



Stroudsburg UMC

547 Main Street, Stroudsburg Pa

www.stroudsburgumc.com

sumc@stroudsburgumc.com

570-421-6020

Worship Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Weekly eNews

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, M. Div.,
Lead Pastor

Gather, Grow, Make a Difference!

Our Mission: Share the love of Jesus in welcoming and compassionate ways.

A note from the Pastor - July 31, 2026

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that [God] might be glorified." Isaiah 61:3

Recently, I ordered a new hymnal to give us access to additional hymns. The hymnal was difficult to find, as it was published several years ago. I was delighted when I finally came across someone who was selling it for a reasonable price. I was even happier when Aram, our Choir Director, connected a hymn in that hymnal we could sing in the fall. This hymnal of all Bill and Gloria Gaither songs would be a nice addition to my collection. So, I ordered the hymnal and waited for it to arrive. When I received the notification that it had been delivered, I returned home and opened the package with anticipation. Imagine my surprise when a book, instead of the hymnal, was in the package. Right away, I began the familiar return process when something is mishipped.



I placed the book on the table to be returned. A few days later, it caught my eye as I reached for it to return it. It turned out that instead of the hymnal, the seller sent me *Something Beautiful: the stories behind a half century of the songs of Bill and Gloria Gaither, written by Gloria Gaither*. For each hymn and spiritual song, the book contains the lyrics and the story of its composition. I decided to keep it, considering that it might be *something beautiful* in our lives together.

As we prepare for the hymn sing on Sunday, I want to share some of the story behind the eponymous song. Gloria writes the following: "Suzanne, our first born, was always the 'project kid' around our house. As long as we were making something, building something, painting something, cooking something, she was contented... When she was almost three she was working one day with tempera paints at her little table in the corner of our family room. From the kitchen out of the corner of my eye I watched as she confidently made great strokes of strong colors across the large sheet of paper that covered the entire surface of the table. She kept dipping into water and paint, as children like to do, when on one trip from paint to paper - a big black blob dropped from her wet brush into the middle of her picture."

Gloria recounted her daughter's tears; the child had wanted to make her mother a beautiful picture. Gloria retrieved an additional clean sheet of paper with the invitation to try again. The situation reminded Gloria of our lives in which we often keep at things until we find them muddled and we feel at a loss as to how we might solve the problem. Our reliance on God reminds us that God grants us a clean sheet and miraculous grace as we draw nearer. If we let God, God will make something beautiful of our lives. The song was born in 1971. Here are the lyrics:

Something beautiful, something good
All my confusion He understood
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife

But he made something beautiful of my life

If there ever were dreams
That were lofty and noble
They were my dreams at the start
And hope for life's best were the hopes
That I harbor down deep in my heart
But my dreams turned to ashes
And my castles all crumbled, my fortune turned to loss
So I wrapped it all in the rags of life
And laid it at the cross.

(Resource: Something Beautiful: the stories behind a half century of the songs of Bill and Gloria Gaither, written by Gloria Gaither, published by Gaither Music Group in 2007, pages 39-41.)

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica

GATHER!

Coming up this Sunday August 2nd our
worship leaders are Peggy and Jeanette
Praise Song: "You Are My All in All"
Psalter: Psalm 95:1-7
Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-21
Hymn Sing (I want those in worship to
experience God in music!)

Join us in person at 8:30 or 11:00am or:

[Join us live at 8:30 am](#)

[Join us live at 11:00 am](#)

The bulletin is available on the church website: stroudsburgumc.com

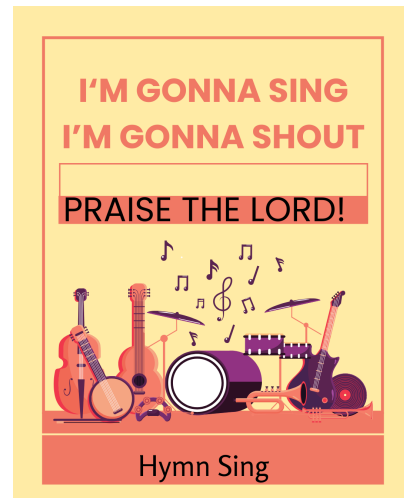
**Stay up to date on church events - click the link below for our
Google calendar:**

[SUMC Calendar](#)

Stitch & Pray Small Group and Just Social will not be meeting over
the summer months. Look for start up dates to resume in September.

The SUMC Annual Yard Sale is coming up on July 31st and August 1st! Remember
to bring your items in now through July 26th. We are collecting items in the blue
room downstairs.

Please note: we are not accepting electronics, infant furniture or car seats. We will
accept small pieces of furniture as long as it is not upholstered. We will accept
books and clothing again this year. If you have questions, please contact the office
or a member of our Missions Team.



We would appreciate your help in setting up; working the garage sale and cleaning up after it. On, Friday, July 31, the hours of the sale are from 9-3. On Saturday, July 1, the hours are from 9-1. A clean-up crew would be most appreciated because we box everything up and take it to Goodwill or a similar entity. We appreciate all of our wonderful volunteers and would like to thank them for all of the jobs they do all of the time!

Love,
Pastor Margie

YARD SALE

JULY 31 & AUGUST 1

7/31: 9AM - 3PM

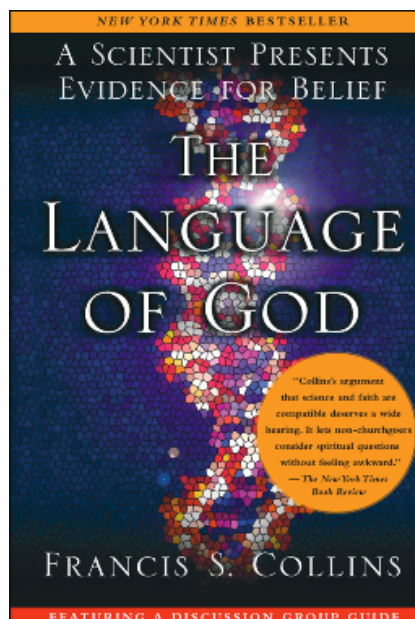
8/1: 9AM - 1PM

STROUDSBURG UMC

547 MAIN ST

STROUDSBURG

Christmas is coming! Among other things, the planning for the Red Ribbon Campaign will soon begin. Our community has benefited in multiple ways from the Red Ribbon Campaign. Throughout October and November, community members can purchase red ribbons in honor and in memory of loved ones. The proceeds feed people in our community, benefiting the food ministries in town. Join us on Monday, August 17th at Stroudsburg UMC in the lounge at 6:30 pm. We will need help selling and posting.



Make plans now to join us for our Fall Book Study. Peggy Stewart will lead us in discussing "The Language of God: A Scientist Provides Evidence for Belief" by Francis S. Collins on Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. The group will start on Thursday, September 10th and go for 11 weeks. We will meet in the lounge, but you can also join by Zoom. Please let the church office (570-421-6020) or Peggy (570-350-8589) know if you plan to attend so books can be ordered. Peggy's groups are casual, with no pressure to join the discussion if you prefer just to listen. Hope to see you there!



To mark the beginning of our 200th anniversary year, First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg is bringing together choirs and individual singers for a weekend with internationally acclaimed composer and conductor Craig Courtney. The schedule and details are as follows:

Saturday, August 15 — Workshop (9:30 am–3:00 pm)
Craig Courtney will rehearse and coach the assembled choirs, covering all aspects of choral performance: tone, technique, phrasing, and interpretation. Lunch is provided.

Sunday, August 16 — Rehearsal and Concert (12:30 p.m. final rehearsal, 2:00 pm public concert)
Under the direction of Craig Courtney, the workshop choir will perform sacred and inspirational anthems — including the world premiere of *Sing Joyfully*, a new work commissioned especially for FPCS 200th anniversary. A reception will follow. Concert tickets will be sold at the door; \$15 for adults, \$5 for youth, and 12 and under are free.

Your registration (\$30 per person, high school and up) includes a packet of nine choral anthems by Craig Courtney, Elaine Hegenberg, and Dan Forrest — individual anthems that are yours to keep after the weekend. The packet also includes the commissioned anthem.

This workshop is open to choirs of every kind: church, community, university, and high school. Individual singers are also welcome to join.

To register, mail the attached form along with a check (write "workshop" in the memo line) to:
First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg, PO Box 966. Stroudsburg, PA 18360

You can also register by visiting fpcstroudsburg.org/workshop. Payments will still need to be made by cash or check to our PO Box or by visiting by the church office.

The registration deadline is July 24, 2026.





ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 N. 9TH STREET, STROUDSBURG, PA



music in the mountains

AUGUST 4 AND 5, 2026

SONGFEST

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

READING SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

CALLING ALL WOMEN IN MINISTRY

North District • Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA)

*The United Women in Faith of the North District
warmly invites all women of the district to celebrate, meet,
and share ideas with each other.*

Join us at:
Pocono Lake UMC
1188 PA 940
Pocono Lake, PA 18347

Saturday, August 29, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Refreshments will be served

*Your ministry may be administrative, cleaning, community
service, music, preaching, and any other way you share your
spiritual gifts.*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you will attend, please RSVP by August 22, 2026 to:

Patricia Wilson
(570) 977-0127 (text)
MUNDANN@AOL.COM

Please include your name and contact information.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE HOMELESS MINISTRY: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 15th

2:00—5:00 PM

Housing Instability Fair

Christ Hamilton Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA
570.992.4085 for more information

- Learn about homelessness in our community and what we can do to help bring safety, belonging, and care.
- A panel of experts will offer education and ideas for our congregation to engage in meaningful and needed ways with a variety of local organizations.
- Volunteer opportunities.
- This Housing Instability Fair is the second in a series of offerings within the Pocono Mission District of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



**How can
you help?**



AMERICA 250

MULTIFAITH CELEBRATION

Join us for a shared reading and
roundtable discussion on America's
founding ideals, shared values, and
hopes for our country

AUGUST 2 | 2:30-4:30 PM

Hughes Library
Community Room
1002 N. 9th St
Stroudsburg, PA



RSVP



POCONO
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL

faith
250





The Membership & Evangelism team will be selling food and baked goods at the yard sale on Friday and Saturday. Donations of baked goods, specifically individually wrapped cookies, brownies, muffins and small breads would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your items to the downstairs kitchen on Wednesday or Thursday. If you need to drop them off in the evening, contact Peggy (570-350-8589) and she will meet you if needed. Thank you!

Hello Faith Leaders of the Poconos,
I am reaching out to share an exciting new ministry launching at Faith United Methodist Church: the Faith Friends Program. Faith Friends is a weekly program designed to provide a safe, welcoming, and joyful environment for community members experiencing cognitive challenges while giving their caregivers a much-needed period of rest.

Beginning Wednesday, July 29, the program will meet each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will meet in Wilson Fellowship Hall here at Faith. Participants will enjoy meaningful activities, games, crafts, cognitive exercises, fellowship, and a light meal. The program will be led by a Cognitive Specialist who is also a Licensed Occupational Therapist, helping us provide compassionate and individualized support.

I have attached a poster with full program and registration information. And we'd be grateful if you would share it with your congregation, care team, community partners, and any families who might benefit from this ministry. Registration is now open, and additional volunteers are also warmly welcomed. Faith communities are often among the first places families turn when they are carrying the challenges of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other cognitive changes. By sharing this information, you may help a caregiver discover support, rest, and the reassurance that they do not have to walk this journey alone.

Thank you for helping us spread the word and for all the ways you care for people throughout our community. Please feel free to contact me or the church office at 570-424-0712 with any questions.

Pastor Jack, Faith UMC



Faith Friends Respite Care Program
Presented by Faith United Methodist Church

A Place of Joy & Connection for Your Loved Ones
We are thrilled to launch a weekly program specially designed for community members experiencing cognitive challenges, offering a friendly space for connection while giving caregivers a well-deserved break.

Our program is proudly led by a Cognitive Specialist who is also a Licensed Occupational Therapist, ensuring professional, tailored, and compassionate care.

What Our "Faith Friends" Will Enjoy:

- **Fun & Meaningful Activities:** Engaging games, crafts, and cognitive exercises.
- **Community Connection:** Socializing with welcoming community members.
- **Nourishment & Fellowship:** Delicious light meal shared together.

Program Details

- **When:** Every Wednesday, starting July 29, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Cost:** \$50.00 per session
- **Location:** Wilson Fellowship Hall, Faith United Methodist Church, 1160 Clause Dr., Stroudsburg, PA

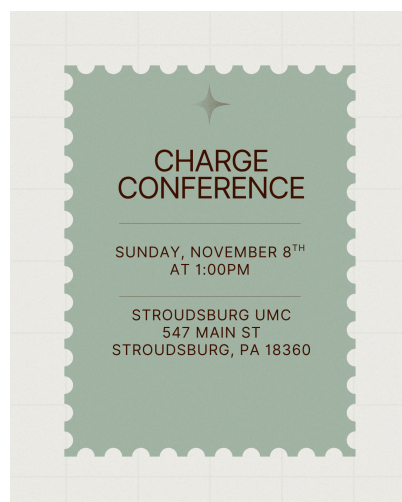
Join Our Community!
Registration is Now Open!
Secure a spot for your loved one today.
Visit: www.stroudsburgfaith.org/faith-friends or Scan the QR Code to register online.

♥ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED & WELCOMED!
Want to make a meaningful difference in someone's life? We are looking for compassionate hearts to join our team. Visit our website or contact the church office to get involved.
Telephone: 570-424-0712

Supported by Our Community Sponsors:



Mark your calendar to join us for StroudFest. This annual townwide event on September 5th involves selling food, opening the church, offering prayer and more! Let the office know if you can help!



Mark your calendar for our Charge Conference on November 8th at 1:00 pm. We will have lunch after the 11:00 service, and everyone is welcome to attend the Charge Conference. Our Charge Conference is the annual meeting of our church. Members are eligible to vote when appropriate. Team leaders, look for reporting information in your email. The Conference is using a new system called Brick Weaver, and you need to establish your own sign-in.



Happy
**BIRTHDAY
WISHES**

July Birthdays

3 Eva Haddon
16 Joni Singer
22 Robert Medina
24 Jeremy Stoeckel
24 Amanda Miller
29 Ashley Emerson

**The 2026 Altar Flower
chart is up in the
Fellowship Room**

Please consider putting flowers on the
altar in memory of or in honor of a
special person or event. Two vases cost
\$37.50

Special Person of the Week:

Jill Warner

571 Freemason Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Please remember her in prayer and if
possible, please send a card.

JOIN US LIVE

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AND 11:00 AM

LIVE STREAM



STROUDSBURGUMC.COM

YouTube: @stroudsburgumc3087

GROW!

Mark your calendars for our return on September 6th for Sunday School and September 2nd for Bible Study.



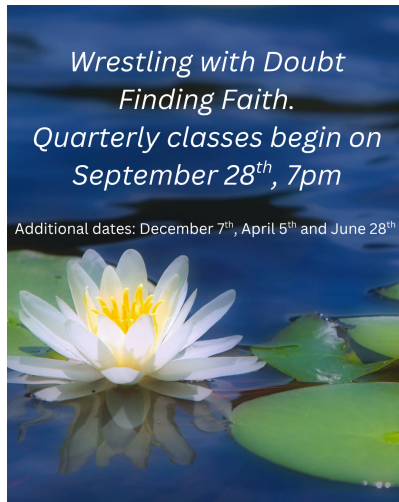
Looking for More Worship Leaders

By Pastor Margie

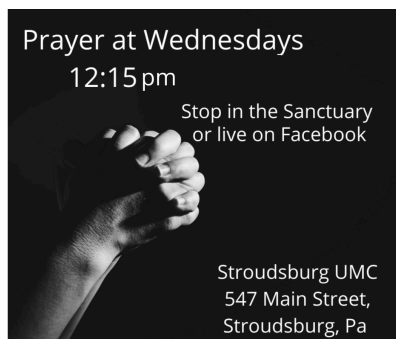
We are interested in finding some more volunteers for people to be worship leaders. I would be happy to train anyone who would be interested in becoming a worship leader. The schedule is printed out for a few months at a time. We are flexible about switching with one another if we have a commitment that is important to us. Pastor Monica makes a fabulous rubric that outlines everything that we say during a service. We are hoping to get some more teen-agers as well. Leaders serve at only one service and we are happy to accommodate having you read at the service of your preference. Please consider helping us out with this great opportunity for you to be a worship leader. We have less worship leaders due to illnesses, students attending college and other important reasons. Thank you so very much.

COUNTERS NEEDED Our church is in need of additional counters of Sunday collections. If you have a couple of hours free on Monday mornings, please let the office know or call C.J. Penwell at 570-656-3993. You will work with a head counter who will train you on the

procedures used. It is not difficult and is a casual atmosphere. Counters are scheduled for each Monday for a month and then rotate to another month throughout the year. Please consider volunteering to help the church in this way.



Finding Faith. Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. This quarterly class is designed so that you can attend just one session if you cannot attend the others. Mark your calendars for September 28th, December 7th, April 5th, and June 28th, all at 7:00 pm.



OPEN SANCTUARY Every Wednesday, our church is open from noon to 1pm for prayer. We have a devotion and live prayer at 12:15. You can join us live in person, online or view it later on Facebook. You do not need a Facebook account to participate. Join us for Open Sanctuary.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Did you know that our church is a resource for our community? In addition to our weekly Soup Kitchen, Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack, we partner with community organizations like Red Cross blood drives and emergency shelter, and others to make a difference in our community. Our building and property team has been working on revitalization plans for our downstairs to reflect our needs and growth.

Updates and alignments to the kitchen, improvements, and accessibility to the bathrooms and refreshing to the dining room are included. Plans will be available for viewing after each service in the Fellowship Room. Ask our building and property team for more information.

UPDATE: As we are pondering donations to the Community Resource Center Revitalization Project keep this in your thoughts: Donations of \$10,000 or more will be recognized on a bronze plaque which will be unveiled at a dedication ceremony. Families might consider joining together to memorialize or honor a loved one.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Give to a Mission

A variety of missions are supported by our church. You can make a difference both locally and around the world by giving to these missions. If there is a particular mission that interests you, please provide the information to the office. Thank you for your continued support! If you have questions, please contact the office.



Raise Right Gift Cards

You can purchase physical gift cards from the church or create an account and purchase on the app!

Steps to Download the Raise Right App and Get Started:

- **Download:** Open the app store on your phone and search for "RaiseRight".
- **Install:** Select the **RaiseRight Fundraising** app and install it.
- **Sign In:** If you have an existing ShopWithScrip account, use the same login credentials.
- **Create Account:** If new, click "Sign Up" and enter your organization's specific enrollment code, provided by your program coordinator.
- **Set Up Payment:** Link your bank account or credit card in the app to start purchasing e-gift cards immediately

WANT TO HELP?

HOPING TO BRING IN SOME ITEMS
YOU ALREADY HAVE OR CAN GET
EASILY? WANT TO HELP US SAVE
MONEY?

WE CAN ALWAYS USE:

REAMS OF WHITE 8.5X11 COPY PAPER
CASES OF WATER
13-GALLON UNSCENTED KITCHEN TRASH BAGS
60-GALLON HEAVY-DUTY KITCHEN TRASH BAGS
WAFFER COOKIES



**OR YOU CAN CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISHLIST TO
PLACE AN ORDER EASILY:**

[HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/HZ/WISHLIST/LS/9CXGGHMM1
THG?REF_=WL_SHARE](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/9CXGGHMM1THG?ref=wl_share)



DID YOU KNOW?

The IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you, once you have reached the age of 70½, to donate up to \$100,000 within each tax year directly from your IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income. The contribution can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

**Give to the church and care for your
financial health.**

As a result of your generosity, we are originating a grant for families seeking basic necessities at the Re-Store. We have established a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, and Safe Monroe, so that all families under case management seeking necessities (beds, tables, chairs) will receive them free of cost. The purchase will be funded from the Housing Families Grant. We are working with other faith organizations to support this effort. Thank you for caring for others. If at any point you would like to contribute to this grant, please mark your donation, Housing Families Grant, and we will be sure to administer the funds.



Giving is easier than ever. Use this QR code to give to the general fund or special ministry. Contact the office for more information.



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Thanks to your generosity, we have already assisted dozens of families with rental assistance, utilities, food, and other essential needs. With changes to federal, state, and county funding, we are seeing an increase in the number of those coming for assistance. While we work with other agencies, the impact of funding shortages is affecting a lot of organizations. If you are able to contribute to our pastor's discretionary fund at any point and any amount, please place your contribution in the offering plate with the designation. You can also give on our website stroudsburgumc.com/donate
Thank you for helping us care for others.



We are still collecting Weis receipts. Weis Markets gives back 1% of the total of each receipt submitted. It all adds up! Please continue to bring your Weis receipts to church and place them in the large canister in the Fellowship Room.

Please note: the entire receipt needs to be submitted. Please do not cut the bottom of the receipt off. If the bottom portion of the receipt is cut off, we cannot submit it to Weis.

Receipts for prescriptions and gift cards can also be submitted.

Thank you for bringing in your Weis receipts! They make a difference. For the first quarter of 2026, we just received a check for \$215.42. This is additional funding from Weis, generated by your submitted receipts, that supports our ministry efforts. Our gratitude to Ann

Litchman, who tallies and implements this program. Don't forget to drop off your receipts in the coffee can labeled "WEIS RECEIPTS" in the Fellowship Room.

These funds are contributed to our General Fund and allow us to continue the ministries of our church. Please continue to bring in your receipts!



SUMC's Amazon Wish Lists

Soup Kitchen Needs

[Amazon Wish List - Soup Kitchen](#)

Building Our Library

[Amazon Wish List - Building Our Library](#)

Soup Kitchen

Our Soup Kitchen is a vital ministry feeding our neighbors every Sunday. We continue to serve take-out meals as well as offer our guests the option to sit down in the dining room and eat. Food stability remains a vital part of our community. Meals are served every Sunday from 2-3pm. We are always looking for additional volunteers to prepare and serve the meals.

Are you looking for how you can help the Soup Kitchen if you are unable to prepare and serve meals? When you are shopping, we need the following: Cases of water and Styrofoam take out containers. Check out our Amazon Wish List for Soup Kitchen and have items sent directly to the church! [Amazon Wish List - Soup Kitchen](#)

Thanks for serving our neighbors.

SOUP KITCHEN UPDATE FOR 2026:

As of June 7th, we have served over 800 meals this year.



Stroudsburg United Methodist Church | 547 Main St | Stroudsburg, PA 18360 US

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