Step (Lounge) <hr/> 1:30pm Food Pantry Set-Up (Fellowship Hall) <hr/> 6:30-8:30pm Women’s AA 12-Step (Lounge)	12 Food Pantry 8:00-10:00am Unload Truck & organize (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am Distribution (at S. Maple glass doors)	13
14 8:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall) 9:00am Sunday School Adult (Library) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	15  6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	16 6:30-8pm Ladies’ Art & Appetizers (Fellowship Hall)	17 NO Finance Committee in June (Next on July 15)	18 11am-1:00pm NA 12-Step (Lounge) 6:30-8:30pm Women’s AA 12-Step (Lounge)	19	20
21 Father’s Day Pocket Change 8:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall) 9:00am Sunday School Adult (Library) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	22 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	23	24 NO Church Council in June (Next on July 22)	25 8:30am Circuit Rider Assembly <hr/> 11am-1:00pm NA 12-Step (Lounge) <hr/> 6:30-8:30pm Women’s AA 12-Step (Lounge)	26	27
28 8:30am Coffee Fellowship (Sanctuary Hall) 9:00am Sunday School Adult (Library) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	29 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	30	<h1>June 2026</h1>			