

THE BRIDGE

A publication of The United Methodist Church Union

Fall 2021



For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;



Enjoy the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ESV throughout this newsletter

KIDS MEAL NETWORK



When summer comes each year, thousands of kids across the Greater Pittsburgh Area are left without consistent access to healthy meals. Kids Meal Network (KMN) feeds food-insecure children during the summer months when there is no longer the consistent offering of school breakfast and lunch every day.

In the summer of 2021, in the midst of a global pandemic, KMN provided 18,000+ meals to over 1,000 children at 24 sites throughout Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas.

Is your organization interested in becoming a KMN site next summer? Give Liz a call at 724-977-8830.

DAILY BREAD

As many of you know, we are moving locations at the beginning of February. We ask for your prayers as we discern next steps. The ministry is thriving, and we are caring for people in the numbers that we saw pre-Covid. One of the wonderful partnerships that we have developed is with Allegheny Health Network. Every time we are opened, two wonderful and winsome social workers are with us conversing and caring for folks. The cold weather is coming, and **we are in desperate need of men's socks and underwear**. In addition, donations of warm clothing will be accepted during the month of November and early December. Looking ahead, we imagine that there will be added costs such as a rental fee for our new location that will stretch us financially as ever before. Gifts directed to Daily Bread would be greatly appreciated. *Contact Pastor Bob at 412-953-8852 or bobmaravalli@gmail.com.*



Please bring donations during open hours:
Tues. & Thurs. 10:30-12:30 and Sun. 3:00-5:00

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS ESTATES

Winter Coat Drive

Calling all churches, organizations, businesses, communities, and individuals! Church Union will be holding our 2nd annual coat drive this year for the children, youth, and teens of Northview Heights. We're asking for *new* coats, hats, gloves, and scarves of all sizes. *Please go to churchunion.org for more information, including drop-off times and locations.*

If your organization would like to host their own drop off site, please email office@churchunion.org for an editable flyer that you can print and pass out!

*a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*



Our First Annual Juneteenth Celebration! Dr. Andrew Johnson, who runs our mentoring and youth employment program, is engaging our youth and our police in conversation.

Summer learning hub camps continue as After School Learning Hubs under the leadership of Ms. Peggy Ward. The kids are excited to get to the farmhouse to work on homework and play a few games.



READING & MENTORING NETWORK

In response to the school closures of the pandemic, the Reading & Mentoring Program was on hiatus during the 2020-2021 school year. Now that schools are allowing volunteers back into the school buildings, **the Reading and Mentoring Program is back!** We're already reading in three schools, and hope to be back into the rest of our ten schools before the end of the school year. We continue to participate in the Pittsburgh Public School partner network – keeping up on the latest news, attending learning sessions, and providing help whenever and wherever we can. Can you spare an hour of your week to read with a kiddo or two? We'd love you have you join one of our volunteers group! *Contact Liz at 724-977-8830.*

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Church Union has a long history (127 years!) of providing support to growing ideas – which, eventually, turn into growing organizations. Our backing extends from program management into Financial Services...acting as fiduciary agent for countless organizations, managing endowments, sheltering organizations seeking a 501(c)3 designation, and collaborating with organizations that wish to grow a program within Church Union. Interested in exactly what we do in the area of Financial Services? *Call Carrie at 412-897-7801.*

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS ESTATES

Property Update

There have been lots of changes in our corner of North View Heights Estates. Since the pandemic started, we have used the time wisely. Last Spring and Summer, we did a major cleanup of the properties. We sorted, donated, dumpstered, and cleaned every room of the church building and farmhouse (including attics and basements)! We were able to start new ministries of youth mentoring in the late fall, and we opened the Learning Hub in January in the church building

And we kept working! Rooms in the farmhouse were painted. New carpeting and flooring were installed in the house and many spaces look bright and new. Although it is still a work in progress, the Learning Hub after school program is delighted with their new home. The fence around the playground is now safer for kids of all ages.

The entire church building was painted, and many small repairs were completed. A new rest room was installed upstairs as well as new exterior doors and siding. Lots of rotten wood was replaced and the entrance way looks very welcoming without the bars and padlock. We entered a partnership with the Early Childhood Education program from Pittsburgh Public Schools--there are now 44 preschool

children attending this new school in their own community, in our facility.

We have made so much progress with the gifts and energy of so many volunteers. The workers have given of their time and talents and most certainly put their faith into action. We could not have accomplished anything much without their gifts of service.

And now we are ready for one more chapter! The farmhouse needs new windows and doors. There is much water/weather damage around every window and most are broken. The doors have been rehung and painted so many times, it is impossible to get a secure lock for the doors. We also want our doors to be "safe sanctuary" safe, so we need new doors with windows for the classrooms and offices. We need a new front door that says "you are welcome here." There are 28 windows in the house. Each window can be purchased and installed for \$465 each. There are 5 classroom and office doors that need to be replaced. Each classroom door

is \$700, purchased and installed. The new front door will be \$1,000, purchased and installed. **We need your help to complete this project.**

Questions? Call Rev. Beth Nelson at (412) 398-7894.



Refreshed front! We are housing 2 early childhood education classes in partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools; 44 children and 4 teachers are calling this building home for the school year.



Work camps make a positive difference and live their faith!

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UNION

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THE VISION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UNION IS TO BE A RESPONSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE FORCE THAT BRIDGES ACROSS CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES TO EMPOWER CHANGE.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



These two little bakers made cookies and sold them at a Moon homecoming event. Part of their profit goes to Kids Meal Network (KMN). It is very important for these two to help others. They were eager to help the kids that their "PopPop" helps. Rev. Larry and Ellen Homitsky are the proud grandparents!

Want to be featured in our Volunteer Spotlight? Submit your volunteering stories and pictures to office@churchunion.org.