News & Views

Brownback’s United Church of Christ June 2020

Spring City, Pennsylvania

# Graduation Announcements

Congratulations to the following members and friends of Brownback’s UCC who have graduated or will be graduating. We will celebrate all graduates on Sunday, **June 21** during the Worship service.



### High School

#### Riley Bauer

Riley graduated from The Hill School on May 23. She will be attending the University Park location of Penn State University in the fall.

#### Jesse Blair

Jesse will graduate from Pottstown High School on June 2. His future plans include attending UTI in Exton. Because the seniors cannot have a traditional graduation ceremony, the teachers of Pottstown High school have created a slide show of each senior, which will run on the digital billboard on Route 422 near Armand Hammer Blvd. from May 25 to June 24.

#### Austin Boaman

Austin will graduate from Owen J. Roberts High School on June 5. Austin has committed to Ursinus College to wrestle and will be majoring in Business.

#### Trent Francesco

Trent will also graduate from Owen J. Roberts High School. Trent will be attending Bloomsburg University in their Physicians Assistant Program.

#### Alex Martin

Alex will graduate from AIM Academy in Conshohocken on August 15. He plans to attend The University of New Haven in Connecticut, majoring in the Music Industry.

#### Riley Ruilova

Rileywill graduate from the CCIU on June 2. He is looking for a job and taking time to investigate his many fields of interest.

### College/University

#### Steven Brady

Steven graduated from Penn State University on May 9 with a degree in Finance.

#### Andrea Shade

Andrea will graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point on June 13 with a degree in Environmental Sciences. She has been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. After attending officer training this fall, Andrea will be reporting to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas to begin her job of leading soldiers in a Field Artillery unit.

#### Kim Stryjak

Kim completed the Doctorate of Ministry Degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary. It was a 3-year degree that included a dissertation/major project that was published through ProQuest. The title of her project was "The Holy Week of Our Lives: How to Help Faith Leaders Have Conversations Around Death and Dying in Our Faith Communities." The project consisted of a literary review and research within the Penn Northeast and Pennsylvania Southeast Conferences of the UCC. The results were a workshop and annotated bibliography that Kim created as a resource for faith leaders on this topic.

Graduation was a virtual event on May 9, 2020 with the ceremony postponed until September 4, 2020.

Congratulations to ***The Rev Dr Kimberly Stryjak***!

#### Alissa Vining

Alissa graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and a minor in Mathematics on May 9. At Penn State, she was involved in THON, Association of Women in Computing, and Blue and White Society. Alissa also worked at McAlister's Deli in the HUB (a sandwich shop). In August, she is starting a job at Vanguard in Malvern, PA. Alissa will be joining the Technology Leadership Program which is a two-year rotational program where she will rotate through three different 8-month positions within the company.

### Friends of Brownback’s UCC

**Emma Linsenbigler** graduated from Alvernia University on May 16. She plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

**Shannon Moore Kumar** graduated with an MBA from Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA and her sister **Miranda Moore** graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Doctorate degree in Pharmacy. Miranda is starting her residency at the VCU Buford Rd Pharmacy in Richmond, VA .They are the daughters of William and Pam Moore III of Winchester, VA and granddaughters of Bill and Pat Moore Jr.

**Claire Donelley** has finished nursing school at East Tennessee State and is assisting with pandemic care while waiting to take her licensing exam. She is the daughter of Jeff and Cathleen Moore of Franklin, TN and granddaughter of Bill and Pat Moore.

## Message from Pastor Mark

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Mark

## Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship Services can be viewed and/or listened to using live-streaming or telephone. Many thanks to Pastor Mark, Patsy Kandler, and Barbara Brungess who continue to work together to provide Sunday Worship services for us each week.

Following the Sunday Worship services, we now have additional musical selections shared via Facebook Live on the “Brownback’s UCC” Facebook page. You can access the music directly from the Facebook page, or you can type “Brownback’s UCC Facebook” in Google (or other search engine) on the Internet to go directly to the page. You do not need to have a Facebook account to use the latter option.

The youth of our church continue to attend Worship Play each Sunday morning by viewing a live-streamed lesson provided by Kaitlin Iezzi. Kaitlin meets with the two classes separately, teaching age-appropriate lessons.

In addition, Katilin gathers the kids on Zoom, a video-conferencing website, on Wednesday nights to play games together.

## Vacation Bible School

Brownback's kids will be experiencing a Vacation Bible School unlike any we've had before. A pandemic can't hold us back from learning how Jesus pulls us through life’s ups and downs!

At **Rocky Railway**, we will embark on a faith-filled adventure learning that Jesus helps us do hard things, be bold, and be good friends.

Beginning in June, we will learn and have fun together online on Zoom, for three Tuesdays in a row – **June 16, 23, and 30**,
6:30 - 7:30 PM.

Look out in July for some photos of the fun we all shared at Rocky Railway!



## Mid-Week Bible Study

Pastor Mark is holding a Bible discussion group on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. The following scriptures will be discussed:

* June 7 - Matthew 28:16-20
* June 14 - Matthew 9:35-10:8
* June 21 - Matthew 10:24-39
* June 28 - Matthew 10:40-42

The discussion group will be held using Zoom web-conferencing. You can click the following link to access the sessions:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71623701582?pwd=R1BCR05mSTZMbjBJdzN6dkk1Rm9mUT09>

Meeting ID: 716 2370 1582

Password: 6ce7yq

## Need Help with Errands?

If you need help with errands (e.g., groceries, drug store), contact the church office. Several people have volunteered to run errands and help out wherever needed.

## Community Garden

The Garden Club met at the community garden in late April and prepared it for planting. Over five yards of dirt and three yards of mulch were added, while a bunch of weeds were removed. The club is considering making our garden a "Vegetable Soup" garden. The goal would be to grow those items associated with vegetable soup.

As Dwight Schrute once said "Those who can't farm, farm celery." Well Dwight, we shall see...

The Garden Club meets **each** **Wednesday night at 6:00 PM** to keep the garden looking great. If you have time, stop by and lend a hand.

## Your Financial Support

Dear Members,

During these unforeseen times, many aspects of our lives have changed significantly or have stopped completely. One important part of our lives that continues, and remains constant, is the operation of our church. If you are able and willing to continue giving monetarily, it would be greatly appreciated. If not, we understand, and we are here to help.

There are three ways you may continue with your offerings, if you so choose:

1) Please **send a hand-written check** (no cash), directly to the church made payable to: Brownbacks Church

Mailing address:

Brownbacks United Church of Christ

640 Ridge Road

Spring City, PA 19475

OR

2) Please **process a check through online banking** with your bank; payments (in the form of a check), are sent directly from your bank to Brownback’s Church to the mailing address above (after set up as a vendor), and normally take about a week to deliver. Please contact your bank for further instructions.

OR

3) Please visit our **church's website** at <https://www.brownbackschurch.org>

In the upper right side of the homepage, you will see a link to "**Click for Online Giving**". From there you will be able to set up an account, establish a start date, frequency, and amount.

You will have the choice to make your payments from a checking or savings account, or a credit/debit card, and make adjustments at any time.

\*\*\* Please note that there are fees deducted from credit card contributions, so the church does not receive 100% of the processed contribution; there is an option during the payment process for your contribution to be adjusted to cover some of the cost.

Thank you again, for your continued support during these times.

Blessings,

*Anne Behe*

Financial Secretary

## Thank You to…

Thanks to **Charlie Kullen** for making the weekly updates to the church’s website in February and March.

Thanks to **Amanda Sallade** for refreshing the church’s website with a new professional look. During the Stay-at-Home Order, Amanda has been working from home in PA to avoid the intense outbreak of COVID‑19 where she lives in NJ.

## Thank You from…

The church recently received Thank You notes or letters from the following.

### Riley Bauer

Riley Bauer would like to thank the congregation for all the cards sent celebrating her graduation from High School and best wishes for her as she attends Penn State

### Can Do Kids

Thank you so much for the support that you have shown to Can Do Kids International! Your check will allow us to continue our Vision 2020 project in helping bring clean water to Kenya.



### Faith Care

Together we are making a difference! Your continued support of our mission is deeply gratifying to us, and we hope it is the same for you. We were honored to receive your generous donation. Your gift has already started to have an impact in the lives of children and families in the U.S. and around the world. May God bless you!

### Bill and Kay Sherman

Through the church newsletter, Kay and I appreciate keeping abreast of activities and people at Brownback’s Church where I once served as pastor and teacher. Thank you again for keeping us on the mailing list.

### The Clinic

We are so incredibly grateful for the support of our community, which allows The Clinic to serve the most vulnerable individuals in the Greater Phoenixville area. Together, we can accomplish amazing things.

In the past year, The Clinic has provided nearly 8,000 patient visits to underserved members of our community, along with necessary medications and thousands of lab and diagnostic tests. These services are absolutely critical, and sometimes lifesaving.

### Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

We are excited to announce that we have received permission to fully occupy the first and second floors of 61 N. Franklin Education and Administration building and are making plans to begin moving in the next week. This is a conditional occupancy as we still need to resolve a compliance requirement for the outside stair tower for the third floor. As a result, we cannot use the third floor, for safety reasons, until that requirement is satisfied. We are anticipating that project to be resolved after the weather breaks in the spring, as it will involve some concrete work, requiring warmer weather.

With that understanding, we are pleased to have all of our Supportive Services staff move to their offices on the second floor. In addition, we will begin to use the first floor conference rooms for education and meeting opportunities. Our Spring UP3 (Understanding Poverty to Plan and Persevere) program will be held in our space for the first time since its inception. We also already have partner organizations scheduled to access the space, bringing additional programs to those seeking our services – services that they would otherwise not have access to or have to find transportation to such programs in Norristown and beyond.

Your generous support to this project has helped us to achieve this long-awaited milestone. Your support is a reflection of your deep commitment to our mission and local families and neighbors in need of food security, housing security, and supportive services and education. Because of you, we can expand programming and our staff can provide tangible services, support, and spiritual guidance to address the basic needs of persons within and beyond the Greater Pottstown area more fully. THANK YOU for your support.



### Good Samaritan Services

On behalf of Good Samaritan Services and the individuals and families we service, we thank you for your recent donation. Through your support, we can continue providing a full continuum of programs and services to over 200 men, women, and children to help them overcome homelessness in Lancaster and Chester

Counties.

Brad is a current resident of Good Sam, and is one of the many lives your gift has impacted. Brad come to Good Sam seeking refuge from an unstable and unhealthy environment. He found himself in a challenging situation, unemployed and with no place to turn. Since his coming to Good Sam, he now has a safe, warm and comfortable place to call home. Brad has graduated from our Job Training Program, and is currently employed. Brad states because of Good Sam, he now has a peace of mind which makes him hopeful for all that the future will bring.

Amber is a single mother, who for years bounced around emergency shelters and small apartments, struggling to keep a steady income to support her and her son. Because of Good Sam, Amber now has a place to call home and a stable income. Today, she is one of the House Managers overseeing our Women’s Emergency Shelter, while also working as a caretaker and pursuing a degree in social work to help other families in need who are facing homelessness. Amber’s persistence in seeking independence and stability while also pursuing a degree to help others who have encountered similar to her own, is beyond inspiring.

These are just two of many lives changed by the programs and services we offer at Goo Sam. Because of your generosity, many individuals’ and families’ lives are impacted and hope is restored.



### The Payton Wright Foundation

On behalf of The Payton Wright Foundation, we would like to thank you for your generous donation to help families who are caring for a child with pediatric brain cancer. Because of generosity like yours, we help hundreds of families across the nation every year, so that their main focus can remain on their child, not how their water will be turned back on.

For the past 10 years, The Payton Wright Foundation has continued to advance our mission to server even more families in a critical way when they need it most. We do this through mortgage payments, utility bill payments, funeral expenses, gas card and more, so that these families can continue as much normalcy as possible during this terrible time. Thanks to you, we are able to help even more this year! You may never know the children and families that you have helped but your donation will make a positive difference in their lives that they will never forget.

## Cemetery Reminders

The lawn service has started mowing for the year. Any items found to be unsafe or unauthorized will be removed. Flowers can only be placed in the front of headstone not to exceed 12" from the stone and squared front only. Planters are available on the side of the garage, if you would like some.

## News & Views Deadline

The deadline for the July/August issue of the *News & Views* newsletter is **June 18**. To include information in the newsletter, you can leave information in the *News & Views* mailbox in the church lobby or email information to Penny Sallade at pennysallade@yahoo.com.

## Prayer Concerns

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” – Matthew 21:22

For those who serve:

* Reed Bauer, First Sargent at West Point, The United States Military Academy
* Derrick Boaman, Army Reserves
* Nathaniel Cherubini, Chief Warrant Officer 3.,
United States Marine Corp. Nephew of Rick and Jeanette Francesco
* Brock Fasnacht, nephew of Doug and Sue Kandler, Army National Guard
* Paige Juliette Freeman, Trooper First Class, Delaware State Police
* Andrea Shade, 2nd Lieutenant in the Army based in Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX
* Thomas Shade, Captain in the Army based in South Carolina

**Members**: Joe Kandler, Sr., Bob Keeley, Sr., Bob Miller, Thelma Nelson, Marie Painter.

**Friends of Brownback’s**: Eva Diener, Sean Mahoney.



## June Birthdays

We rejoice with those of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in June.

6/1 Jared Wiand

6/3 Zach Clark

6/6 Kathy Laird

6/8 Kelly Clark

6/8 Alicia Vento

6/10 Bobbi Jo Galbreath

6/17 Isabelle LeBlanc

6/23 Jennifer Kandler

6/25 Reese Kandler

6/26 Cherie Copenhaver

6/29 Evan Boaman

## June Anniversaries

We congratulate the following in our church family who are celebrating wedding anniversaries in June.

6/2 Arlen and Lynn Copenhaver

6/7 Mark and Elizabeth Sweitzer

6/9 Thomas and Amanda Moore

6/12 Joe and Kathy Laird
Richard and Susan Trythall

6/18 Bob and Joyce Miller

6/21 Linda and John Acar

6/23 Mike and Kris Houck

6/24 Kaitlin and Brian Iezzi

6/28 Bill and Pat Moore

## Our Church Leaders

Rev. Mark Stryak, Pastor and Teacher

Barry Vining, President

Mark Sweitzer, Vice President

Lara Faust, Secretary

Anne Behe, Financial Secretary

Holly Vining, Current Treasurer

Kaitlin Iezzi, Benevolence Treasurer

Calvin Idler, Major Improvements Treasurer

#### Elders

2020 Earl Brungess Barry Vining

2021 Randall Ruilova Mark Sweitzer

2022 Chadd Bauer Bob Keeley

#### Deacons

2020 Derrick Boaman Kaitlin Iezzi

2021 Calvin Idler Anne Behe

2022 Lara Faust Larry Potts

#### Cemetery Board

2020 Rick Francesco

2021 Brian Iezzi Greg Siwik

2022 Mike Houck Barry Vining

#### Endowment Board

2020 Mike Houck

2021 Bob Keeley Barry Vining

2022 Bill Moore Julie Radel

#### Our Church Staff

Kris Houck, Parish Administrator

Penny Sallade, Choir Director

Patricia Kandler, Organist

Larry Simmers, Sexton

Kaitlin Iezzi, Christian Education Chair

Greg Siwik, Cemetery Superintendent

Brownback United Church of Christ

640 Ridge Road

Spring City, Pennsylvania 19475

Address Service Requested