

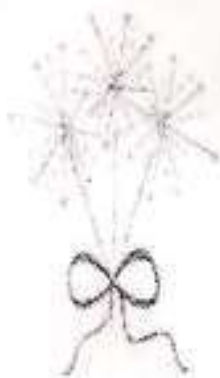


# PARADISE LIFE

## JULY, 2025



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Brooke Eastman Derek Shepler	2 Cassidy Newman	3 Tim Schreckengost Laura Bruder	4 *Rod & Kay Pifer  <i>Independence Day</i>	5 Kenni Reed Ackley Stockdale *Brian & Susan Pifer
6 Erin Keller Ethan Pifer	7	8 James Becker Matt Rheume	9 Megan Murdock *Tim & Megan Hanzely  <i>Consistory - 7 pm</i>	10 Ross Pifer Timothy Hanzely Amanda Reed	11	12 Patrick Crooks *Brent & Kenni Reed
13 Sherri Reed Robert Roy Matthew Triponey *Mike & Lacey Stockdale  <i>Homecoming</i>	14 Brian Pifer	15	16 Amanda Rafferty Samantha Villella *Chad & Casey Trithart  <i>Women's Service Group Christmas in July</i>	17 Brent Reed George Lee Perry	18 Kim McDonald *Keith & Deb Villella	19 Wendy Perry Erica States
20	21	22 John Bailey	23	24 Janet Douthit MaryKay London Gavin Pifer *Elliot & Holly Reinsel	25	26 <i>Feeding His Flock Meal</i>
27 Gracyn London	28 Lennox Murdock	29 Troy Perry	30 Greg Peace *Russell & Faith Newman	31 Jessica London Bradley Walker		



### Spread the Word:

Our **Annual Homecoming Celebration** is on July 13. Festivities will begin with an outdoor worship service at 11:00 AM (weather permitting). Bring a lawn chair. Share a picnic luncheon; bring some homemade ice cream to join in the competition or just enjoy some tasting; bring your vintage vehicle to show off; polish up your hidden or not so hidden talent and be part of the talent show or just enjoy the entertainment; and that's not all! Spend the evening playing ball or cheering on the home team. It's a family-friendly, wholesome, fun-filled day. Bring the kids, bring your friends, bring your neighbors!



## Paradise Community Church Consistory

June 11, 2025

President Diane Carlson opened the meeting with prayer. Those in attendance were Wendy Perry, Bobbi Becker, Holli Polito, Bob Roy, Dean Reed, Diane Carlson, Brenda Weber, Lane Weber, and Brooke Limrick.

The secretary's report was approved as read with a motion from Bobbi and a second from Bob, and the treasurer's report was reviewed and approved with a motion from Wendy and a second from Brooke.

Holli started us off with an update from Allen regarding potential candidates. There are 3 at various stages of the interview process with one having completed his third interview.

Lane brought a request before Consistory to use the flower garden to display the Sunday School's painted rocks.

We have received the check finally from Barber Financial. Bob will get in touch with Troutville to disperse their half. After a discussion of current interest rates it was decided to invest with S & T Bank in certificates of various lengths for Paradise's half.

The new Statement of Faiths have arrived.

We have 105 members signed up with the Paradise Community Church as of June 11th, and we will keep membership open until Homecoming on July 13.

### Properties Committee

The soffit was fixed on work day.

The bricks need looked at on the chimney.

Still waiting for an estimate from Altoona Stairlift.

Work on the drainage issues in the parking lot will be taken care of by Danny Muth.

The committee will need to meet for a few fixer uppers before homecoming.

Erica States will take care of the sign in front of the Church.

The We Care Pregnancy collection service will be September 28.

Bobbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bob seconded.

The next Consistory meeting will be July 9 at 7pm.



## VISITATION COMMITTEE

This is a committee we had many years ago. I remembered Barry Fillman saying it was a big help to him as the Pastor. I even called him to see if he remembered the committee and he indeed did. He also said it meant a lot to people that we visited. It is enjoyable for those being visited and the teams visiting.

The way the committee worked was we had a book with names of those to visit, elderly, those having health issues. We had people that were on the book much of the time, also short term surgeries, health issues, etc. We were constantly adding to the book and taking those off that were no longer needing visits. Anyone can make additions if they know of someone that may appreciate a visit. It does not have to be a member, someone in the neighborhood may be included.

We went out as a team (2 people) you could pick your teammate. The team would have the book for a week and commit to visit at least 1 person (more if you had time) that week. You would write in the book who you visited and the date, that way we would not be visiting the same people. You are free to visit those you know best and would be more comfortable visiting. At the end of the week you would give the book to the next team listed in the book. If you had a reason that week would not be good, you can exchange with another team. It is probably a good idea to contact people before you visit as they may have appointments, etc.

If we have enough interest, it could be weeks or even months before the date you would have the book and need to visit again. We think of our shut-ins, those that cannot get out much because of physical problems, we pray for them, but many are lonely and would enjoy company. We enjoy going to Church on Sunday and just visiting with friends and it is nice for people to know that the people they talked to in church haven't forgotten them. During the greeting time in Church it gets rather loud and you can tell the people could talk a lot longer. Ha! We enjoy each other!

If this is something you would be interested in helping with, contact Loretta Shepler or Lane Weber. If you have any suggestions, you could also pass them along.



## Grandpa's Justice

by Greg Peace

My Grandpa was the late Willis H. Strouse (1895-1968). Willis owned and worked a farm in the Paradise Section of Winslow Township along the now named Blose Hill Road and situated directly across the road where Marty Strouse has a motorcycle repair shop.

Grandpa related a story to me about an incident he experienced as a young, adult man. This particular day, Grandpa observed four teenaged boys in his apple orchard, which lay below his house. The boys had picked a quantity of fresh apples and were now stuffing them into their shirts. Well Grandpa being a farmer, who made his living from the sale of farm products, could not tolerate the theft of his apples so he arranged to intercept the boys and catch them "Red Handed".

Grandpa described a long ditch that ran near the orchard and angled up to the township road. When the boys emerged from the ditch onto the road, Grandpa was right there to apprehend them! Grandpa was described as a man that possessed extra ordinary strength but how he was able to corral four, fleet, footed boys, I know not how. Perhaps the boys were more respectful in those times or Grandpa had his hands on one or two of the boys, he never said.

Grandpa then led the four boys down the road a good distance to an access door on the ground floor of his barn. When Grandpa built the barn, he had constructed a doubled chambered, concrete cistern on the house side of the barn hill for domestic water. On the other side of the hill Grandpa had made a root cellar to store potatoes, carrots and apples during the long winters. Grandpa then opened the door of the root cellar, placed the four boys within, then closed and locked the door behind them, thus, imprisoning the boys.

A few hours later, Grandpa returned to the root cellar to find four very scared boys with tears streaming down their faces. At this point Grandpa decided the boys had been punished enough and subsequently turned them loose with their promise to never return to his farm again. Well the boys must have had enough for they all tore up the road just as fast as they could run toward their home in Sykesville. Grandpa described the one boy as being African American, about a head taller than the others, with very long legs so he soon pulled a considerable distance ahead of the other boys. It must have been quite a spectacle to see those boys run up the road the way that they did for Grandpa was still laughing about it 50 years later.



## Grandpa's Justice (continued)

A couple of weeks later when Grandpa was in Sykesville where he happened to cross paths with the father of one of the apple-stealing boys, Grandpa gave the father an earful about their poor behavior and judgement and that he needed to evoke some sort of punishment to prevent future devilment and behavior. The father told Grandpa in very broken English, "No got good place to pen them up like you do!", then Grandpa laughed again.

If you enjoyed this true tale and think that it would be a great gag to play on your neighbor; then think again. Intentional imprisonment of your fellow man may carry sever and harsh penalties.



## Women's Service Group - Birthday Party



The Womens Service Group hosted a birthday party for the residents of the DuBois Nursing Home on Monday, June 30th. Twenty-two residents attended along with several staff members and guests. Multiple entertaining articles and poems read by the members were well received by those attending. Musical selections were played with many present singing along. A small keepsake gift of a pocket cross was given to those attending. Our program concluded with all present enjoying cupcakes, ice cream and punch provided by the Women's Service Group members. Everyone attending seemed to enjoy our special program and treats.

## Women's Service Group - Christmas in July

Women's Service Group will be collecting items for a Sunshine Basket for Michelle Pifer. We plan on giving the basket to her on July 16<sup>th</sup> at our meeting which will have a Christmas in July theme. We are calling it Christmas in July because our Christmas meeting is usually hosted by Michelle, who always goes all out on food and preparation. Due to Michelle being sick last December, she was unable to host so we decided to make July's meeting an honorary Christmas meeting and a time to visit and spend time with Michelle. We are opening the meeting to anyone in the church that would like to come. We will be providing snacks and drinks. The meeting will be at 7 PM. If you have any questions, contact a member of Women's service group.





## Vacation Bible School 2025 Recap

Paradise was abuzz as Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School came to life on June 16, 17, and 18, treating 30 children to a thrilling three-night journey of faith, fun, and discovery. Through spirited skits, interactive games, creative crafts, captivating science activities, and uplifting songs, the young adventurers experienced the transformative power of God's word.

Tracy Weber opened night #1 with an inspiring account of Jesus calling His disciples to join Him on a life-changing journey to become fishers of men, empowering the children to embark on their own path of discovery. The children also learned their memory verse, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." -Isaiah 43:2

The "Campfire Theatre" set the tone for an unforgettable experience on opening night as Lori Yohe, Lisa Triponey, and Tom Douthit expertly brought to life the heartwarming story of Mary and Martha welcoming Jesus into their home. The children learned a valuable lesson about the importance of presence, sharing, and meaningful connections – all while savoring a delightful treat of fresh bread, cheese, and biscuits.

On night #2, the "Campfire Theatre" came to life with Lori narrating, and Matt Smith, Bob Roy, Dean Reed, Jason Polito, and Lane Weber's comical retelling the inspiring tale of Zacchaeus, an unlikely inspiration who transformed his life by embracing Jesus' love and message. This uplifting story sparked a sense of hope and renewal among the children, reminding them that everyone deserves a second chance to make a positive impact.

As the curtain rose at the "Campfire Theatre" on night #3, Lori again narrated as Matt, Bob, Dean, Jason, and Lane reenacted the story of Jesus' final gathering with His beloved disciples; a poignant prelude to the crucifixion. As Jesus broke the bread and shared the wine, He revealed their deeper significance foreshadowing His imminent sacrifice where His body and blood would be given for the redemption of humanity. This transformative meal, commemorated as the Lord's Supper or Communion, stands as a testament to Jesus' unwavering commitment to His followers.

Each evening, Marissa and Janet Douthit welcomed all the children and led them in fun and thought provoking science experiments, and helped them created memorable crafts to commemorate the 2025 VBS experience.

Bobbi Becker, Patty Burkett, and Deja Burkett hosted a lively selection of games each evening to keep the children active and entertained.

Meghan Weber and Karen Villella assembled the to-go snacks sent home with the children each night. Meghan created special themes for each snack to coincide with each evening's Bible Story.

Abbi Pifer, Morgan Shepler, and Linda Blosh expertly guided the rafters on their journey through each VBS station. After each station was completed, the children were rewarded with a camping or rafting themed sticker to place in their Rolling River Rampage Passport as another commemorative element.

At the final closing gathering, Tracy recapped all the Bible Stories the children experienced throughout the week. She tied everything together with the story of how the time had come for the disciples to go out into the world, and with the love of Jesus always with them, they would be the ones bringing people closer to God.



## Vacation Bible School 2025 Recap (page 2)

The children learned that in the Bible, Jesus wasn't only talking to the people who were in the moment with Him, He speaks to us and wants us to:

- Follow Him on great adventures
- Accept one another
- Find joy in our relationship with Him
- Rest in knowing His love for us won't end
- Have peace of mind knowing we can do great things, overcome incredible obstacles, and invite others to go with us on our adventures with God



For the finale of VBS, Meghan gave each child a small flashlight, and the children lit up the stage singing "Good, Good Father" for everyone in attendance.

Vacation Bible School would not have been possible without the dedication of the volunteers. Please join me in offering thanks to them for their part in making VBS a success:

Meghan Weber, Lori Yohe, Karen Villella, Susan O'Harah, Marissa Douthit, Janet Douthit, Bobbi Becker, Lisa Triponey, Diane Carlson, Pam Rake, Patty Burkett, Deja Burkett, Tom Douthit, Bob Roy, Dean Reed, Jason Polito, Matt Smith, Lane Weber, Abbi Pifer, Morgan Shepler, and Linda Blosh. Also, thank you to everyone who allowed us to borrow props to make VBS come to life!

-Tracy Weber





Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free.

- *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*



#### The Garden Of Pensiveness

Flowers are nature's quiet miracles,  
Soft yet powerful,  
Fleeting yet unforgettable.

In celebration, they explode with joy,  
Colors dancing like confetti tossed by the earth,  
Marking life's sweetest moments  
With beauty and fragrance.

In love, they become tender messengers,  
Saying more with a single bloom  
Than words ever could.

In grief, they offer silent companionship,  
Standing beside sorrow with grace,  
Reminding us that life and loss  
Are forever intertwined.

In healing, they teach the art of resilience,  
How to open again after the coldest seasons,  
How to reach for light  
Even when buried in shadow.

Flowers don't just decorate our lives; they dignify them.

In every petal, a whisper of hope.  
In every stem, a reason  
to celebrate being alive.

~ 'The Language of Flowers' by  
The Garden Of Pensiveness

~ Author Unknown via Pinterest

