



Mount Gretna UMC

Happenings

July 2021

Summertime! It is a great time of the year. Longer days, warm nights, and maybe even a slower lifestyle for a few months. These days we call the lazy days of summer are great for taking vacations, visiting family, taking hikes, going to the beach, going on picnics, or cookouts in the backyard. I also encourage you to bring together your summertime fun with your faith journey. We know that God's beautiful creation is around us (especially here in Mt. Gretna) and that God wants rest, refreshment, and renewal for us. So how can we experience it and share it with others, so we don't miss out on all that God has in store for us? Here are two simple suggestions that might begin your "summertime" faith and fun journey for July and August.

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims God's handiwork"

Leave the electronics behind, grab a folding chair or blanket and sit in the dark to enjoy the stars. Share and talk about God's incredible creation.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 "We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

Plan a Neighborhood gathering in your backyard or in the park. No, it does not have to be overwhelming. It's time to reconnect safely and faithfully outside.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

SUMMER SERVICES IN THE TABERNACLE



Starting June 6th our 10:00 AM worship service moved into the Tabernacle. This is always a fun and enjoyable part of summer in our community.

- In keeping with the CDC guidelines facemasks are not required if you are fully vaccinated. However, if you feel more comfortable continuing to wear a facemask during the service you are welcomed to do so.

Wet'n Wacky Wednesdays

Warm weather and bright sunshine can mean only one thing: it will soon be summer again and summer means Wet'n Wacky Wednesdays are just around the corner. Wet'n Wacky Wednesdays are simply the best way to have fun at church during the summer if you are a child from K – 6th grade.

This yearly event is our church's way of offering a non-traditional VBS experience for our church and community. It consists of having games and activities that involve making things and people wet, and having as much fun as we can in the process. There are some skill games like Wacky Water Balloon golf, some team games like the Plumber's Nightmare Relay, and some... well just crazy games like the infamous Water Balloon Whack! But that's not all, we also offer children a Bible story, craft, and snack each night as a way of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

This year Wet'n Wacky Wednesday will be held: July 28, August 4, and August 11 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

So mark your calendars now for summer fun and wackiness galore!



Each year our church hosts a rest stop for the Hershey Chocolate Tour. The event is a fundraiser to support cancer research to find the cure at Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute.

This year our church will again host a rest stop. So, as the Chocolate Tour cycling events make their way through the Mount Gretna area on Saturday, August 7th, our members will open our doors and welcome the participants. For this event we are asking for volunteers from the church to bake goodies, help set up, or be on hand August 7th to welcome the cyclists as they arrive.

If you are interested in helping this very worthwhile cause, please contact the Church Office at: 717-964-3241.

2021 BIBLE FESTIVAL

The Mount Gretna Bible Festival is in the final planning stages and ready to once again provide: "Christian spiritual renewal in a unique Victorian setting."

Sunday evening Tabernacle programs continue throughout the summer at 7:00 PM. Please refer to the Bible Festival brochures located around the church, or visit www.MtGretnaTabernacle.org for dates and information about specific programs.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect money, non-perishable food items and paper products for the Lebanon County Christian Ministry Food Bank.

We thank those who have participated in the past and encourage everyone to use the list of suggested items that can be picked up in the church lobby each month to help with purchasing items that are needed.

WEEKLY ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS THURSDAYS AT 7PM

You are invited to join Pastor Marilyn and members of our congregation as they come together on Zoom to pray for the joys and concerns of friends and family, our nation and the world. The group was formed during the Covid lockdown and continues to be a time of fellowship and taking our cares to God.

ZOOM can be done on a laptop, tablet or smart phone. If you have email: the church will send you an email every week with the link.

BUT PLEASE NOTE--ZOOM calls can also be made from any cell phone by dialing in to the phone number that is in the weekly email.

Don't forget: We still have an email Prayer Chain that is coordinated by member Sarah Ellis. You may call the office with prayer requests at 717.964.3241 or email them directly to Sarah at stellis999@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Pastor Marilyn at 717.269.8613

JUBILEE CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year Jubilee offers camp scholarships to children who have a mom, dad, or both in prison or on parole. These children are invited to a weeklong overnight camping adventure. Thanks to your generosity, this year we collected \$3,300.00 which will allow us to help 11 children to go to camp. THANK YOU!

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, August 11 @ 7PM – Administrative Board Meeting (via ZOOM)**
- **Sunday, August 15 @ 10AM – Community Service in the Tabernacle.**
- **Sunday, September 19 – Church Picnic @ Gretna Glenn.**