



Paradise Life

May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>During the month of May, we are holding a fund drive for the Cemetery Association. Please indicate in the special fund section of your offering envelope if you would like to contribute.</p>					1 Sienna Weber	2 Barry Fillman
					3 Bretley Barr	4 Linda Blosh
10 Mark Pifer <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12 <i>FHF Meeting 7</i> <i>Choir 7</i>	13 David London Royce Sprague <i>Bible Study 6</i>	14 Deja Burkett	15	16 Daniel Reed *David & Lori Yohe
17 James Triponey <i>Softball Game 4:30</i>	18 Tom Young *Harold & Janet Eastman	19 *Daniel & Sara Reed <i>Choir 7</i>	20 Lane Weber Quinton Weber <i>Bible Study 6</i> <i>Women's Service Group 7</i>	21	22 Harold London	23
24 Travis Perry Kay Pifer	25 Jackson Polito <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 <i>Choir 7</i>	27 Brooke Limrick <i>Bible Study 6</i>	28 *Gary & Elaine Fillhart	29 <i>Men's Retreat</i>	30 <i>Men's Retreat</i> <i>Feeding His Flock Meal 4:45-6</i>
31 Morgan Shepler <i>Men's Retreat</i> <i>School House Meeting 5</i>	<p>* The first Softball game of the year will be held on Sunday, May 17th at the Troutville Community Park at 4:30pm. * There will be a Schoolhouse cleanup on 5/5 at 5pm. Cinco de Mayo tacos will be served! * Organized recreation on Fridays at the Youth Center will take a break for the summer. Enjoy the outdoors!</p>					

Consistory Meeting April 9, 2026

President Dean Reed opened the meeting with prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Vince, Dean, Bobbi, Wendy, Brenda, Brooke, Tracy, Bob, and Matt.

The secretary report was read and approved (Wendy made the motion and Bobbi seconded). The treasurer report was reviewed and approved (Bobbi made the motion and Wendy seconded).

Brenda and Dean updated the group on the itinerary of the installation service for Pastor Vince.

Dean made a motion and Bobbi seconded giving Barry \$50 payment for performing our installation service.

Dean has received a quote of \$ 2.29 sq ft for traditional carpet or \$3.39 sq ft for carpet tile from Big Run Carpet for Pastor Vince's office and the upstairs Sunday School classrooms. Dean will bring a sample board and installation quotes to the next meeting.

The Property committee met March 19th. First on the agenda is the side door. Tom has received 3 quotes for un-primed doors for \$1370, \$669, and \$748. Bob made a motion and Bobbi seconded the motion to purchase the door for \$748. Next up, the stairs need hand grabs. The door at the top of the stairs will be removed to accommodate this. The sidewalk also has a crack that will need repaired. While repairing this the committee will also look into continuing the sidewalk out to the road. Spring clean-up will be April 25th and 29th, and air conditioner quotes will also be obtained for the office and Sunday School rooms.

Wendy reported that we have had many guests at our services lately, but no one is signing our guest cards. The visitation committee is still trying to reach out to as many as possible.

The Men's Retreat sign up will be in the lobby on Sunday. Wendy made a motion and Bobbi seconded the motion that Pastor Vince does not need to use a vacation day for this because he will be ministering to our men. Bobbi will contact a guest speaker for May 31st.

Women's Service group has a meeting April 15th at the Church at 7pm. A detailed report of the club's vital contributions was submitted to the April Paradise Life.

There was a Vacation Bible School meeting to get the ball rolling for VBS, which will be held August 10th-12th from 6:30-8pm. The planning will begin April 20th at 7. Darcie will take on the leadership role for this year.

Feeding His Flock had a great month with close to 90 meals. This month will be a ham dinner.

Consistory Meeting (Continued)...

The Activity Committee has decided to postpone the Parker Dam service this year since we would have the Corn and Doggie Roast, the 150th, and Parker Dam all within 4 weeks, and we want to assure great attendance for the 150th. We will pick a date this winter to get a jump on it.

The possibility of having the children go downstairs to continue the sermon on Sundays was brought up next for new business. Tracy Weber was in attendance to voice her concerns that if they are made to sit for a continuation of a sermon they will not want to sit for actual Sunday School. After a lengthy discussion on pros and cons it was decided more research is needed before a discussion is made.

Tracy is requesting permission to remove anyone off of the Paradise Life calendar that isn't a member. She will go off of the new directory since many of the birthdays listed are of folks who haven't attended in years.

Brenda shared that the Sunday School classes will be receiving smart tv's to aid in teaching.

The Stations of the Cross are starting to fall off the walls. Our two options are drilling for hooks or taking them down and only using putty. It has been decided that they will be taken down and only used for Lent each year.

A request was made for a Bluetooth speaker for the sanctuary and a converter box to be able to use the wireless mic without Pastor Vince needing to shut his mic off. Pastor Vince would also like some more information on possibly recording services or technology to have our services on our Facebook page. All tech minded individuals interested in possibly helping with this ministry should see Bobbi.

Wendy made a motion and Matt seconded sending Christopher Moore of Punxsutawney \$1,000 toward a new wheel chair accessible van. His current van is no longer able to be inspected.

Bob made a motion and Matt seconded the motion for \$1,000 to go to the Solid Rock Church window fund.

Dean is requesting the Church for April 26th.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 7th at 7pm.



EVER WONDER ABOUT CEMETERIES?

As some of you know, I "dig" hanging out in cemeteries.

All my life, I have visited the cemeteries of my ancestors, but not until 2010 when introduced to the game of Geocaching, did I become very intrigued. I started learning the history of the different veteran medallions, the stories of families unknown to me, and names of people of different ethnicities all over Pennsylvania and right here in our closest counties of Jefferson and Clearfield.

The United States truly was and is a "Melting Pot".

I then joined the community of **Find A Grave** and became a volunteer. Find a Grave.com is a free online database that allows users to search for cemetery records, create memorials and honor deceased individuals worldwide. As a registered volunteer, I can contribute by uploading photos of grave markers in any cemetery to the online memorial, attaching GPS coordinates to the grave, add researched factual information such as birth and death certificates and newspaper articles if available and not done already.

In the last 6 years or so, cleaning grave markers or stones has become a favorite hobby of mine. I work on these markers with the utmost respect to those resting there; they deserve a beautiful marker.

When traveling and visiting multiple cemeteries, I became annoyed that so many are unkempt from the entire grounds to the stained and dirty stones. After doing my due research, I found that I needed to take the direction of a most beautiful cemetery-The Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. This led me to a website full of information about how to appropriately clean markers. The grounds keepers at Arlington among others recommend only **ONE** cleaning product – D/2 Cleanser. It is safe for all types of stone, i.e., marble, granite, limestone and sandstone, and is biologically friendly and will not hurt plants, flowers, grass or your skin. It will not etch, corrode or stain and rinses away with water. All other cleaners, such as Dawn Dish Detergent, Mean Green, Awesome and "Wet & Forget" and especially bleach are **NOT** recommended as they can damage the stone from within and cause flaking, cracking or delamination. Also, the D/2 Cleanser can simply be sprayed on the stone and left to the elements of nature to do its work. I have tested this and IT WORKS, however, being a girl who wants instant results, I spend lots of time with plastic putty scrapers, a myriad of different size nylon and natural bristle brushes, wooden shish-ka-bob skewers and jugs upon jugs of water.

The results are incredible and very satisfying. A good cleaning can last up to 10 years!

If you want more information or would just love to hang out with me and clean some stones, let me know and we can set up a date.

Paradise Community Church has two cemeteries-

Paradise Maple Grove Reformed Church Cemetery and Paradise Lutheran Cemetery.

Of the folks interred there, most died of natural causes, but in the early 1900s, typhoid was at epidemic proportions, mining collapses and accidents occurred and accidents at home or on the farm were noted.

They range from older folks, to teenagers, to children, but all have a history and a story to tell.

DID YOU KNOW???

Our cemeteries are rich with military veterans who served and protected our country.

We have: 6 veterans in the Lutheran Cemetery

34 veterans in the Maple Grove Cemetery

These veterans served in WWI, WWII, GAR, Cuba, Korea and Vietnam.

There are 2 women who served in the Nurse Corps and one who was a Missionary to Japan who served 4 decades in this capacity.

We also have a U.S. Army Air Force veteran who was a B-17G fighter pilot who was killed in action at age 27. He was awarded **The Purple Heart!** **We have a Purple Heart recipient in our midst!!!!**

More history to come during our 150th Anniversary Celebration.

-Annette Roy



CORNHOLE GAME NIGHT AT THE YC

APRIL 10, 2026

Twenty-eight folks turned out for this epic evening and what a FUN night it was! Even the “littles” had mini cornhole boards and bags for fun play. The night began with all players signing in. To make things interesting and to encourage fellowship, names were put in a hat (actually a mini orange boundary cone) and drawn randomly. Ten teams made up the bracket, playing to a score of 15 instead of the usual 21 with single elimination.

After Round One, 5 pairs advanced to the semi-finals. They were:

Patty Burkett/Lisa Triponey

Pastor Vince (aka PV)/Quentin Haag

Mark Pifer/Crystal Alvetro

Bob Roy/Gail Pifer

Ty Limrick/Annette Roy

After the second round, Team Patty/Lisa and Team Gail/Bob advanced to the finals. This was a nail biting, point for point match, but Gail and Bob pulled ahead for the win. Not only does Gail have a beautiful voice, but she’s a tough competitor. They each were awarded the official cornhole trophy (emphasis on “Corn”) and their names will be inscribed on the **“Paradise Cup”** exhibit trophy which will be displayed in our church trophy case.

As the tournament continued, those already eliminated continued to play for fun and comradery.

Other highlights included: Ty managed to make a “basket” and was pleading to count 2 points, but alas it was a disqualified score and his opponents allowed him a re-throw. Quentin Haag took on Craig in an exhibition game complete with heckling the “Big Guy”. The game ended with Craig overtaking Q with a score of 21-3. Quentin was a gracious opponent by congratulating Craig with a handshake.

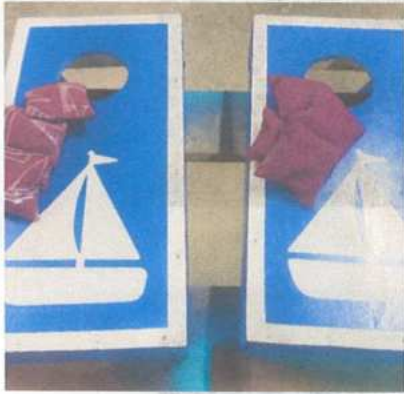
In a Guys vs Girls fun game, Bob & Samuel took on Gail & Melissa. These four played two full games to 21. The girls held their own, but on game 2, Melissa reported that the bags inexplicably started to miss the board...often.

Care needed to be taken when navigating the floor while crossing the firing line of flying cornhole bags. It reminded this author of the vintage game of “Frogger”! Game play ended around 8 PM, but folks hung around afterward for a bit of chatting and making connections.

What a great night for our little ‘burg!

God is good! -Annette

CORNHOLE GAME NIGHT AT THE YC







THE LIVING LAST SUPPER

By Bruce Hennigan

On Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper was presented to a FULL HOUSE once again, and many found it to be a very meaningful service. It was opened with the prelude and a welcome by Annette Roy, who was also the narrator and prop director for the drama. "Come to the Table" was sung by Lisa Triponey, and it was perfect for this "motley crew of misfits." After hearing that one of them would betray Jesus, each disciple took a turn to introduce themselves while the others froze in the pose of da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. The congregational singing between each monologue lifted praise to the Lord for all He's done for us in such a beautiful way! In order of appearance, the disciples were Nathaniel – Larry Shepler, Simon – Dean Reed, James the Lesser – Bob Roy, Thaddeus – Tom Douthit, Andrew – Lane Weber, Matthew – Nathanael Pifer, Peter – Mike Carlson, Philip – Pastor Vince Davis, Judas – Kevin Muth, Thomas – Ty Limrick, John – Craig Limrick, and James – Jason Polito. Matt Smith portrayed Jesus, and everyone was impressed by their ownership of the roles. We appreciate these men so much as they were willing to offer their talents once more to reach so many people!

Bobbi Becker explained the next steps of Christ and the disciples through scripture while Holli Polito closed the service with an emotional song, "Via Dolorosa." Pastor Vince gave a closing message, and we were all blessed this Easter season as this drama keeps our focus where it belongs – on our precious Jesus!



JOY UNLIMITED REUNION!!

You may recognize some of these faces from a FEW years ago, and we're gathering to sing for Homecoming 2026! Joy Unlimited was started over 40 years ago by Eloise Kosko with almost 40 participants over the years. Not only did we sing for church, but we also performed for other churches and events in the area. We even traveled as far as Ohio, but since we spent part of the trip on the side of the road waiting for van repairs, we decided the local area was just fine! We all enjoyed being part of this group because we not only shared our love for music and each other, but we shared Jesus with all we met! Many members are making plans to return, some from many states away, so we hope you'll join us on JULY 12 for an extra special Homecoming!

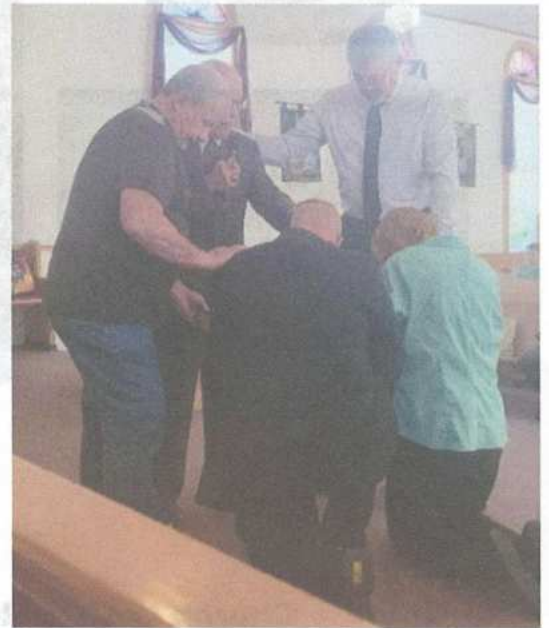


PARADISE LIFE

For all of you history buffs, Meghan Weber has been diligently organizing all of our forty-nine years of the Paradise Life. She has put them in order into several extra-large binders, and clearly marked each edition for easy access. The Paradise Life will be turning 50 next November! This is an amazing milestone, and they will soon be available for all to see.

WELCOME PASTOR VINCE!

After years of faithful prayers from our congregation, and the tireless dedication of our Pastoral Search Committee, Paradise Community Church has a new full-time Pastor. We celebrated the installation of Pastor Vince Davis on Sunday, April 12th, 2026, in a ceremony led by Pastor Emeritus Barry Fillman, alongside Elders Dean Reed and Bob Roy. We are blessed to welcome Pastor Vince, Betsy, and their children into our Paradise Community Church family! God is Good!



***“And I will give you
shepherds after my own
heart, who will lead you
with knowledge and
understanding.”***

Jeremiah 3:15

Pie Kits Donated to BRANCHH Food Pantry

On April 26th, the Sunday School children helped assemble pie kits donated by Feeding His Flock. Thirty-six pie kits were lovingly assembled, and included instructions, and an invitation to join us for our next Feeding His Flock Free Meal. Special thanks to Bobbi for ordering all the supplies, showing the kids how to assemble them, and leading the children in a special blessing over the kits. Bobbi will also deliver them to the BRANCHH food pantry in Big Run for their next distribution date.



Church Library Ready for Extinction or Vital Ministry?

In inspecting our current library I'd say it has a bit of both. The last time many of our books were checked out leg warmers were in and Smokey and the Bandit was at the theater, but it has such potential to be a vital ministry. The library committee wants to revitalize our materials and make them work for us again. Books reinforce a Church's message and give us aids when we want to dig deeper or a wholesome outlet when we just want to leisurely read and its even better when we have these available to us for FREE.

To make room for more contemporary materials we have started sorting thru our current selection, but anything that was a book dedicated or in memory of will stay.

We need your suggestions. Study guides, audiobooks, Christian comedians and more we're up for it all. Jot down your wants in the suggestion box in the vestibule or let us know. Better yet, join in the fun and help us make your Church library somewhere you're excited to visit.

CONTINUE ON

A woman once fretted over the usefulness of her life. She feared she was wasting her potential being a devoted wife and mother. She wondered if the time and energy she invested in her husband and children would make a difference.

At times she got discouraged because so much of what she did seemed to go unnoticed and unappreciated. "Is it worth it?" she often wondered. "Is there something better that I could be doing with my time?"

It was during one of these moments of questioning that she heard the still small voice of her heavenly Father speak to her heart.

"You are a wife and mother because that is what I have called you to be. Much of what you do is hidden from the public eye. But I notice. Most of what you give is done without remuneration. But I am your reward.

Your husband cannot be the man I have called him to be without your support. Your influence upon him is greater than you think and more powerful than you will ever know. I bless him through your service and honor him through your love.

Your children are precious to Me. Even more precious than they are to you. I have entrusted them to your care to raise them for Me. What you invest in them is an offering to Me.

You may never be in the public spotlight. But your obedience shines as a bright light before Me. Continue on. Remember that you are My servant. Do all to please Me."

-Roy Lessin

Before the battle, pray. After the breakthrough, pray. When things are going well, pray. When you think you might slip, pray. Because prayer isn't preparation for the battle. **Prayer is the battle.** We battle not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world. What does prayer do? Prayer reminds us that we are never in control and keeps us to the only One who is.

Beware of Scammers!

Last month I received a call from our bank. The caller ID on my phone came up as "1st Commonwealth", so I thought it was them. The man on the phone proceeded to tell me that my card had been used for multiple transactions in Las Vegas and he was going to shut off the card for me. He gave me an incident number in case we were disconnected, and everything seemed legitimate. As we were talking the line did cut off, and just as I started to panic, he called back. He then proceeded to ask what I believed were questions only the bank would ask. He knew our house phone number and my cell phone number after all. I was so preoccupied with worrying about this potential scammer in Las Vegas that I didn't realize that I was talking to the **actual** scammer. When the line cut off again, I hurried and logged into my online banking in time to see our bank account go down to \$19. He never called me back. I then called our bank's customer service number, and soon found out that they had never called me. I'd been scammed!

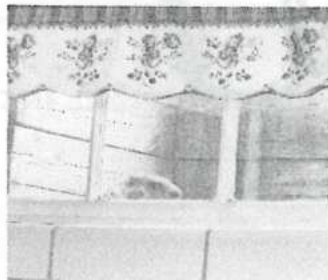
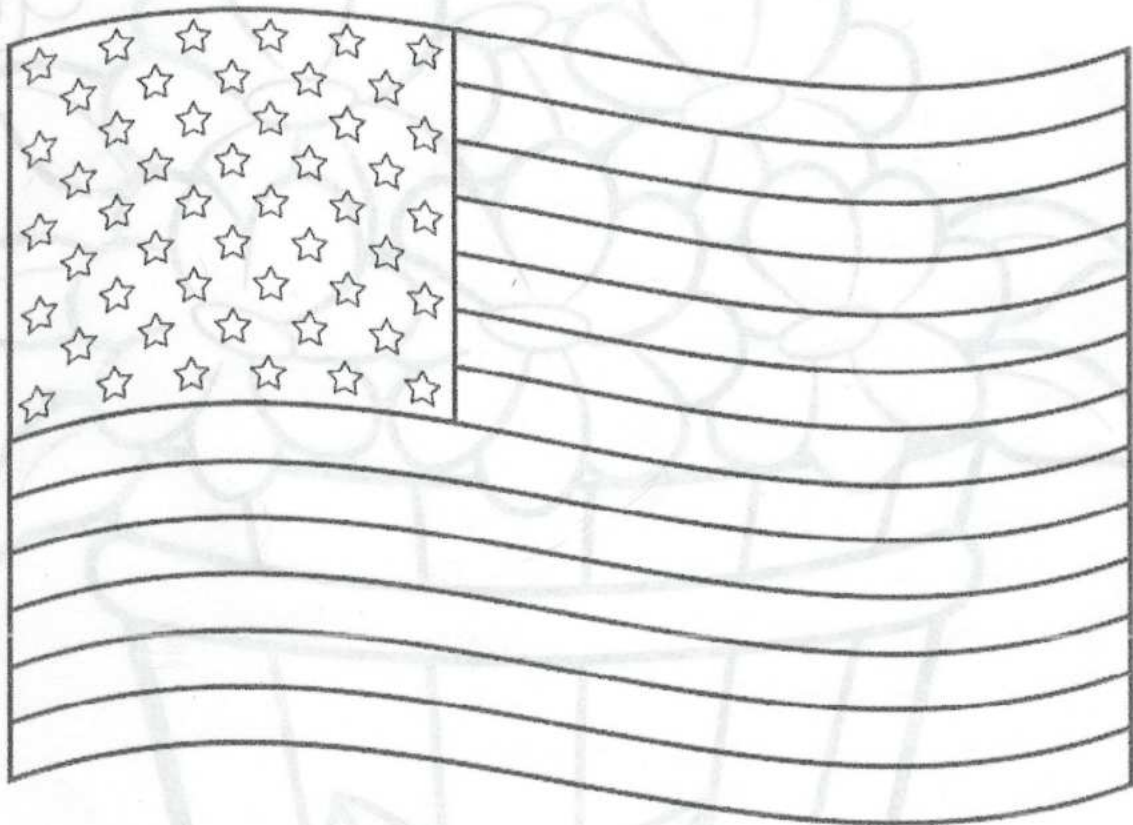
I do need to say that the bank eventually returned all the money to our account. The scammer caught me off guard by telling me that my card was being used in Vegas, when nothing had happened. He used that scare tactic to get me to give him all the information he needed to steal our money. Two different \$2000 Apple Payments were caught by our bank and thankfully denied, but a lot of our money was already gone. How could someone so callously steal from someone else?

Kudos to the First Commonwealth Fraud Department. A woman there spoke to me for over an hour, telling me how this happens to people across the country every day. Some people are scammed out of tens of thousands of dollars. I told her about the caller ID showing it was my bank with the bank's number; she told me these scammers have the ability to "spoof" the number on caller ID and make it appear that the call actually came from our bank, when in reality, it's a scammer. I told her everything that happened during the conversation, and she collected all that to help them in their investigation. Some of the things I experienced in that call with the scammer had never been documented before, and she was passing all of that info on to her team. Thankfully, this wasn't as bad as it could have been, and all of our money was returned.

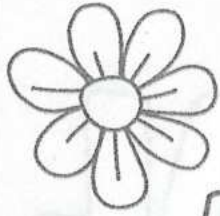
Please, if you ever receive a call from someone claiming to be from your bank and they ask you **ANYTHING** about your account, hang up immediately and call your bank right away. Don't worry about being polite, you have to protect yourself. I know we've been told thousands of times, but your bank should **NEVER** call you and ask information. That was a huge red flag that I completely missed. I never thought I would fall for something like that, but I was too trusting, and walked right into their trap. Lesson learned... please don't let this happen to you.

~Tracy

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!



This groundhog wanted to join us for Bible Study! You don't have to be on the outside looking in.... join us on WEDNESDAYS at 6pm to finish Galatians and move into Ephesians.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

