

**Steel City Mennonite Church**  
**Mid-Week Connection**  
**August 26, 2015**

There will be **No Mid-week Connection** for the next two weeks. Pastor David and Bev will be on vacation through September 15. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact one of the elders or retired pastors—Ron Faust, Kevin Olsen, Mark Walters, Pastor Char or Pastor Bob. If you have a prayer request, please contact Sheryl Richards. Call or text her at 610-216-4596.

This Friday and Saturday is a **Back-to-School Lock-In** at church from 5:00 p.m. on Friday to 11 a.m. on Saturday. This is open to anyone entering 6th to 12th grades.

There is a **Youth Group Parent Meeting** this Sunday immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

Meet for **Weekly Koffee and Konversation** at the Hellertown Diner on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Come and enjoy a great time of fellowship together!

Both the **Junior High Youth (now called Ignite)** and the **Senior High Youth (Connect)** will begin meeting Wednesday evening, September 9. Ignite will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. and Connect will meet from 7-8:15 p.m. Please make sure your youth are plugged into our Youth program; they are the future of our church.

**SCMC Fall Community Day** will be held Saturday, September 12, from 11a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be free food and many activities for the children, including face painting, inflatable bounce equipment and the Lower Saucon K-9 unit will be giving a demonstration. We will highlight our Christian Education programming which begins on Sunday, September 13. Invite friends and neighbors!

Our **Sunday School Kickoff** for the new church year begins on September 13. We are still in need of some teachers and helpers--**2-year olds**, Teacher and Helper; **3-year olds**, Teacher only; **Pre K/Kindergarten**, Helper Only; **1st/2<sup>nd</sup> Grades**, Teacher. Please contact Tara Willard at 610-866-3078 if you would like to serve in way.

**Steve and Phyllis Swartz** will be in our area on Thursday evening, September 17. Steve is the Conference Pastor for **Conservative Mennonite Conference**. They would like to meet with the congregation that evening to share the vision for Conservative Mennonite Conference. The congregational meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Steve and Phyllis will be meeting with the leadership over supper that evening prior to the congregational meeting.

The **Women's Monday Night Bible Study** will be starting up on September 21. We will be studying "**The Best Yes**" by Lysa TerKeurst. This is six-session video-based Bible Study which will meet every other Monday evening. Each video is 18-20 minutes in length. Alma Geosits will be leading our study. Please sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer if you would like to participate in this study. The cost for the study material is \$12.

**All Ladies are invited on a Day Trip to Lancaster** on Thursday, September 24. We will meet at the Park 'n Ride in Hellertown at 9 a.m. and head to Shady Maple for some shopping at their Farm Market and lunch at their Smorgasbord. Following that, we will go to the Flower and Home Marketplace in Blue Ball. Sign up and plan to join in the fun!!

The **Men of the Congregation** are invited on a trip to Harrisburg to the **National Civil War Museum** on Saturday, September 26, with a stop at the **Bass Pro Shop** on the way home. The suggested donation is \$15 plus your cost of meals. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer. You will be leaving from the Park 'n Ride in Hellertown at 8:00 a.m.

If you would like to donate any items for the **Mennonite Central Committee School Kits**, now is a good time to go shopping as most stores are selling back to school supplies. Here is the list of items requested by MCC. New items only please: 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x 10 ½ and 70 sheets); 8 unsharpened pencils; 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic, with both 30 cm and 12 in); 12 colored pencils (in packaging); 1 large pencil eraser. Purchased items can be placed on the platform in the Chapel.

**Next Week's ESV Study Bible Reading Plan:** August 30, Psalm 28, 1 Samuel 17, Habakkuk 3, Luke 1:1-25; August 31, Psalm 29, 1 Samuel 18, Daniel 1, Luke 1:26-56; September 1, Psalm 30, 1 Samuel 19, Daniel 2, Luke 1:57-80; September 2, Psalm 31, 1 Samuel 20, Daniel 3, Luke 2:1-21; September 3 Psalm 32, 1 Samuel 21-22, Daniel 4, Luke 2:22-52; September 4, Psalm 33, 1 Samuel 23-24, Daniel 5, Luke 3:1-22; September 5, Psalm 34, 1 Samuel 25, Daniel 6, Luke 3:23-4:13.

**This Week (August 30): Nursery Staff**, Becky Bergey, Denise Ibach, Alyssa Richards; **Greeters**, Chip & Mary Lou Shimko; **Worship Team Leader**, Dave Kempf; **Ushers**, Rob Ibach, Greg Feenstra, Nick Mace.

**September 6: Nursery Staff**, Meghan Cela, Lois Halsel, Nick Mace; **Greeters**, David & Doreen Shosh; **Worship Team Leader**, Kelly Schoch; **Ushers**, Bobby Kempf, Scott Richards, Lee Walters.

**September 13: Nursery Staff**, Yen Truong, Sue Reed, T'yanna Ruiz; **Greeter**, Rose Szabo; **Worship Team Leader**, Robert Kelly; **Ushers**, John Cressman, Randy Willard, Neal Kempf.

**Please Pray For . . . Phillip & Betsy Rhodes Fisher**, as they serve in Morocco; **Bart & Jessica Tossenou**, and their work in China; **Nicolas & Jennifer Haddad**, serving in Lebanon; **Jess Bergey**, as she serves with Youth With a Mission (YWAM) in Nepal; **Tom & Val Reppert**; **Scott & Sheryl Richards**; and **Tommy & Bonnie Rohn**.

Dear Congregation,

The summer of 2015 is almost history. For many, summer has provided a relaxing change of pace. Vacations and staycations have dotted our calendars. Backyard BBQ's and picnics have punctuated the long days of June, July and August.

But here comes September 2015! Days are shorter and seem more hectic. Children are back in school. Homework ensues. Athletic practices demand time. Extra curricular clubs meet regularly again. Work projects resume greater intensity. Career advancement classes begin. Vacations are a fading memory. And our favorite TV programs start a new broadcast season.

Stephen Covey, in the classic "Seven Habits of the Highly Effective People", writes about the parable of the big rocks. His emphasis is to intentionally place your most important events on your calendar first and then fill in the remaining time with lesser significant things. There are two parts to this that stand out. One, you must decide what is most important to you. Second, you must be intentional about making what is important a top priority.

Unapologetically, I believe that one's spiritual life and the spiritual nurture of one's family is the "biggest rock" of a person's significance. I believe we are living in a time of rampant evil and great moral decline. The follower of Jesus Christ must be equipped to counteract the power of darkness. Such equipping doesn't happen on its own; it must be intentional.

To that end, I issue the challenge to you to take full advantage of the opportunities for spiritual growth offered at SCMC.

- Sunday Morning Worship Encounter (9:30) - Yes, I know it is early. Yes, I know it is the only morning you can sleep in. Yes, I know it is a long time to sit. Yes, I know it can be boring. But beginning your week surrounded by the community of faith learning from the Word of God together can be so energizing for the rest of your week.
- Sunday School - "If we leave right after worship, we can get to the Diner before the Lutheran's or Bible Fellowshipers get out". If that is your reasoning for not being apart of Sunday School, tell me because I know "people" at the Diner. This fall, starting September 13, most all the classes, including one for 18-25 year olds, will be learning about money management with the Dave Ramsey material. There will be an adult class in the Chapel which will focus on "Kingdom Come". "Kingdom Come" is an Anabaptist curriculum written by the Conservative Mennonite Conference.
- Sunday Evening Service (6:30) - Think of this a smorgasbord of opportunities for your spiritual growth. Some evenings, I will open a "Can of Worms". Some evenings will be given to a prayer experience. Some evenings, I will discuss foreign mission field ideas and challenges. There is even a Talent Show on the calendar for September 27. The first "Can of Worms" is titled, "When the Court and Church Clash".
- Wednesday Evening Good News Club, Ignite (Jr. High), Connect (Sr. High) - These are age specific groups that meet every other Wednesday evening. Good News Club meets from 6:30-7:45 pm. Ignite meets from 6:30-8:00 pm. Connect meets from 7:00-8:15 pm. Parents, you are encouraged to decide for your children whether or not they will participate. Remember, Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua knew his "big rock".
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study (7:00) - We will be going through the Gospel of Luke to be reintroduced to Jesus. This is a great opportunity to bring friends, coworkers or family members because it will focus on Jesus, not church, not rules, not wrongs, just Jesus!

There are many other opportunities offered throughout any given month. And until you take advantage of them they are just that - opportunities!

Take charge of your spiritual growth starting this September!

Blessings,

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