



HESS ROAD Wesleyan

AUGUST | 2024

THIS SUNDAY MORNING

Annual Outdoor Service and Chicken BBQ is happening this Sunday morning, August 25, at 10:30 AM on the back lawn! There is no regular Sunday School Hour.

Metal chairs will be available, but feel free to bring your own chair. You can get to the back by walking around either side of the building, or entering through from the Fellowship Hall. For those that can't walk that far unassisted, please feel free to use the North (stone) parking lot and park on the grass by the back tent.

The service will include a baptism and our kids moving up day celebration, as well as a short message.

Lunch is free and will include chicken BBQ or hot dogs, plus various sides. If you can, please bring some cookies to contribute towards dessert. We hope you can stay and visit with your church family and play/watch some games, like volleyball and corn hole.

*We had a great time at Camp Firelight VBS earlier this month!
(Pictured above)
See inside for more pictures.*

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Youth Pool Party, Sat. Aug 24
- Outdoor Service & BBQ, Sun. Aug 25
- Crockpot Cafe, Sun. Sept 8
- Fall Festival, Wed. Sept 11
- Game Night, Fri. Sept 13
- Road Runner Start, Wed. Sept 18
- Men's Breakfast, Sat. Sept 21
- Sportsman's Banquet, Sat. Sept 21
- Women's Retreat, Fri-Sun, Oct 18-20

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Hello Church Family!

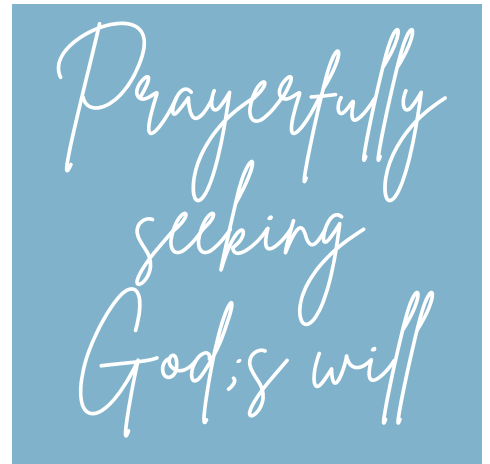
Our Ministry Coordinator asked me to write a general summer update for ya'll and if there's one thing I've learned in ministry it's that you should definitely listen to the Ministry Coordinator (especially when she's your wife!).

It's been a season of change for our church in many ways. This Summer we switched to a merged 10:30 service and, more recently, the Marone family headed south to a new ministry opportunity in Virginia. I'd like to take the opportunity provided by this newsletter to answer some questions that I've heard a few people ask already.

Will we continue with the merged services?

Last Summer, we tried out the merged service idea for almost 2 months and collected feedback from word-of-mouth and from a congregation survey. The feedback was largely positive, so we decided to go forward with merged services beginning in June. Once again, the general response has been largely positive and so we have no plans to change back to multiple worship services at this time (unless, of course, we run out of room!).

What are the positives that many people have pointed toward? First and foremost, everyone seems to enjoy seeing the whole congregation at one time. Second, some have commented that the atmosphere is improved with the room being fuller. Third, we've gotten good feedback on the blended approach to music (using both hymns and more recently written spiritual songs almost every week). I've been so proud of our congregation for their willingness to try some new things and adjust! Some churches probably would have had a whole lot more grumbling over changes!



Of course, we've also heard some concerns about the new format. First, a few people have commented that parts of the service are too loud (especially those using hearing aids). Second, some preferred their previous service time because of their morning and early afternoon schedules. We recognize these concerns and intend to continue to tweak sound issues going forward as necessary and aim for a standard end point for our worship service. We will continue to receive feedback and may make a tweak or two going forward if necessary, but the fact that the positives have outweighed the negatives means we will continue with the current schedule for the foreseeable future.

Will Pastor Nathan be replaced?

You can never really 'replace' a minister. Every minister brings a unique gift-mix and personality. We were blessed to have Nathan and his family with us for almost exactly 5 years. Even if we brought in a new full-time staff member with the exact same job description, it would be a very different ministry for sure.

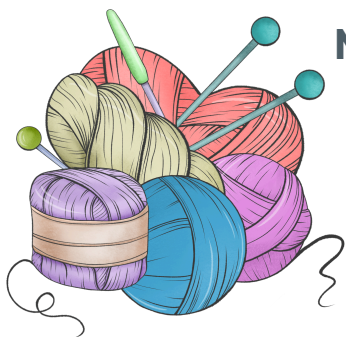
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Here's the plan. We have sought to fill the holes left behind from Pastor Nathan's departure with in-house ministers as best as possible. We have found people willing to step into leadership roles for Sunday School and Youth Group. With a plan in place to fill those big holes, we are no longer in an urgent situation. I believe we are better equipped to make a growth-oriented hire when we're not working from a situation of urgency. Now, we can use the next several months to prayerfully consider what ministry role would best enhance our overall ministry and we can carefully consider people that emerge for those positions.

In mid-September, we will be bringing in Pastor AJ Thomas to preach and provide us with some coaching and collaboration for our staff search. Please be praying for AJ, our church board, and myself as we prayerfully seek God's will in this area. We aim to be open to wherever God's Spirit leads.

Thank you in advance for your prayers!
Pastor Matthew



MADE WITH LOVE KNIT/CROCHET CRAFT GROUP

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH
6:00 - 8:00

This group has made quite a few different things the last few years! Currently, they are working on lap afghans for the residents of Absolut Nursing Home in Gasport, NY. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, they are willing to teach you, and even if you can't come on Tuesdays, you can still make one at home! See Cheryl Detschner or Mary Lou Klopfer for more information.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AT 9:30 AM

We currently have two adult Sunday School Classes available in Room #8 in the Fellowship Hall, and Room #17 in the Wendler Building. In Room #8, "The Sunshine Class" uses the Wesleyan Quarterly Bible Study Materials.

Starting September 8 in Room #17, Cheryl Johnson will be leading the group in studying Knowledge and Wisdom from God's Word.

The week before (September 1), Our missionaries Robin and Yoko White will be sharing about their time in Japan. During the service that morning Pastor Matthew will interview Robin and Yoko.

There is always room for more to be involved with Sunday School! We have a staffed nursery as well as classes for children and youth. Sunday School is a great way to start your morning!



**Global Partner Missionaries
Robin & Yoko White**



“...Do not run like someone running aimlessly.”
1 Corinthians 9:26a

ROAD RUNNERS RESTART

Fall is almost in the air, which means summer is ending, and its back to school time, with new routines for kids and their families. Don't forget to include Wednesdays at Hess Road in your schedule!

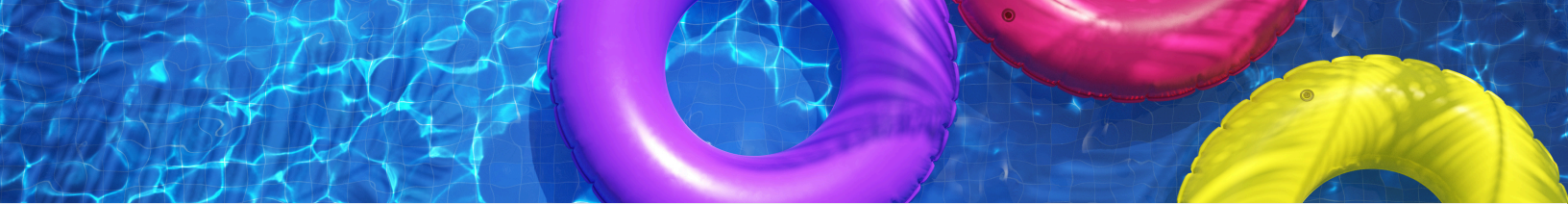
Wednesday, September 11 we are kicking things off with a Fall Fest Celebration. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to come check us out. The night goes from 5:30-7:30 PM like a typical Road Runners, but there will be a variety of different activities, including kids obstacle courses, hay ride, petting zoo, dunk tank target, doughnut eating contest, and more. Hot dogs with chips, baked beans, mac & cheese, and mac salad will be available for dinner. If you would like to contribute, we are looking for donations of jugs of cider to serve with the meal.

At the Fall Fest you can also fill out your registration form for Road Runners, which officially starts September 18!

- Dinner is served 5:30-6:00 PM.
- Road Runners (for Prek3 through 6th Grade) 6:00-7:30 PM.
Parents are invited to join us at 7:20 in the Sanctuary for our closing rally before pickup.
- Youth Group (for 7th-12th Grade) 6:00-7:30 PM.
- Adult Bible Study in the Sanctuary 6:10-7:20 PM.
Will be watching The Chosen, Season Four.
Nursery Care available for parents participating

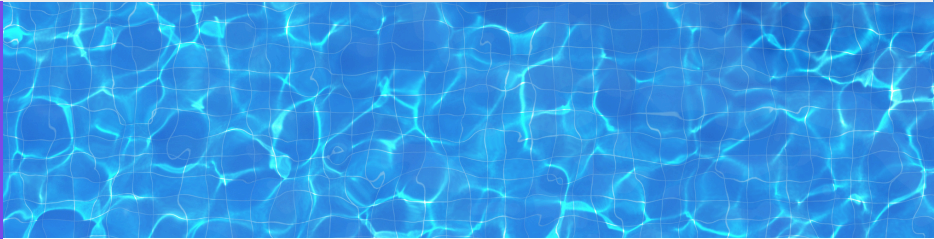


If you are planning to help with Road Runners or are interested in learning more about helping, please join us Sunday, Sept 8 for lunch after the service!



YOUTH

POOL PARTY AND COOK OUT



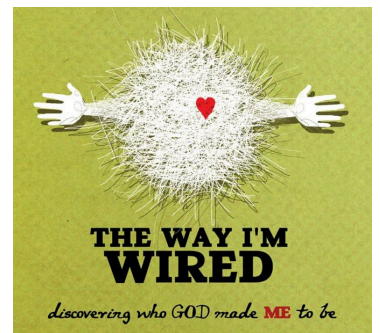
This past Sunday, Pastor Matthew brought forward our new youth leadership to introduce and pray for them. Meghan Waters, who previously helped with the youth group, will be the new leader.

Her team includes her husband, Joe Waters, as well as veteran helpers Andrea Fitch, Phoebe Rignall, and Josiah Steele.

We are looking forward to a great year, with some favorite activities already coming up, starting with a Pool Party and Cookout this weekend! All teens 7th through 12th grade are invited to attend- see the purple column for more details!

Registration for Reverb will be coming out soon also! Regular youth group meetings start Wednesday, September 18 at 6 PM.

To start the group will be studying "The Way I'm Wired: Discovering who God Made me to be."



THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

2:00 PM

7738 West Somerset Road

Pool, Lawn Games,
Hotdogs & Hamburgers,

If you haven't already, text the word YOUTH to 716-707-9769 to make sure you are included in any updates or reminders.

Women's Retreat



**Friday,
October 18
6:00 PM
to
Sunday,
October 20
9:00 AM**

Registration will soon be available for a special women's retreat weekend right here near home!

\$100 per person includes 2 nights of lodging and all meals and activities. We will be joined by Rev. Kirk, Chaplain for the Albion Women's Correctional Facility as a special guest speaker.

There will be opportunities for worship, activities, and craft projects, as well as time for solitude to enjoy the beautiful landscape.

Please contact the church office if you would like to attend but need a scholarship. This retreat is open to the ladies of Hess Road Wesleyan and beyond... feel free to invite a friend or two! Please see Amy Bork with any other questions.

Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP *Psalm 56:3*
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

**WHENEVER I'M AFRAID,
I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU. PSALM 56:3**



SCIENCE



BIBLE ADVENTURES



ARTS & CRAFTS



SNACK TIME



SCIENCE



GAME TIME



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