

THE ABBEY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ is to fulfill the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing in the experience of worship; by the care, nurture and Christian education of all people doing all these things in the spirit of love, compassion and concern, for all God's Creation.

The Abbey Reformed UCC

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A message from the Abbey pastor,

Rev. Donna Jarrell

When I was growing up, summer seemed to stretch itself across the calendar with its long, hot, lazy days. I swam. I rode my bike. I jumped rope. I played tetherball. Summer also brought the excitement of VBS and church picnics at the YWCA park where a slide was built right into the side of a rare hill in central Ohio.

But being outdoors, having loads of fun wasn't everything. Summer brought fresh fruits, fresh veggies, Chef-Boy-Ardee boxed pizzas and sleepovers at my cousin, Connie Bee's. My family traveled to exotic places in the summer, places like Kentucky, Tennessee, and New York to visit grandmas and cousins, aunts and uncles. I made the best of my childhood memories on these trips--a raging bull chased me and cousin Sheila Jean out of a pasture up a Kentucky holler. Playing hide-n-seek, I fell through a straw-covered hole in the loft of a barn in New York State. And in Waverly, Tennessee, I saw my first ever theatre shown "film"--*Hello Down There* about a family living in an underwater house.

Here I am now, all grown up serving as a pastor and not much has changed. There's a little less swimming and playing, a lot less jump rope, and fewer visits with aunts and uncles and cousins. But summer still stretches itself across the calendar with the promise of a break from the daily doldrums of the school year. Summer still brings play, fun, travel, and memories. At The Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ, we had an excellent summer, which actually began early, in April when the trio sang the National Anthem for an Altoona Curve ballgame!

In May we baptized Evelyn Mary Revely-Cohen, a six month old, delightful infant who lives next door to the church. Evelyn's father will be baptized on September 29th and on the first Sunday in November, we'll be receiving Jonathan, his wife, Kim, and Evelyn into membership at The Abbey. Perhaps you are interested in membership at The Abbey as well. We'll be having two meetings in October to discuss what it means to be a member of The Abbey and the United Church of Christ. Watch the announcements for coming dates!

(Pastor Donna)



General Synod Delegation



Rev. Traci Blackmon



Pastor Donna with the President and General Minister of the UCC

June brought the pastor a full plate of travel--first to the PennWest Conference Annual Gathering at California University of Pennsylvania. Rev. Traci Blackmon, Minister of Witness and Justice for the national UCC, was our keynote speaker. She talked to us about the difference between charity and justice. She inspired us to "Make Jesus Famous!"

Ten days after the annual gathering, I was off to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to serve as a PennWest delegate to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. I was gone seven days and seven nights, all packed full of education, discussion, worship, speaking out, voting on resolutions, and best of all, catching up with old friends. Lucky for me, in between these two trips, Tom and I were able to participate in the annual Father's Day brunch and worship service at Lake Raystown.

As July rolled around, Tom, Pastor's husband, began harvesting some early crops from his huge garden and sharing them with the congregation! Cabbage and beans and beets came first, followed by cantaloupes and tomatoes. Still to come, potatoes: a crop from 96 plants! Needless to say, as Tom and Pastor approach their 1st anniversary, all of us have adjusted well to the pastor's married life. Tom, too, will be joining The Abbey in November!

Vacation Bible School scored big during the last week of July. Several members of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church volunteered with sixteen members of The Abbey to host forty-five neighborhood children over the course of the week. Average nightly attendance came in around 25. As a child, I always had fun at VBS. As a pastor, I truly delighted in the fun the children had as they ran *The Incredible Race!* Special blessings for our VBS Director, the Raystown Lake summer campground chaplain, Kiersten Smeal, for her hard work and enthusiasm that made VBS a remarkable success.

As VBS came and went, the summer grew earnest in its warmth, and the congregation found reprieve from the heat of the sanctuary on Sunday morning by worshipping in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Many members reported enjoying the worship in this space--the closeness of the gathering, the quality of the singing, and the casual nature of the service. During worship on August 18th, we celebrated the priesthood of all believers by offering a "Blessing of the Backpacks" for our students, teachers, and coaches before we sent them into the coming demands of the school year.

You all probably know this, but the need for pastoral care doesn't take a vacation. Over the summer, I continued to stay in contact with

members of our congregation who are homebound or hospitalized. In June, several of us gathered at Doris Stitt's to celebrate her 90th birthday. In July, we welcomed Rev. Paul Marsteller, who is unable to attend church at present, into our congregation in a touching bedside ceremony. This Sunday, September 1st, we welcome the congregation to our home for a picnic and fireworks.

By the time you read this, most of those going back to school will have gone. We will return to our normal worship schedule on September 8th: Sunday School 9:30 and Worship at 10:30. But just because summer is over doesn't mean we're packing it in. On October 6th, we'll be hosting our 3rd annual Fall Festival in the church parking lot.

Pray for us as we reach into our community with God's love. Pray for this pastor that God may guide, fortify, and sustain her by giving her wisdom and courage to lead the sheep of The Abbey in The Way of Jesus.

Please know, for those who haven't been here for a while, we miss you. For those who haven't been here yet, we miss you too because your absence creates a hole in the family of God. And always remember, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome at The Abbey, where we all belong.

Pastor Donna



Special thanks to Tom Young (Pastor Donna's husband), because of all of his hard work in the garden, Abbey members have been eating very well as of late!

VBS-The Incredible Race

July 22-26 was our VBS. To say it was incredible would be an understatement. It was five days of enthusiastic music that had the kids jumping for joy and singing along, energetic games with a message, fun science experiments, creative crafts, tasty snacks and thoughtful lessons that left everyone who came full of God's love.

Each night the children were asked to bring in .25 cents as a donation for the Children's Hunger Fund. By the end of the week we had collected \$160.00 that will help provide 640 meals to children in need.

This event would not have been possible without all of the helpers from crew leaders, station leaders and everyone in between. We were thankful for the volunteers from the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church for all of their help. Pastor Donna who co-directed with Kiersten Smeal did a great job selecting the program that went over so well with the children that kept them coming back for more each night. Kiersten brought so much youthful energy that it was impossible not to get caught up in the excitement. Her fabulous decorating transformed our building from an airport to many different locations around the world. We are already looking forward to next year!



Games led by the youthful Bill & Sally Frazier



Crafts led by Shirley Hummel and friends.



We managed to get Don Hindman out of retirement from teaching to lead the science station!

Father's Day Service at the Lake

We had a great turn out on June 16 for our annual Father's Day Service at the Lake. The weather was a bit chilly but the rain held off so we were able to enjoy a refreshing outside worship service and a delicious brunch afterward in honor of all father's in attendance. Special thanks to Spiritual Council who organizes this event each year!

Soup Kitchen

The Missions Committee have completed their second scheduled date for working the soup kitchen at the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church on August 15. There was about 15 Abbey volunteers who graciously came out to help. Our third and final date for this year is scheduled for **October 17**. Volunteers to help would be greatly appreciated.

Blessing of Backpacks

Sunday, August 18 we had the Blessing of the Backpacks. This yearly event gives students, teachers, coaches or anyone who could use some blessings to gear up for the fall. We were pleased to have three students who are college bound in attendance. They will continue to be in our prayers as they move forward to achieve their goals and will always be loved and welcomed as Abbey Family! We also send blessings and love to Garrett Funk as he heads off to college as well.

Prayer for a College Student

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know.

As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith.

As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears.

As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find you.

Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. Amen.



(Father's Day Service at Raystown Lake)



(Abbey Crew at the Soup Kitchen)



(Olivia Wilson, Ty Bair & Erin States)

Upcoming Events

Choir Rehearsal Resumes

Our choir practice will resume with the first rehearsal scheduled for Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00pm. We welcome any newcomers who would like to be a part of the Music Ministry Program at the Abbey. Our weekly rehearsals are a time of sharing, music, fellowship, and most importantly – our faith. It's never too late to join.

Picnic at the Pastor's Rescheduled

All are invited to a Picnic at the Pastor's 6663 Old Plank Road, Broad Top PA 16621 on **September 1** we will be eating at 5:00 pm. Hot dogs & Hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. There will be a fireworks show that evening put on by the campground across the street. All are welcome to attend!

Fall Schedule

On Sunday, September 8 we will get back to our fall schedule with Sunday School at 9:30 am and the worship service at 10:30 am.

The Fellowship Committee

To help kick off the fall schedule on **September 8** we will be having a covered dish lunch after the worship service downstairs in the Social Hall. All are welcome to bring a covered dish to share and spend time catching up with your church family after a busy summer.

Sunday, September 22 will be the annual fall picnic at Sonny and Sue Knepp's. Games begin at 4:00 pm, we will be eating at 5:00 pm. Hot dogs, rolls and condiments will be provided. Please bring lawn chairs and a covered dish to share. Hope to see you there!

Fundraising-Loida Woomer

The Fall Basement Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 28 from 9 am to noon. We already have a lot of donations that have come in. You won't want to miss out on these great deals. Watch weekly bulletins for scheduled dates to help set up for the sale.

We are still looking for someone to take over chairing the Fundraising Committee in January. After 10 years of serving the committee I need to step back to take care of family commitments. I am staying on the committee and will continue to sell the Giant, Weis and Sheetz gift cards. Sue Sharpless and I will continue to do the Basement Sale so there are two very good established fundraisers taken care of, we will need someone to organize any other ideas that may come your way, attend the Executive Council meetings and do an end of year annual report. Anyone interested please contact the church office. Unfortunately I will need to step down whether or not I find a replacement.

The Building Fund

As many are aware, on the fourth Sunday of each month there is an envelope in the bulletins for a collection to support the building fund. We are currently in need of extra funds as some issues have risen that need attention. The front steps leading into the sanctuary on Church Street is currently being repaired. The mortar between the steps have deteriorated over time and needs replaced. At the top of the stairs the stone has deteriorated as well and is being restored. This repair alone is \$3,000.00.

In May it was discovered that the boiler was leaking. D.C. Goodman's was called to investigate. At that time they were unable to locate where the leak was coming from by then the heating season was over so we were instructed to wait until the next heating season to look further into the problem. We were advised that the boiler has already outlived its expectancy and the problem could be serious or it could be a simple fix at this point we do not know for sure. We recently purchased a new chemical pump that services the pipes leading to the boiler as it went bad with a cost of around \$600.00. Any extra donations at this time would be greatly appreciated as the Trustees work to keep our beautiful 90 year old building in good shape.

Sermon Schedule

September 15, 2019

Pastor Donna is on vacation.
Rev. Suzanne Morelli will be filling in at the pulpit.

September 22, 2019

Creation Care

Theme: Stewardship of the earth

Scriptures: Genesis 2:15, Exodus 23:10,
Numbers 35:33-34, Deuteronomy 20:19

September 29, 2019

When Feeling Foolish is a Good Thing

Theme: Embracing the discomfort of life in Christ.

Scriptures: Matthew 11:25-30 &
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

October 6, 2019

When Discomfort Comes in the Shape of a Cross

Theme: The uncomfortable cross

Scriptures: Galatians 6:11-18 & Mark 8:27-38

October 13, 2019

Pastor Donna on vacation.

Rev. Suzanne Morelli filling in at the pulpit.

October 20, 2019

Why Getting It Right Feels So Wrong

Theme: Uncomfortable holiness and upsetting truths

Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:9-10 & Matthew 5:1-20

October 27, 2019

Looking for Love In All the Right Places

Theme: Uncomfortable Love and Disquieting Comfort

Scriptures: John 15:9-7 & 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Third Annual Fall Festival

October 6th, 2019, is the 3rd Annual Fall Festival in The Abbey Church parking lot. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. we'll serve hot dogs, donuts, and cider for our guests. Our oh-so-popular cake walk will return along with face painting, and we hope to add some new games we learned at VBS. Musicians will be on hand to provide entertainment. This year, we're adding a pet blessing to the festival! We may even have a few surprise visitors! Watch for more details in coming announcements.



August 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		<h1>September 2019</h1>		October 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:30 am Picnic at Pastor Donna & Tom's 4:00pm	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	4 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Good Samaritan Off. Covered Dish	9	10 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	11 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection	16	17 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Building Fund Collection Picnic at the Knepp's	23	24 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	25 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	26	27	28 Fall Basement Sale 9am to Noon
29 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am	30					

September 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		<h1>October 2019</h1>		November 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	2 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fall Festival 1-3:00 pm	7	8 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	9 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Good Samaritan Off.	14	15 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	16 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	17 Abbey Working the Soup Kitchen @ Presbyterian Church 4:00 pm	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Food Pantry Off.	21	22 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	23 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Building Fund Off.	28	29 AA Meeting 7:00 pm	30 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	31		