

The Oak Leaves – August 2025

August 2025

FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

Pastor: Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stuppastor@gmail.com

Secretary: Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office Hours

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 –

jellingsworth22@gmail.com

Moderator of Deacons: Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 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

Happy August Birthday

6. Rick Kann

7. Eric Bear

9. Janet Kuhns

15. Dan Mains

15. Karyn Cunningham

15. John denHartog

18. Deb Morrison

18. John (Chip) Messenger

24. Don Bowers

Happy August Anniversary

6. Hale & Lynette McCulloch

20. Sam & Barb Shenk

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

Thank you to everyone who prayed for us or
sent a card when we were prayer family of
the week. It is heart-warming to be part of
this church family!

Carol and Steve Burd

New Email address:

gnddenh@gmail.com

for Dee & Gerard denHartog

Church/Picnic in the Park

August 17th 2025

Col. Denning

9:30am Bird Walk with PV

10:30 Worship

11:30 Lunch

Please join us.

**No Session Speaks or Session mins this
month.**

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Greetings,

I write this, having just returned from a few days away on the New England coast.

Spending time near the ocean reminded me why it took me so many years to start telling folks that I was from

Pennsylvania or the many other places I have lived rather than Massachusetts. There is something about the ocean and living on the coast that pulls on my heart strings. Something that seems like “*home*.”

Elisabeth and I had spent a couple of days in Connecticut with Allison and Conner before heading up to Massachusetts for a nephew’s wedding. All five of my siblings were there, as were many nieces and nephews. At one point in the evening, we gathered all the “*Gauthiers*” for a family photo regardless of what last names they now carried. While almost all of the generation before me have gone to be with the Lord, there is no doubt that the current generation of Gauthiers continues to grow as nieces and nephews get married and then have children. Gathering for the photo reminded me that home is indeed “*where the heart is*” (Matthew 6:21) no matter how many miles separate us from those we are connected to by familial bonds of love.

This has gotten me to think about our heavenly home. To think about those Gauthiers (parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and others) who are no longer with us here on this earth. I would like to think that as we took the family photo that they too were gathered there, if not in body, then in spirit, memory, and love (Hebrews 12:1).

The Bible speaks of our heavenly home as a place where all tears have been wiped away, and where all the brokenness of this dimension of existence has been healed (Revelation 21:4). It speaks about the saints who are gathered around the heavenly board (not too different from a wedding reception really) rejoicing in the presence of God forever (Isaiah 25:6–8).

This vision also pulls on my heartstrings. I find myself looking forward to going home to a new place I’ve never been, but home all the same, as I am reunited with those I have loved. And, as Scripture reminds us, joined with the great community of saints we’ve never met, yet with whom we are united in the love of Jesus Christ.

So, I find that I experience at once both a great longing and a sense of peace. A longing to be home in the presence of those whom I love, but also a peace filled heart knowing that miles and time cannot separate us from the love of God nor of those we love past, present, or future.

I leave you with these thoughts to reflect on:

- “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Romans 8:38–39
- “*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.*” Philippians 3:20
- “*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*” Psalm 90:1

Be at Peace,

Pastor Vern

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See our website at www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com for more information.

Sit-Down & Grab n Go Lunches: A hot and a frozen meal is provided to all those 60 and better when ordered and are distributed Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon. If you want to come into the Big Spring Senior Center to sit down the meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. All meals are a recommended donation of \$3. If you are 60 and better and want to request a meal (you must come to pick up), please call the senior center. Meals must be reserved one business day by 12 noon prior to pick up.

T'ai Chi for Arthritis: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Cost is currently \$1 plus donation until further notice. To register, call 717-776-4478.

Movement with Mindfulness (evolved from Yoga): Wednesdays at 8:30a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Yoga is a mind-body practice that combines stretching exercises, controlled breathing, and relaxation. Cost for a 10-week program is \$55 for members of the Big Spring Senior Center, and \$65 for non-members. Registration and payment are due before you start a class. Start dates will be pro-rated. Call 717-776-4478 to register. **Class instructed by the YMCA – Carlisle.**

MORE TO DO WEEKLY:

MONDAY:

Watercolor Painting Opportunity: At 1:30 p.m. Do you have an interest in water coloring? It takes space, inspiration, and motivation, and we can help. Join our friendly group of painters with our instructor, Kathleen Schungel. The cost is \$5 per week to the instructor and \$1 to the Senior Center. During this time, we also offer Coloring for Adults (includes adult coloring books and coloring pencils).

TUESDAY:

Crafts: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays. We could use your help, hands, and ideas. Come and make seasonal and everyday crafts, as well as new friends.

Jewelry Making Class: TBD: Kathleen Schungel, professional art instructor (retired), will teach the techniques to create a variety of jewelry pieces. Cost is \$5. Please call for dates.

WEDNESDAY:

Tea, Talk & Treats: Wednesday's at 9:30 a.m. Join us weekly topic of discussion and your favorite cup of tea.

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. with Pastor Don Snyder of Doubling Gap Church of God. Drop-ins are welcome.

THURSDAY:

Game Day: Lots of opportunities to play cards and games can be found at the Big Spring Senior Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Thursdays. Walk-ins are welcome.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION: UPCOMING EVENTS:

AUGUST:

Tuesday, August 12 – Crafts at 9 a.m. – Wood burning

Thursday, August 14 – Lunch Bunch at Black and Bleu

Thursday, August 14 – Trivia Night and Dinner Fundraiser at First United Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, August 19 – Root's Country Market and Auction

Tuesday, August 26 – Crafts at 9 a.m. – Wine cork creations

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Worship in the Park

Come one, come all and experience **Worship** in the great outdoors on **Sunday, August 17th**. The day will begin with a Bird watch walk led by Pastor Vern at 9:30. Worship will begin at 10:30. Our picnic Lunch will follow Worship at approximately 11:15. After our Lunch and Fellowship, attendees are invited to play BINGO with us - prizes will be awarded, too. If you aren't interested in BINGO, the lake and hiking paths are ready to be explored, too.

The Community Life Committee will provide hotdogs with condiments and drinks. You should bring your tableware and a meat, side dish or dessert to share.

Don't miss out on the chance to fellowship with your Church family. A sign up sheet will be available on the hallway table.

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