

Branches

A monthly publication of the
Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches."

Opportunities for Joy

October 2011

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy," James says to the Christ-followers he writes to. It sounds like great advice, but particularly difficult to follow I think. I've checked my "joy meter" in the last several weeks and it hasn't been good. I've discovered that life – stress, decisions, responsibilities, disappointments, things that everyone faces -- has stolen some of my joy. Or should I say, I've allowed my joy to be stolen. Scripture reminds me that joy is ultimately a product of God's Presence in me, and how much I allow Him to direct the attitudes of my heart. It is not a product of my circumstances, of how others treat me, or of how easy or difficult life is. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) – God's Presence in me, my connection with God, is what gives genuine joy. Earl Palmer writes, "Joy is Presence. It describes our relationship with God. Joy comes from knowing the Lord and knowing that the Lord is nearby. In the New Testament, joy is related to prayer and friendship with God. Jesus invites His disciples to pray so their joy might be full (John 15:11-17)."

So, when joy seemed to seep away from my heart, I realized that I needed, quite simply, to remember the privilege of knowing Christ and refresh my connection with Him. Jesus spoke of this to Martha, when Martha was "distracted by all the preparations that had to be made" while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38-41). I hear Him saying it to her with such love in His voice, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." In reviewing my own responses to life lately, I discovered that while I had continued the practice of bringing my concerns and worries to God in prayer, which is always good and He welcomes that, what I had neglected to do was to just embrace the wonderful, inexplicable, exhilarating experience of knowing and loving Him. I have "tweaked" my morning routine a little. I have started to begin each day simply thanking Him for the awesome promise that whatever I experience in the day ahead, He has promised to be there with me, and thanking Him for that incredible gift. And that is a gift that can never be taken from me!

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him ..."

With my love and prayers-

Pastor Lynda

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*Dynamic
Duos
Fall
Adventure*

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, October 29 the couples' ministry is hosting a morning of adventure at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis. Join us for some teambuilding activities and the amazing 550 foot zipline! Stay tuned for more information.

**Youth
Maze-zilla
Save the Date**

The Senior High and Junior High youth will be participating in a corn maze on Saturday, October 29. More details will soon follow so please hold the date.

MUMS

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12 from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Youth Annex. Come out and join us. Childcare and refreshments are provided.



First Wednesday Dinner

The first Wednesday of each month we host a dinner from 5:30-6:45 PM. Everyone is invited to join us as we share a simple meal and time together. Our first dinner will be held on **Wednesday, October 5** and on the menu will be baked ziti, chicken nuggets, fried and a vegetable dish. The cost \$3/adults and \$2/kids 10 and under. Let us know if you want to join us by indicating it on the white communication card and dropping it in the offering basket.

**Food Pantry
Volunteers Wanted**

Our Helping Hands Food Pantry is in desperate need of volunteers and plastic bags to assist in handing out bags of groceries on the 1st & 3rd Friday from 4:30-6:00 PM. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, or can donate plastic bags please contact Rob Devenezia at 570-656-0066 or call the church office at 570-421-0750.

Senior's Luncheon

Join us for our next Senior's luncheon on Tuesday, October 11 at 12:30 PM in Uptown. There will be fellowship, short devotion and a delicious lunch. All are welcome!

Connection's Dinner

If you have been attending Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church for a year or less and have not attended one of our Connection's Dinners, we invite you to join us on Saturday, October 15 at 7:00 PM. This will be a time of enjoyment and a time to get acquainted with the pastors and new staff members. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship.



**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**



Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church invites you to come out and join us for a safe, fun alternative to trick or treating on Monday, October 31 from 6:00 -8:00 PM in the church parking lot. If you would like to participate in our annual trunk or treat by providing a decorated trunk and giving out candy, please contact Emily Nazimek in the church office at 570-421-0750.

We are also in need of lots and lots of candy to give out at the event. Any candy donations are greatly appreciated. Please drop off candy in our decorated trunk located in the foyer across from the Welcome Center.

***Our next Awesome,
Amazing, Super-Good, Way-Cool
Anni-birth-ary Party is Saturday,
October 8***

If someone in your family has a birthday or anniversary in the months of September or October, join us after the 6:00 PM service for food, fellowship, and fun! This is our way of remembering your special days. We hope to see you there!



**Prayer Gathering
Friday, October 7-7:00 PM**

Continues every Friday of each month. All are welcome



**One Last Time
to Tee It Up!**

The SWC Golf Ministry will hold its final event for the year on Sunday, October 16 at Glen Brook Golf Club. Golfers of all ages are welcome to attend. We will be having lunch immediately following the second service followed by golf at 1:30 PM. It is the vision of this ministry to be one of outreach, so invite your friends to come and enjoy a time of fellowship, devotions and a round of golf while extending the hand of Christ to them. Space is limited to 16 golfers.



Cost: \$32 per golfer with a \$5 suggested lunch donation
Registration: Due by October 9, 2011. Sign up at the Welcome Center.
Contact: Ketih Kmiecjak at kjkt12r15@yahoo.com or 570-595-3503.



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

SWC will be hosting families for Family Promise the week of October 23-30. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, clean up, meal preparation, evening fellowship and overnight hosting. We are also in need of donations to help with the purchase of breakfast, lunch and snack items for our guests. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, sign up on the first bulletin board in the hallway or write "Family Promise" on your communication card and drop it in the offering basket. If you have further questions, please contact one of the coordinators, Roxann Kemmerer at 570-872-6540 or Jen Fluck at 570-236-8537.

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sunday Schedule Worship—9:00 & 11:00 AM Adult Small Group 9:00 & 10:00 AM Coffee Time—10:15 AM Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group 6:45—8:15 PM</p>		<p>Wednesday Evening Small Groups for Adults 6:30-8:15 PM Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group 6:45—8:15 PM AWANA for Kids 6:45-8:15 PM</p>	<p>Thursday Evening Celebrate Recovery 6:30 PM</p> <p>Saturday Service 6:00 PM</p>	<p>* Those celebrating a birthday ** Those celebrating an anniversary</p>		<p>1 Ordination Party-7:00 PM * Joe Gross * Ryan Hakes * Barbara Macrini ** Alex & Ana Henriquez</p>
<p>2 Nursing Home Ministry-2:30 PM * Isla Carrozza * Richard Herrick * Chip Williams</p>	<p>3 * Astrid D'Meza * Deborah Hamilton</p>	<p>4 * Lanee Kmiczack * Luke Ullmer ** John & Teri Eckert</p>	<p>5 First Wednesday Dinner-5:30 PM</p>	<p>6 * Chaz Davis * Kayla Gilbertsen * Walter Kappel ** Matt & Christine Mills</p>	<p>7 Helping Hands Food Pantry-4:30 PM Prayer Gathering-7:00 PM * Samantha Loven</p>	<p>8 Anni-birth-ary Party-7:00 PM * Hannah Hufsmith</p>
<p>9 * Sarah Kauffman</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Senior's Luncheon-12:30 PM LBA Meeting-6:30 PM * Alice Spolsky</p>	<p>12 MUMs-9:00 AM</p>	<p>13 * Christine Mills * Chris Pepitone ** Doug & Jennifer Payne</p>	<p>14 * Justin Johnson * Liz Katz * Tony Velardi</p>	<p>15 CR Leaders Meeting-3:30 PM Connections Dinner-7:00 PM * Jude Carper</p>
<p>16 Golf Outing-1:30 PM * Erin Best</p>	<p>17 * Adam Antal * Ramon Liz ** Charlie & Alice Fredholm</p>	<p>18 * Brenda Elder * Mark Holmes II * Madisyn Holmes ** Greg & Jen Pincus ** James & Dorothy Titus</p>	<p>19 * Janet Bush * Melinda Lebron * Doug Payne * Greg Pershyn</p>	<p>20 * Claudio Armstrong * Grace Gilbertsen * Joy Kirk * Scott MacRae</p>	<p>21 Helping Hands Food Pantry-4:30 PM * Charlene Davis * Ethan Fluck</p>	<p>22 * Elijah Castillo * Benito Matos</p>
<p>23 * Abigail Byfield * Aleczaider Titus ** John & Sherri Blaney</p>	<p>24 * Tom Augustine * Brad Hockman * Ninette Kurz * Carl Tirella</p>	<p>25 * Canaan Lebron * Dan Pomponio * Miles Ryder</p>	<p>26 MUMs-9:00 AM * Thomas Chamberlain</p>	<p>27 * John Blaney</p>	<p>28 * Colin Burdian ** Phillip & Rene Long ** Rich & Lynn Pryor</p>	<p>29 Youth Maze-zilla Couples Retreat * Shane Bond * Matt Sinner</p>
<p>Family Promise Hosting Week</p>						
<p>30 * Jeff Henry * Lynda Williams</p>	<p>31 Trunk or Treat-6:00 PM * Alexandra Hutta * Amber Smith</p>					

Stroudsburg Wesleyan's

Vision Statement

To become a prayerful, diverse, and community-involved church family whose passionate purpose is to help seekers become servants of Christ.

Our Purposes

To fulfill the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment by:

- **Going** out to seekers in the Community
- **Gathering** believers into Christ
- **Growing** followers through the Church
- **Grooming** servants for the Commission

BRANCHES

Published monthly by:

Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

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Lead Pastor: Dana Antal

Lead Pastor: Lynnda Keefer

Assistant Pastor: Debbie Bond

Youth Pastors: Joe & Shasta Gross

Children's Ministry Director: Emily Nazimek

Ministry Assistant: Angelique Labadie

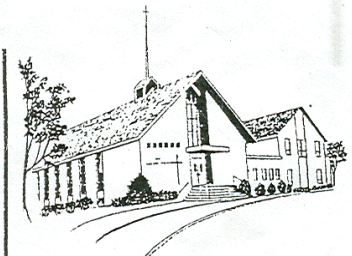
Ministers: Every Member

Creative Learning Center

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Stroudsburg

Wesleyan Church

(570) 421-0750

Saturday Evening Worship

6:00 PM

Sunday Worship Schedule

Morning Worship

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Adult Growth Groups

9:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Coffee Time

10:15-10:45 AM

Senior & Junior High

Youth Group

6:45-8:15 PM

Wednesday Night

Small Groups for Adults

6:45-8:15 PM

Senior & Junior High

Youth Group

6:45-8:15 PM

AWANA for Kids

6:45-8:15 PM