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### HUMC Summer Schedule Features Cook-Off And Magic Show



Father Leo Goodman of St. Mary's Parish in Lancaster will bring his popular magic show to Hempfield United Methodist Church on Friday, Aug. 6. There is no charge for admission to "Magical Revelations," which employs modern stage techniques and old-fashioned sleight of hand to convey stories from the Bible.

By Rick Hiduk

Hempfield United Methodist Church (HUMC), 3050 Marietta Ave., will host a magic show on Friday, Aug. 6. Prior to that, 14 teams of amateur cooks will work their magic on barbecue grills at the church for a cook-off to benefit HUMC's new sister church in Wachara, Kenya. The all-you-can-eat fundraiser is slated for Saturday, July 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to HUMC communications coordinator Matt Ralph, the relationship with the African church was fostered through visits to Kenya by HUMC parishioner and missionary Julie Campbell, who met weekly with Christians in Wachara to participate in services held under a tree.

Last year, Campbell brought home the exciting news that the Kenyans had expressed a desire to start a UMC church of their own. A request at Christmastime by HUMC senior pastor John Longmire for parishioners to include the people of Wachara in their circle of gift-giving led to a total of \$25,000 in donations, which was funneled through global faith mission organization Building Hope to initiate the construction of a building that could serve as a church and school. All proceeds from the barbecue cook-off will go to Building Hope to help the congregation in Wachara.

Longmire and six additional HUMC members will travel to Kenya in August to assess the progress of the construction and to continue the building of the relationship between the two churches.

"There's a lot of need (in Wachara) and a lot that we can do to support them," noted Ralph.

HUMC parishioner Julie Welles is coordinating the cook-off, which will feature a wide variety of food. Members of each team will decide what they want to cook, and local businesses will donate the meat.

The event is intended as a friendly competition between cooks of all skill levels and will include both HUMC teams and nonmember teams, several of which will pit their barbecued ribs against each other. Other teams will grill pork, chicken, fish, and beef brisket. Desserts, beverages, and shaved Italian ice will round out the menu.

"The focus is on having fun," said Ralph, who noted that tickets may be purchased in advance at a discount by calling 285-5156, or they may be purchased the day of the event. Barbecue team registration forms and rules are available on the church website, [www.hempfieldumc.com](http://www.hempfieldumc.com).

Father Leo Goodman of St. Mary's Parish in Lancaster will seek to feed souls on Aug. 6 by utilizing modern stage illusions and sleight of hand. The free performance will begin at 7 p.m.

"Father Leo is pretty wellknown in the area. He does a lot of shows for kids," said Ralph. The free program is sponsored by HUMC's senior adult ministry and is geared for entire families. Goodman was ordained into the priesthood in 1991 and first tried his hand at illusion more than a decade ago to teach children Bible lessons in a way they could easily remember. He refers to his show, titled "Magical Revelations," as "illusion ministry."

"It's certainly something that people don't see every day," Ralph remarked. For more information about Goodman, interested readers may log on to [www.magicalrevelations.org](http://www.magicalrevelations.org).

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