



**Nesquehoning
Meed's
Children's
Summer Lunch
Program**

**Carbon County Community
Foundation**

20/20 Club Grant Proposal

Who are We?

- **Meed's Memorial United Methodist Church is located right in the center of Nesquehoning. My guess would be that everyone in this room has driven by our church. I like to say we are the "big red church with the town clock on top."**
- **When I say that, most people in Carbon County usually respond with a knowing "oh that one."**



Our Sister Churches

- **We are blessed to serve collaboratively with two sister churches, Summit Hill UMC and Quakake Ebenezer UMC.**
- **Volunteers from all three churches work together to make the Nesquehoning Summer Lunch program a reality.**



**Our names are
Pastors Sheena
and John
Mylecraine.
We serve all
three churches
together. We
take ourselves
incredibly
seriously...**





Our Mission

- **The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**
- **The Mission of Meed's Memorial United Methodist Church is to advance the Kingdom of God through discipleship, worship, and service to our community.**

Why do We Serve?

- **We are simple folk. We don't fixate on fancy theology or lofty theories. We just do everything that we can to live in the image of Jesus Christ. Christ served so we serve.**
- **We strive to reflect the love and the grace that God has shown to us outward into our troubled world. All of the good that comes through us, is just reflected outward from God.**



What is the Summer Lunch Program?

- In its simplest term, the Nesquehoning summer lunch program is a ten-week program where we as a congregation feed the children of Nesquehoning.
- It is housed in our church and is open from 11AM – 1PM Monday through Friday.
- It runs during the time when the Panther Valley School District is not serving lunches to the children of Nesquehoning.





Who Do We Serve?

- **We serve anyone who walks through our doors.**
- **There are no religious requirements, registration, or residency or eligibility requirements.**
- **If you are hungry, you will be fed.**

What Kind of Lunch is Served?

- We serve hot lunches for children in our fellowship hall.
- The menu is varied by week, but it is your traditional “school lunch” type of options (chicken patties, hamburgers, pizza, fish sandwiches, etc.). We serve a couple of sides every day.
 - We also have “alternative options” for children who are not big fans of the daily lunch option.





Family Promises of Carbon County

Community Connections

- **Family Promise of Carbon County is within walking distance of our church.**
- **Families and children from this valuable community program attend our summer lunch program on a daily basis.**

A Community Lunch Program

- **In addition to serving as the pastor for these three local churches along with my wife, I have been a special education teacher for the past twenty-three years.**
- **I know that for many students, school is the safest, most predictable, and most stable part of their lives.**



A Community Lunch Program

- **During the summer, many of these children struggle.**
- **The summer lunch program provides a safe space community space for children for two hours a day.**
- **Many of the children stay with us for an extended period of time each day.**
 - **This picture was from our Bible School this past year...**





Why are We Seeking Your Assistance?

- **We as a church have paid for this summer lunch program for the past few years.**
- **We are running at a deficit presently due to a declining congregation and some major capital expenses in the last few years (boiler replacement, roof.)**
- **A couple of decades ago, there were five Protestant churches in Nesquehoning, today there is one.**

What is our Budget and Where does the Money Go?



- **We are requesting \$4000 for this program.**
- **The entire budget will be used on food and paper products.**
- **The program is an all-volunteer endeavor.**
- **This past summer, we served 1473 meals with a budget of \$2060.**

Why are We asking for More than We Spent Last Year?

- We hope to use the expanded budget to institute a healthier and more varied menu. The overall cost will still be less than \$3 a meal.
- Also, as everyone in this room knows, food prices are on the rise.
- In addition, pandemic related assistance is being phased out and people are hurting. We see this in our monthly food bank distributions at our church each month.



Why is this Program Vital and Necessary?

- **There is no alternative for children seeking a lunch during the summer months in the town of Nesquehoning.**
- **Every cent you give will be used directly to purchase food for children in need.**
- **It is a simple program, but the need and the benefit is hard to estimate.**

**There is beauty in
simplicity.**

Thank You for Your Consideration

- **Thanks for your time.**
- **Simply, we need money to buy food to give to hungry kids. There is no profit for us, no overhead. Just buying food.**
- **In our minds, Christ would do it, so we as a church should too.**

