

# **The Oak Leaves – May 2025**

## **May 2025**

### **FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO**

**Pastor:** Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - [1stuppastor@gmail.com](mailto:1stuppastor@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office Hours

(717) 776-7525 - [1stupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:1stupoffice@gmail.com)

**Clerk of Session:** Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 –

[jellingsworth22@gmail.com](mailto:jellingsworth22@gmail.com)

**Moderator of Deacons:** Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 [samccrea@gmail.com](mailto:samccrea@gmail.com)

### **New phone numbers/emails/ address**

Please update the Church Office whenever  
you have NEW information

Thanks

Elisabeth Gauthier

**717-776-7525**

**[1stupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:1stupoffice@gmail.com)**

### **Happy May Birthday**

4. Sarah Keiter (Cunningham)
9. Jim Ellingsworth
10. Jody Kann
13. Lucy Jansema
19. Mike Beatty
28. Grace Miller
29. Janice Glesner
30. Nancy McCullough

### **Happy May Anniversary**

14. Barry & Grace Miller
17. Andrew & Sally Ann McCrea

**Notice of Session Action:** Due to declining attendance and desiring to be good stewards of our resources, the Session unanimously approved to discontinue the 8:30 am Worship Service effective Sunday, June 1, 2025. The final 8:30am service will be May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Thanks**

Thank you everyone for the much loved cards and well wishes to both John and I. It's been a very difficult time of coming to understand for us.

Your cards, letters and meals and messages are greatly appreciated  
John and Janet Nimmon

### **Changes with Oak Leaves**

Copies of the Newsletter will be on the hallway table for those who attend church on a regular basis. There will be a basket of newsletters (no names)

Shut-ins will still receive their copy in the mail and emailed copies will stay the same.

Thanks

**Elisabeth Gauthier**

***\$550** was collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, thanks to all who gave to this worthy cause.*

# The Oak Leaves – May 2025

Greetings!

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG: New Life in Jesus Christ**

*“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”*

(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

This morning, I drove up Elk Hill Road located on the North Mountain, in the Tuscarora State Forest. The air was fresh, the light soft and golden. I spotted eleven new bird species; their songs echoing from the trees like nature’s hymn of praise. Around me, the signs of spring were unmistakable: leaf buds unfurling, blooms opening, birds calling. The mountain was coming alive.

Spring stirs our senses—sight, sound, and smell—but even more, it stirs the soul. In every unfolding leaf, we see the creative hand of God. In every bird’s call, we hear a reminder of resurrection. And in every breath of floral air, we inhale the promise of new life.

The experience drew my mind to the Bible verse, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Spring is not just a season; it’s a symbol, a living sermon preached by creation. It points us to the new life found in Jesus Christ. The One who walked out of the tomb that first Easter, now walks with us, calling us to rise up with Him into a life of hope, righteousness, and joy. As the heavenly Christ speaks in Revelation through John, *“Behold, I am making all things new.”*

(Revelation 21:5)

Just as seeds hidden in cold soil push upward toward the sun, so does God stir life within us—quietly, powerfully, beautifully.

*“For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”* (Isaiah 61:11)

This spring, don’t miss what God is doing, both around you and within you. Let every bird song remind you of His mercy. Let every bloom point to His grace. Let this be your prayer: *“Lord, renew me like spring. Make me alive in You.”*

Wishing you a blessed spring,

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Vern*

## **Session & Deacons for 2025**

**Clerk- Jim Ellingsworth**  
**Moderator- Pastor Vern Gauthier**  
**Hale McCulloch**  
**Lynette McCulloch**  
**Elaine Fry**  
**Mike Fry**  
**Margie Fry**  
**Nancy McCullough**  
**Sherri Mains**

## **Deacons 2025**

**Sally Ann McCrea**  
**Bob Kovanic**  
**Donna Weer**  
**Sarah Keiter**  
**Dee denHartog**  
**Deb Barrick**

# The Oak Leaves – May 2025

## Highlights of Session Meetings held on April 24, 2025

- **APPROVED** the request from the Big Spring Senior Center to use the Rhoades Fellowship Hall and kitchen on Thursday, August 14, 2025 to hold a “Trivia Night Fund Raiser” from 4:00 to 9:00 pm.
- **APPROVED** the request from the Big Spring Senior Center to use the Rhoades Fellowship Hall and kitchen on Saturday, September 27, 2025 to hold a “Cookie Decorating Fund Raiser” from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
- **APPROVED** the request of the Church Secretary, Elisabeth Gauthier, to mail the Oak Leaves only to “shut-ins” and those members that request a mailed copy to save on postage. Her plan is to provide copies at the entrances to the Church for those that attend Worship on a regular basis to pick up their copy if desired.
- **The ending checking account balance as of 3-31-2025 was \$7,041.25. Income for March was \$15,505.41 and the year to date income is \$44,559.44. Expenses for March totaled \$14,125.25, and year to date expenses were \$47,093.76.**
- The annual Church Audit has been completed by the Committee
- Filing of the church’s “Non-Profit” status with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been completed.
- Positive feedback and discussion were shared on joining in worship with Big Spring Presbyterian Church for Maundy Thursday. Attendance was about 50/50 from each Congregation.

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session

(DISCLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

**Tax Exempt:-** we have a new form and expiration date. Please check with the Office and get this updated form if you are to purchase anything for the Church.

**Weis:** we have a store credit card. If you need to purchase items for the Church, from the store, see Elisabeth to get the Card.  
Thanks.

# **The Oak Leaves – May 2025**

## **Community Life Committee Happenings** **(CLC)**

**May:**

**May 6th, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts Night at 6:30pm

**May 18th, Sunday** - Walk/Hike/Ride on the Rail Trail after the 10:15am Worship service - participants are to bring a bag lunch and the CLC will provide water - Fellowship at the picnic tables after your exercise

**May 31st, Saturday** - Game Night at 6:30pm

**June:**

Recognition of Graduates- after church reception - will work with the graduate(s): Ethan Cunningham as to the best date for this event.

**Thank you for your support throughout the past year.**

## **This and That**

**A Men's Breakfast will be held on May 1, 8:00 a.m.** at the Newville Diner (at the Crossroads). Please speak with Pastor Vern if you plan to attend.

**The 8:30 a.m. Worship Service will be discontinued** as of June 1, **with the last service being May 25.** See the April Oak Leaves for more information.

On Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm we will be hosting the Big Spring High School Baccalaureate service.

Starting June 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 we will be hosting the SPY program here at the church for 6 weeks.

There are various sign up sheets on the Hallway Table. Please take a look and maybe see where you can help out. Thanks.

**May Oak Leaves** are in the blue box on the hallway table. Please take a copy, there are no names on them! Thanks  
Questions?? See Elisabeth.

# The Oak Leaves – May 2025

NEWS RELEASE –

MAY AND JUNE 2025 BSSC

## Big Spring Senior Center Announces Events

The Big Spring Senior Center is open Monday through Friday. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our Grab-N-Go Takeout Program includes a hot meal for a recommended donation of \$3 for those 60 and older. Our Sit-Down Meal Program includes a hot meal. Contact the senior center to discuss your options and order meals. Meals must be ordered no later than 12 noon the previous business day.

**Our Newsletter can be found on our website: [www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com)**

Our current activities include:

**Thursday's at 9:30 a.m. Play 500:** Come play 500 with our dedicated group of card players.

**Thursday's at 1:00 p.m. Play Board/Card Games:** Don't ever consider playing games frivolous; studies show that it stimulates your brain, which helps counter the aging process. Just walk in.

**Monday, May 26: BIG SPRING SENIOR CENTER IS CLOSED**

**Monday's at 1:30 p.m. Water Color Class and Coloring for Adults:** Do you have an interest in water coloring? It takes space, inspiration, and motivation, and we can help. The cost is \$1 per week to the Big Spring Senior Center, and \$5 per week to the instructor. Class size is limited. Call 717-776-4478 to reserve your seat. Is water coloring not your jive but you love experimenting with colors? We provide colored pencils and the Adult Coloring Books. Drop-ins are welcome.

**Every Third Monday at 6:30 p.m.:** Game Night. Come join an evening of games with Bob Ballard and gang. Bring a snack if you so like.

**Tuesday's at 9:00 a.m. Crafts:** We could use your help, hands, and ideas. Come and make seasonal and everyday crafts, as well as new friends.

**Tuesday's and Friday's at 9:30 a.m. (April through October) Walk with Ease:** Tuesday's and Friday's. Are you looking for a walking group? Well, we have one for you. Meet at the Newville Trails Trailhead, do some pre-walking stretches, walk for approximately 45 minutes to an hour and end with post-walking stretches. Join us at 9:30 a.m. Walking is at your own pace.

**Tuesday's at 10 a.m. T'ai Chi for Arthritis for Fall Prevention:** Held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Avenue, Newville. T'ai Chi will help you with your balance. The cost is \$3; exact change please.

**Wednesday's at 8:30 a.m. Movement with Mindfulness (evolved from Yoga):** The class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. This class focuses on strength, improving balance, and accompanying each movement relaxes the mind and deepens one's ability to surrender to its continuous flow. The cost for a 10-week program is \$55 for members of Big Spring Senior Center, and \$65 for non-members. Registration and payment are due before you start a class. Call 717-776-4478 to register. Taught by a YMCA instructor.

**Wednesday's at 9:30 a.m. Tea, Talk & Treats**

**Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Blood Pressure Check:** Judy Heberlig, a retired nurse, volunteers her time to help you keep track of this important health indicator.

**Wednesday's at 1p.m. Bible Study**

**Wednesday's: Bike Club:** May will be at 1 p.m. and June will be at 8 a.m. Meet at the Trail Head in Newville.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### MAY:

**May 1 - AARP Smart Driver's Course - Sign up required through [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)**

**May 2 – Root Beer Floats Day**

**May 5 – Cinco De Mayo Lunch – Sign up required, \$5**

**May 8 - Lunch Bunch – Greenvillage Diner**

**May 9 – Allenberry Playhouse – Sister Act – Sign up required**

**May 13 - Mother's Day Tea**

**May 14 - Learn How to Make Cake Pops – Sign up required, \$7**

**May 16 – Visit the White House – Closed**

**May 20 - Create your Own Zen Garden – Sign up required, \$7**

**May 20 – Pizza Party – Sign up required, \$6**

**May 26 – Big Spring Senior Center is CLOSED**

**May 30 – High Tea at Tranquillitea in Waynesboro, PA (with Branch Creek Senior Center), sign up, \$50**

### JUNE:

**June 3 – Sugar Scrub Workshop - sign up required - \$7**

**June 12 – Lunch Bunch – Fairground Grill & Crab House, Carlisle**

**June 13 – Men's Breakfast – Sign up required**

**June 13 – Lavender Festival – Sign up required**

**June 20 & 21 – Fountain Festival, Newville, PA**

**June 26 – Mini Shortcake Festival – Sign up required - \$5**

**\*\*WE ARE IN NEED OF EMPTY 5 QUART ICE CREAM BUCKETS FOR OUR HOMEMADE ICE CREAM**

Visit our webpage at

[www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com). The annual membership fee of \$25 entitles you to reduced trip fees, & reduced exercise fees. The Big Spring Senior Center is supported in part by a grant from the Cumberland County Office of Aging & Community Services; the Pennsylvania Department of Aging; and the U.S Department of Health & Human Services, Administration of Aging. Transportation available through Cumberland County Department of Transportation. Senior center staff can help with that process. Call 717-776-4478 for more

# The Oak Leaves – May 2025

## Session Speaks

“Taste and See that the Lord is Good”

By Sherri Webber-Mains

Have you ever thought about how many references to food are found in the pages of Scripture? As the title suggests, God is the God of provision, sustenance, all we need for an abundant life. I am doing a Bible study titled “Taste and See” by Margaret Feinberg – it highlights the importance of fruits, salt, olives and olive oil, and most importantly, bread.

Bread is referenced in many places throughout the Bible. In Genesis God promises that Adam will toil to produce bread after the Fall. Sarai bakes bread for “strangers” who are really angels who announce her unlikely pregnancy. God instructs the Israelites to bake unleavened bread before they leave Egypt in haste. Remember the 5 loaves and the two fish that fed the thousands? After Jesus blessed the bread it fed everyone and there were leftovers.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” John 6:35. Bread plays an essential role in our nutrition; in fact, in most non-Western countries bread makes up 30% of the daily diet. Jesus reminds us that he is the “bread of life”. His statement means that he meets ALL of our needs: physical, emotional, and spiritual hunger. Jesus teaches his disciples

to pray in the Lord’s prayer to “Give us this day our daily bread”. Do you think this request only means that we have enough food to strengthen our bodies and provide energy? Nope. I think that he meant that HE is the daily bread of our lives – nourishing our need for love, companionship, healing, support, and eternal life.

Bread plays a central role in the Lord’s supper as well. “He took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19. Again while the bread may curb hunger, this sacred bread that we share around the table at Communion symbolizes much more – fellowship with him and our fellow Christians and more importantly, his sacrifice that we might live with him forever.

I challenge you to find more references to bread in the Bible. Take time to meditate on Jesus as THE Bread of Life every day. Amen.