

Gettysburg United Methodist Church
30 W. High St.
Gettysburg PA 17325

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FEBRUARY

2026

Gettysburg United Methodist Church 30 West High St. 717-334-3032 gettysburgumc@gmail.com

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Our Vision Statement

We exist to show our passionate love for God by sharing the love and joy of Jesus in outreach to others.



Jackie Rudisill	2/02	Helen Hadley	2/21
Esther Malloy	2/09	Pat Kellam	2/21
Franci Ball	2/13	Emma Libera	2/22
Stella Rollender	2/13		
John F. Libera, Jr.	2/15		



Tom and Pat Kellam	2/10
Merle and Jackie Rudisill	2/17

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here and you would like it recognized in future newsletters, please call the Church Office, 717-334-3032 during business hours Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30-3:30 pm. You may also email Cathy at gettysburgumc@gmail.com. Thank you.



In case of inclement weather, please check WGAL Channel 8 TV and/or their website to see if services have been cancelled. You may also call the parsonage land line at (717) 420-2681.





Our Mission Can offering for February is designated for the **Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen provides free daily meals to **all** who come from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

The items needed by the soup kitchen in the month of February are: Ground coffee, Hot chocolate mix, juice boxes, shelf-stable milk, Gatorade, iced tea mix and instant coffee. Thank you for your continued support of this important community initiative!

“Cards of Kindness” for our friends who are now **Shut-ins and/or unable to come to church**: As you come through the lobby, please take a minute or two to leave a few words of kindness and sign your name to the cards displayed. as they become full of your wishes for them!



Our next Dinner at Six is **Tuesday, March 10** at the church. Please watch the March Newsletter and Sunday bulletin announcements for more information.

Announcements for February, 2026

Please join us for **Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.**, either in person or **live-streamed** to our Facebook page. You do **NOT** need to have a Facebook account to view the service(s). Go to: **gettysburgumc.org** and click on the link to Sunday Services.

L I V E S T R E A M

A copy of the livestream is also saved for later viewing (within 30 days) if you do not catch the live service.

“Sermon by Phone” 717-200-2956

Sermon by Phone is available for you to access weekly. This service enables you to hear the most recent GUMC sermon by making a simple phone call. Just call **717-200-2956** and you will hear Pastor Rick’s sermon from the preceding Sunday. We hope that this service will be especially helpful for those who are unable to access the weekly service via Facebook. Any comments or **feedback** you have would be appreciated.



Interested in becoming a **member of Gettysburg United Methodist Church**? If so, please contact Pastor Rick or the office. Membership classes consist of two one-hour sessions and can be scheduled at your convenience.

Gettysburg UMC has a **Prayer Chain** which is very active. We pray for any needs that are shared with the Chain. If you would like to become part of our Prayer Chain, or if you would like to place a person or concern on our Prayer Chain, please contact the **Church Office (717) 334-3032 or Sue Ressler (717) 357-0983**.

Did you know that we have a **Prayer Room** at Gettysburg UMC? It’s located in the basement of the church. As you go from the fellowship hall toward the front (High St. side) of the church it’s located on your left. The Prayer Room is open for prayer by individuals and small groups whenever the church is open.

News about current events and happenings in The United Methodist Church may be found at umnews.org/en. You may also subscribe to a daily or weekly email summary of UMC news by following the **“UMNEWS-SUBSCRIPTION”** link on the website. This is a good source of up-to-date information about what is happening in our denomination.

We will celebrate **Holy Communion on Sunday, February 1 and Sunday March 1**. We practice open Communion; everyone is welcome to join us in receiving the sacrament.

The Wednesday morning Prayer Meeting meets weekly at 9:00 a.m. in the Prayer Room.

A Retirement Celebration for **John Day** will be held on **Sunday, February 8, 2026** immediately following our worship service . There will be a basket in the lobby for those who wish to send John cards.

Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held on February 18, at 4:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Those who wish to receive the mark of ashes as a sign of repentance and mortality will have the opportunity to do so during the service.



The **Adams County Rescue Mission** has offered to provide a one-hour introductory informational meeting for anyone who is interested in learning what to expect and what would be required to become a “**Mentor**” for a less fortunate member of our community. If interested, please give your name to Cathy in the office. More information to follow in future newsletters or the weekly Vision.

(announcements continued)



We will hold a healing service following our regular service on the last Sunday of every other month. Our next healing service will be **February 1, 2026 (please note the change in date due to snow)**. Anyone who wishes to receive anointing and prayer for healing may stay for this special service after the regular service is completed.

If you would like to receive prayers for healing following **any Sunday** worship service, please contact Pastor Rick. We will pray for you following the service even if no regular healing service is scheduled that week.



Open Road Adventure: We're asking everyone to pray our Open Road Prayer every day and to listen and be open for God's response. Please take a copy of the prayer from the table in the Church lobby (next to the chocolate!). The prayer is:

"God, please break through and open doors to new hopes and possibilities for our church and in our own lives. We will surrender and faithfully follow Christ onto the open road adventure of your new and unknown future. Your will be done. Amen!"



Our **Wednesday** morning 10:00 a.m. Bible Study is beginning a study of **angels**; our **Thursday** morning 9:30 a.m. Bible Study is continuing to work through **Exodus**. Everyone is welcome to join us in either study.



The sign-up sheets for GUMC's **C.A.R.E.S.** breakfast weeks and devotional time are posted on the communication board. **Casserole makers, servers and devotional leaders** are needed for the days indicated. Our weeks to cover breakfasts and devotions are February 10th through February 23rd.

Casserole "makers" description:

Casseroles can be baked ahead and frozen. A disposable aluminum pan with your name on it is best. Let Cathy, our secretary, know to place it in our extra freezer downstairs for C.A.R.E.S.

Servers duties include:

Servers need to arrive at the St. James Lutheran Youth House at 121-123 York St. at **6:00 a.m.**

Devotion Leaders duties include:

Devotion leaders at St. James Lutheran Church, on the 3rd Floor (109 York St.) **8:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.**

GETTYSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2025 Mission Can Donations

January	UMCOR US Disaster Relief	\$3,537.00
February	Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen	\$520.00
March	Keystone Family Alliance	\$350.00
April	Annual Conference Special Offering (125ea to Preacher's Aid Society, Cup of Water Fund, BBCF)	\$375.00
May	Refugee Resettlement Partnership Gettysburg	\$430.00
June	Mission Central	\$425.00
July	Hoffman Homes	\$354.00
August	Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry	\$400.00
September	Adams Rescue Mission	\$280.00
October	Kaiors	\$4,444.00
November	Holiday Family Outreach	\$852.00
December	Gettysburg Ministerium	\$300.00

Total Mission Can Donations: \$12,267.00

2025 Miscellaneous Donations

4/24/2025	UMCOR Sunday Offering	\$786.00
3/30/2025	CARES Breakfasts	\$600.00
3/30/2025	Historic Gettysburg Adams County Annual Membership	\$50.00
7/1/2025	Keystone Agricultural Worker Program	\$260.00
8/25/2025	UMCOR International Disaster Relief 982450	\$300.00
8/25/2025	UMCOR US Disaster Relief 901670	\$1,130.00
9/9/2025	Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen (Cash, plus Dinner @ Six and Hospitality food donation)	\$280.00
10/16/2025	Honor Their Service Fund (York Co. Police Officer Fund)	\$1,785.00
10/16/2025	World Communion Sunday Offering	\$175.00
11/17/2025	SCCAP Thanksgiving Bags (99 bags) Estimated Value	\$2,900.00
12/1/2025	New Underwear for Clothing Closet	\$307.54
12/3/2025	Pastor's Discretionary Fund donations	\$1,715.00
12/3/2025	Dinner at Six donations	\$550.00
12/3/2025	Fisher House Foundation	\$200.00
12/11/2025	Global Ministries/UMCOR	\$215.00
12/31/2025	Giving Tree - World Hunger Offering (Harvest Home)	\$885.00
12/31/2025	Giving Tree - Dinner at Six	\$825.00
12/31/2025	Giving Tree - Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Supportive Care)	\$4,725.00
12/31/2025	Giving Tree - Church World Service, Harrisburg	\$2,030.00
12/31/2025	UMCOR	\$200.00
12/31/2025	Supportive Care Fund and Grocery Card Help to Persons in Need in 2025	\$9,405.64

Total Miscellaneous Donations: \$29,324.18

Total All Extra-Mile Giving: \$41,591.18



Read Romans 6

Along with Good Friday, Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days of the Christian Year. On Ash Wednesday we confront the reality of our sinfulness and its consequences for our mortality as we affirm the work of Christ on the cross.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, not just an extension of Good Friday. Lent is a time to examine our faith and grow in discipleship in light of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. We learn anew the meaning of living as people of the resurrection and of the cross. We are challenged to die to self that we may truly live in Christ. Ashes set the tone for the beginning of Lent.

Ashes symbolize our sinfulness and our need for repentance. They express sorrow for sin, a desire to change our ways, and confidence that we are forgiven and renewed by the work of Christ on the cross.

On Ash Wednesday we examine our lives as the Holy Spirit reveals our sin to us. We confess our sins before the Lord, and remember God's promise that "if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:9-10 NRSV) We seek God's grace to turn away from sin and turn toward God's love and righteousness.

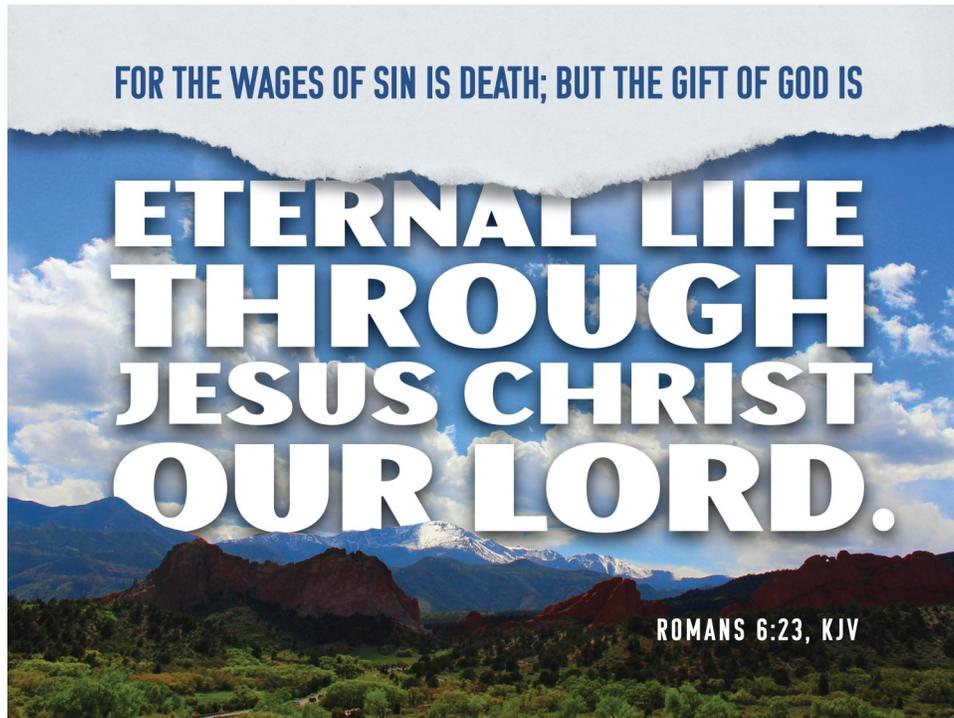
Ashes also symbolize our mortality. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23a NRSV) Our sinfulness leads to our spiritual death, and one of the consequences of sin is physical death. Ashes remind us that we are mortal, and that someday we will die. Death is not something we wish to contemplate, but it's also something that's inevitable.

Ashes remind us of the entirety of Romans 6:23, however: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus rose from the grave to give us eternal life. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26 NRSV) The new life we have in Christ is not just life after death. It's life that is full and abundant here and now, as we learn to let go of our sin and enjoy a vibrant and joyous new life in Christ.

All of this is God's gift to us, received by faith in Christ. By faith we confess and are forgiven. By faith we know that we have eternal life. By faith we die to self that we may receive new life in Christ.

Ash Wednesday lays the groundwork for Lent, which is a time of focused growth in faith and discipleship. We begin with a clean slate, with our sins forgiven. We continue with a clear focus, as the risen Christ lives in us day by day. We journey through Lent, dying to sin daily and taking up our new life in Christ, as we look forward to the glory of his resurrection on Easter.

Prayer for February



Lord God, we thank you for the new life we have in Christ. We rejoice that our sins are forgiven as we are freed from the tangles of sin and death. We praise you for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gives us abundant life and conquers death on our behalf.

Grant us your grace to find new life in Christ. Enable us to live in the full joy of your love, especially as we work with people during their time of need and seek true peace with justice in this world.

Be our Good Shepherd as we journey through this Lenten season. Lead us beside still waters, and bring us into green pastures. Restore our souls through the living presence of Christ in our lives, that we may walk daily in paths of righteousness and love. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

