

Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church
112 West Pike Street
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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Office Contact:

Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM
Phone: (724) 745-0800
Fax: (724) 745-0815

Email: cupc@canonsburgup.org
www.canonsburgup.org

Follow Us!

Worship with Us In-Person and Online
8:30 & 11:00 AM (through May 17)
10:00 AM (May 24-August 16)
Stream on YouTube and Facebook Live

Summer Worship Schedule

One Worship
Service
10:00 AM
(May 24 thru Aug. 16)



Summer 2026 (May, June, July)
THE SPIRE
A Publication of Canonsburg UP Church

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.” – Mark 13:28

Dear Friends,
Summer is Near!

Even if the temperature overnight is still coming close to freezing, the buds, the grass, the afternoon sun and your very heart *knows* that Summer is coming! So across these pages we’ve got lots of information about how you can gather, give, and go this summer to grow in Jesus at Canonsburg. From old staples like the Fair and VBS to new offerings like a Washington County Day Camp, sponsored by Pine Springs Camp or a Meal Program at Canonsburg UMC, partnering with the LeMoyne Center. We’ve also got a Wild Things game, 4th of July festivities and some special worship opportunities throughout the summer. So when you’re not off gallivanting the globe on vacation – there’ll be something exciting going on here to get plugged in.

Speaking of worship, the Session appreciated all the feedback provided from our worship survey. The Worship & Music Team reviewed it, as did the Session, and the answers and feedback will be very helpful as we continue to offer the best possible worship experience to our members and our greater community. While it was great to see the vast majority of you believe our worship is meaningful and spiritually engaging, it was clear from the feedback and the continued conversations amongst leaders that we want it to be even more meaningful and spiritually engaging. These conversations are happening with the Session, the Worship & Music Team and in the *Future of the Church Task Force* as well. Not only do we want to grow individually, we want our worship services themselves to grow and become places of meaningful encounters with Jesus that spur us on throughout our week and our lives.

One important decision that the Session made at its most recent meeting was to set the Summer Worship Schedule. We will have one 10a service from May 24 through August 16. We will return to 2 services (8:30a & 11a) starting with the Church Picnic Sunday, August 23.

Two things that I should share with regards to this. First, one of the primary goals of the survey was to get a handle on the wider church’s idea of the best plan for when best worship this summer should be held, and whether that should be a single service (as we have done for the past several years) or simply continue with two services, as we do most of the year. Despite some of the questions, there was not a goal to move to a single service permanently, all year round – but it was clear from some of the comments that several people were concerned that this was in the plans.

Admittedly, coming out of Covid, we averaged 151 people in worship across all of 2022, where the 11a service was as lowly attended as 48 people. At that time, there was real discussion about whether or not two services was the best course of action for our church. We all know (and many of you expressed in the survey, and across multiple other platforms), the immense joy of worshipping in a *full sanctuary*, with the opportunity to meet new people. However, we are in the midst of our fourth year of worship attendance growth. We are up 40% from 2022, and our 8:30a service *alone* is nearly as high as what we were worshipping between *two* services just four years ago.

Which leads to the second point, it may be that the Summer of 2026 is the last time where we can feasibly gather in a single worship service because we are *outgrowing* one service!

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Cover Photo: Taken at
250th Celebration Lunch
welcoming back Rev. Dave
Mayo (February 2026)

From seats in the pews (where we can *squeeze* in 250) to spots in the parking lot (where we have only 100 before people are forced to find street parking), when we have 150 in worship it *feels* full in many ways. And we have averaged over 160 each of the past two summers, with a high of 196 for a single summer service last year.

The Session prayerfully discussed and discerned that for *this* Summer, a single 10a service was what God was leading us to do. We recognize that this is not *perfect* for everyone. For some early-birds, it cuts into their day. For others, it means you don’t get to sleep in as late on Summer Sundays. For *everyone* it means an adjustment to your regular routine.

But that’s where it comes full circle. We intend to have worship services that aren’t just “ho-hum” *throw-away* services, where those of us who are leading are *mailing it in* because it’s “*just the summer.*” No, we want to strive for *excellence* this summer. We want our worship to be a place of joy, of peace, of celebration – a place where we truly strive to encounter the person of Jesus Christ, by the Spirit, in unique and profound ways. My commitment to you is that whatever time our Session determines we will gather for worship, however many times in a day that is, I will be seeking that excellence so we can *all* grow! I know Kenton, Megan and everyone else who steps up to lead will too! Speaking of... we’d love to have you share a gift or talent, musical or otherwise, in worship this Spring, Summer and beyond!

Welcoming You to Grow in Jesus as we worship, serve and celebrate this Summer,
Pastor Don

Your Help Needed to Serve the Best Food at the Fair!!



We are looking for teen and adult volunteers to help run our food booth at the Washington County Fair. There is a place for everyone! Volunteer opportunities include working the grill, fryer, sandwich and salad prep, cashier, order taking and more. It is a fun way to connect with other church members and your fair admission is free. Contact Cathy in the church office at 724-745-0800 to sign up.

Parents, family members and friends can volunteer and earn funds for their child’s Christian Summer Camp account. If your child is ages 8-12, your child can work alongside you and ages 13 and up can work at the fair for themselves. Contact Cathy (see above) to get scheduled.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT THE WILD THINGS GAME

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 | GAME VS JOLIET SLAMMERS 4:05 PM

Our Canonsburg UP and UP with Kids families are headed to the ballpark again this summer. This year’s seating will be in general admission, though we will all sit together.

Tickets will be \$10 per adult. Kid tickets (12 and under) are free. Kid tickets also include a complimentary hot dog, bag of chips and a drink.

Tickets available to purchase May 10 through Wednesday, May 27 after church in Fellowship Hall or in the church office. Contact Cathy Stewart in office with questions.

The logo for the "Wild Things" baseball team, featuring a stylized red and white "W" with a cartoon animal head inside.

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Sonshine Station on Summer Break—But You Can Still Connect with Jesus This Summer!

Though Sonshine Station will not be meeting this summer, we will be having Children’s Church for children who’ve just completed Kindergarten through 5th grade in Room 206 immediately following the children’s moment. Nursery care will still be available for infants - 5 year olds. We also have a basket of quiet activities in the upstairs lobby and children’s worship bulletins filled with activities for kids to enjoy during service.

May 24- Aug. 16: Children’s Church in Room 206. Dismissal during worship after children’s moment.

August 23: 8:30 AM service in sanctuary. No Sonshine Station or Children’s Church. 11:00 AM service at North Strabane Park (McClelland) with annual church picnic following.

A colorful illustration of a green and yellow rocket ship launching into space, with a blue eye-like shape on its side.

A logo for "ROAR!" featuring a lion's head inside a circular frame with the word "ROAR!" in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, a banner says "Life is Wild God is good".

Prayer Request | Vacation Bible School

We are looking forward to a WILD week this summer at **ROAR VBS** from July 6-10. Lots of preparation goes into having a week when 100 staff share the Gospel with about 200 kids each day. Many hands are needed before, during, and after the actual week of VBS.

We are offering **3 ways for you to help**. **First**, volunteer in some way to be actually present. In addition to our craft, rec, snack, and music teams, a new team will be formed this year - a **construction crew** to set up and tear down all VBS areas. We are asking you to sign up with Dick Hultman to stay for about an hour after church on July 5 and again on July 12 to move tables and chairs into all classrooms. And, we'll need additional helpers during the day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday June 29 - July 1 to set up the stage and hallway.

A **second** way you can help is by supporting us financially. For over 30 years, we have presented all the kids and teachers a VBS t-shirt. This year the price of those shirts is about \$8.50 each.

A **third** way each of you can help is to pray for our program, the kids, and staff involved. Every song, every Bible story, every skit, every game, every craft is intentionally included to point to Jesus. While there will be plenty of fun, the bottom line is that no child will leave without hearing about God’s good plan for us and what Jesus did for us. A large portion of the attendees will come from other churches or from a family that doesn’t have a church home. What an opportunity to share the Gospel to our community and to show what a loving body of believers we have in our church!

Vacation Bible School

July 6-10, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Ages 4 - 6th Grade

Register mid-May
at canonsburgup.org

A photograph of a savanna landscape with a lion walking in the foreground and other animals in the distance.

CANONSBURG UP CHURCH ACTIVE CHRISTIAN SENIORS'

SUMMER LUNCHEON

A graphic featuring a smiling sun, a watermelon slice, a beach ball, and a bucket with a shovel.

Monday, June 8

11:00 AM | Fellowship Hall

Entertainment: Enjoy the music of
“The Sunshine Boys”

Lunch Menu: To Be Determined

Save the Date! Tickets Available Soon!



Sunday, August 23
11:00 AM Service | Picnic at Noon
North Strabane Park | McClelland Pavilion

Enjoy the beauty of worshipping God outdoors. The picnic is a great time for children and adults of all ages to fellowship and have fun! The church provides chicken, hot dogs and beverages as well as plates, cups, napkins & plasticware. Gather to Grow requests that you bring a a side dish to share.

For now, save the date! We will request an RSVP a little closer to the picnic. We look forward to seeing all of you!!

Volunteer to Feed Kids this Summer

We are partnering with Canonsburg United Methodist Church and LeMoyne Community Center in Washington PA to provide summer lunches for kids in June and July. If you'd be able to volunteer some time on Tuesday or Thursday from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM beginning June 8, please reach out to the church office to connect with Claudia Philips.

Grow in Your Faith, Make New Friends, & Have Fun at Pine Springs Camp

Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown, PA is committed to providing vital encounters with Christ. They offer life-changing summer camp opportunities for kids of all ages. Camperships from CUPC are available. Contact Cathy in the church office once you register for a Christian summer camp of your choice.

****New for 2026 **** PSC is on the road to Washington, PA (August 3-7) for their traveling day camp. PSC Day Camp is a wonderful way to experience camp life for a week. All campers will participate in traditional PSC activities such as Bible Studies, arts and crafts, nature activities, sports, camp songs and Slip-N-Slide, and will also choose an elective for the week. Visit pinesprings.org.

If you'd be interested in serving with the daycamp, please reach out to Cathy in the church office for details.



Pictured (left to right): *Doug Jone, Jeannie Jones, Colleen Valosen, Gary Yarbrough, Colleen Yarbrough, Bart Lorusso, Taylor Riedel and Kendall Riedel*

A team of 8 traveled to Honduras on a mission trip in March. Our church has sponsored the village of Lomas de Aguila for eight years and our team was honored to visit. They welcomed us with hugs and appreciation for our past donations that helped build a multi-purpose covered pavilion.

Their current project is updating the water supply and by next year they hope to have a 20,000 gallon water tank to share with another village over the mountain. Thank you CUPC for helping people who have a different language and a different nation but the same God. The team is anxious to share pictures and stories at a future worship service.



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