



# THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

MARCH 2020

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,



On Thursday, March 19 the Church celebrates and remembers Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord. Many times Joseph gets lost in the shuffle of things; especially during the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. I have a hunch that is why the Church Calendar has retained his feast day of March 19, to remind us that Joseph has much to teach us and should not be brushed aside and referred to as simply "Mary's husband".

Joseph was a man of faith. Joseph epitomized faith as trust; trust in God's plan. It's easy to forget that Joseph was visited by an angel just as was Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah and the shepherds; how he learned of the gospel by divine revelation and not human witness. If Joseph had not taken the angel's words to heart, he might have made the choice to break off his engagement to Mary; to choose the obvious and rush to judgment as was the law. Instead Joseph chose to trust God. Joseph chose to hear the good news; he chose to live the good news. Joseph is an example of how Jesus changes lives. Jesus asks us to consider God's possibilities in the midst of a society and world that announces there is only hate and judgment. Joseph teaches us that the obvious, the literal, the legal, the reasonable, the popular, isn't always of God. As Jesus teaches, "The Spirit blows where the Spirit will (John 3:8)" and we are asked to be receptive to the Spirit's invitation.

The example of Joseph is an example of how we as followers of Jesus should live our lives; how we are to embrace with trust God's promises. Lent is a reminder of that truth; it is a time of reflection; a time to remember God's love and God's promises. Lent fosters within us discipleship; it proclaims to us that following Jesus means to trust in the Spirit; to consider God's work and way in this world as did Joseph.

Years ago there was a popular commercial for orange juice: "Orange juice—it isn't just for breakfast anymore!" A similar sentiment can be said with regard to remembering Joseph in the Season of Lent: "Joseph, he isn't just for Christmas!" Joseph like all of the saints of scripture, provides a biblical and faithful example of life lived for and by Christ.

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Brian Vasey

## MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Saturday, February 29 & Sunday, March 1, Lent I, Holy Communion, Setting 10 ELW
- Saturday, March 7 & Sunday, March 9, Lent II, Holy Communion, Setting 10 ELW
- Saturday, March 14 & Sunday, March 15, Lent III, Holy Communion, 10 ELW
- Saturday, March 21 & Sunday, March 23, Lent IV, Holy Communion, Setting 10 ELW
- Saturday, March 28 & Sunday, March 29, Lent V, Holy Communion, Setting 10 ELW

Our mid-week Wednesday Lenten Services begin on March 4, 11:30 am, in the Chapel. Our time together will be followed by a light lunch of soup and bread in the Fellowship Hall. St. Luke All are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Organist and Choir Director

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, Church Council recently unanimously approved Sam Robinson as our next organist and choir director. Sam is a Magma Cum Laude graduate of Bucknell University and is pursuing a master's degree online through Boston University. During the week, he is employed by the Williamsport Area School District as a choral and classroom music teacher. Sam's first Sunday with us will be May 24, 2020.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ORGAN FUND DONATION UPDATE

As of January 31, 2020, we have received \$21,572 in donations for the organ fund, offsetting the cost of the repairs that totaled \$17,482.00. This leaves us a balance of \$4,090 for future repairs. Thanks to all who contributed in many different ways to have the repairs completed in a timely manner.



God bless, the Finance Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

*A reminder:* during the Season of Lent, which includes the entire month of March, we will be using Holy Communion, Setting 10, from the ELW.

Setting 10 is the "Hymn Tune Setting" a fitting reflective and familiar liturgy for this season of preparation

# INDEX & UPDATE

## Inside This Issue:

From Pastor's Desk .....	1
February Worship Schedule .....	1
New Organist & Choir Director .....	1
Organ Fund Update .....	1
Join Us! .....	2
Looking Ahead to Holy Week .....	2
Council Notes .....	3
Becoming Plastic Foam Free .....	3
Operation Christmas Child .....	3
World Day of Prayer .....	3
Nibbles from the Church Mouse .....	4
Outreach Committee Thanks .....	4
Lunch 'n' Fellowship .....	4
February Ecumenical Lunches .....	4
Lenten Project .....	4
Be a Blessing .....	5
Shepherd of the Streets .....	5
MARCH SERVICE ASSISTANT SCHEDULES ..	5
Family Promise Volunteer Needed! .....	5
Lutheran Day at the Capitol .....	5
Sharing in the Caring .....	6
Family Promise Recycles .....	6
Raise the Region .....	6
Project Linus Susquehanna Valley .....	6
Food Pantry .....	7
Ecumenical Festival Choir .....	7
Dial-a-Devotion .....	7
Conversations in the Holy Land .....	7
Faxon Community Church Concert .....	7
Special Concerns List .....	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries .....	8
BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND .....	9
Poverty: A Faith-Based Response .....	9
March Calendar .....	10



## STAFF OFFICE HOURS

**Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey**  
 Mon—Thu 9am—2pm & by appointment

**Sexton: Lou DeSeau**  
 Sun—Thurs 5:30am—1pm

**Parish Musician:**

**Bookeeper: Jackie Baysore**  
 Tue & Thu 8am—12:00pm

**Secretary: Bernadette Jones**  
 Mon—Fri 9am—2pm

## JOIN US

*Saturday Eucharist, 4 pm*  
*Sunday Eucharist, 8 & 10:30 am*  
*Sunday Church School, 9:15 am*  
*All are welcome.*

## LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday with the reading of the Passion

Monday, April 6:

Tuesday, April 7: The cantata “The Weeping Tree,” a Service for Holy Week, at Christ Episcopal, at 7:00pm.

Wednesday, April 8: The Seder Meal, here at St. Mark's, at 6:15pm. Please call the office to let us know you're coming!

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion and foot-washing at 7:00pm

Friday, April 10: Tenebrae, the Service of the Shadows, at 7:00pm

Saturday, April 11: The Easter Vigil, beginning in the chapel at 8:00pm

Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday! Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:30am

**Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452**

**Website: [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

**Main e-mail: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

**Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor** [bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
 570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415

**Bernadette Jones, Secretary** [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

**Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper** [jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

**Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv.** [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

**Linda Rosini, Council President** [lr10152@yahoo.com](mailto:lr10152@yahoo.com)

**Becky Miller Pryor, Vice-President** home 570-971-4585

**Wanda Fortin, Secretary** 570-337-9137

**Jackie Kinney, Treasurer** [jskinney1@yahoo.com](mailto:jskinney1@yahoo.com)

**Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry** 570-433-0522

**Janet Jones, Parish Life** [jgmacookie@comcast.net](mailto:jgmacookie@comcast.net)

**Debra Buckman,** [dbuckman@pct.edu](mailto:dbuckman@pct.edu) or [dabuckman65@gmail.com](mailto:dabuckman65@gmail.com)

**Family Promise Coordinator**

**Kathy Kolb, Prayer Chain** [kathykolb@kolbnetworks.net](mailto:kathykolb@kolbnetworks.net)

**Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers** 570-494-6637

**Report of the Secretary for the Council meeting held on February 17, 2020**

– Wanda Fortin, Secretary

Present: Pastor Vasey, Carl Albright, Wanda Fortin, Ed Gair, Vicki Haussmann, Pam Jensen, Herb Poff, Becky Pryor, Linda Rosini, Mel Wentzel and Ralph Zeigler.

Linda Rosini led us in opening prayer. The meeting was called to order by Linda Rosini, Council President.

The Secretary’s minutes from the January 2020 council meeting were accepted as presented.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted as presented.

Pastor’s report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

**Communications:**

Alona Hopler’s family agreed to purchase a new Christ candle with part of Alona’s Endowment. They are also exploring the possibility of purchasing a new Dossal once the cost is established.

**Committee Reports:**

**Worship & Music:** As submitted. Next meeting April 26, 2020.

**Faith & Fellowship Committee:** As submitted. Next meeting: March 5, 2020 at 10:45 a.m.

**Outreach Committee:** As submitted. Next meeting: March 31, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Publicity Committee:** Next meeting February 18, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

**Property Committee:** As submitted. Next meeting March 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved rekeying the exterior church doors at an approximate cost of \$1,800.

**Personnel Committee:** As submitted. Next meeting: TBD  
Approved hiring Sam Robinson as our Church Organist/Choir Director as stipulated in the Letter of Employment

**Safety Committee:** As submitted. Next meeting March 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Ongoing business:**

- Approved to accept the Gift Acceptance Guidelines as presented.
- The Wedding Policy was tabled for further review.
- Approved Facility Use Policy as presented.
- Approved to accept the St. Mark’s Lutheran Church Key Distribution Policy for Exterior Keys as presented.
- Approved to accept the Civic Chorus annual fee of \$700.

New Business: None

Concerns from Council – None

Prayer at the end of the day – Pastor Vasey

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Next meeting: March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

*For a full report please consult the bulletin board by the church office in the Parish House.*

**BECOMING PLASTIC FOAM FREE**

*United Churches of Lycoming County is now able to partner with interested congregations and small businesses to provide some replacement cups and clamshell-to-go-containers at no cost to you, to help you discover what will work best for you.*

God calls us to be responsible stewards of God’s creation.

One of the most polluting substances we have in our communities is plastic foam, better known by the brand name Styrofoam®. Plastic foam takes anywhere from decades to millennia to decompose, and it releases toxic chemicals as it breaks down. Unfortunately, plastic foam is very common—in our trash, landfills, streets, and even our beloved rivers and streams. Such pollution sickens our natural world and breaks God’s heart. Thank you for caring!

\*\*\*\*\*

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

“I took each item out of my box one by one. I wanted to rejoice for everything.” ~ Andy, shoe box recipient.

Please consider donating to our shoebox collections each month. The items are small, and yet so meaningful to the child who receives them. Our St. Mark’s goal for 2020 is to fill 45 shoeboxes in November.

In March, we will be collecting:

- ⇒ Combs/Brushes
- ⇒ Toothbrushes/Plastic Toothbrush Cases
- ⇒ Soap/Plastic Soap Boxes



These items (or any others) can be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. We thank you for your generosity!

\*\*\*\*\*

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

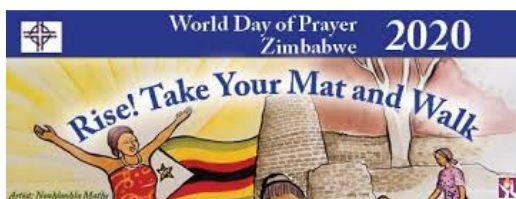
Church Women United of Lycoming County will gather on Friday, March 5 to celebrate World Day of Prayer.

**DATE: Friday, March 6, 2020**

**TIME: 1:30 PM**

**PLACE: First Church of Christ Disciples  
1250 Almond Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701**

**THEME: “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk.”**



**All  
Are  
Welcome!**



# Nibbles from the Church Mouse

As I sit here it is very cold outside but the sun is shining—what a difference that makes! I am counting on the groundhog to deliver an early spring, as he promised, but time will tell!

Recently Gary Weber was awarded the William Nichols Community Service Award from the law association. Congratulations to Gary for a well deserved honor. He was part of our call committee and his dedication and commitment were much appreciated. Gary volunteers at the church and the Lycoming County Historical Society among other places. Good work!

St. Mark's still has its share of dedicated thespians—Nick Buckman played Cyrano DeBergerac in the production at the RiverStage Theater in the old Lewisburg High School. And, don't forget Elizabeth Haussmann will be coming up this month as Annie in the production of the same name! ("Annie" opens March 20 and runs for two weekends at Community Theatre League)


I am always combing the newspaper for items about St. Mark's folks and I came across an item about Michael Ditchfield. He was doing a demonstration of the proper way to prepare mushrooms at the Farm Show—wouldn't it be fun to have him come to St. Mark's for some event and repeat the presentation?

And a last thought with upcoming multiple services for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, Pastor Vasey has his hands full trying to fill the slots for organist with a limited pool. I would ask that if any of you could be of help please let him know and if nothing else give him lots of moral support as he tries to juggle multiple tasks!

Keep in touch, the mouse,  
*Joyce Hershberger*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Valentine's Day Wishes

 The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their enthusiastic support of our recent Valentine's Day card event. Local folks on the Special Concerns List and others we do not see as often as we wish received a cheery card. We feel certain there were many smiling faces when those sweet cards arrived. Plan on helping us again send cards just in time for Easter.

## FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH 'N' FELLOWSHIP WEDNESDAY, MAR. 17, AT NOON



*The menu on this day is Baked Ham!*

**COME AND ENJOY!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## February Ecumenical Lunch

Join us at Pine Street UM Church Wednesdays for lunch and an interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

Please note that if the Williamsport Area School District closes schools because of winter road conditions we will not have Ecumenical Lunch. If you aren't sure what we are doing, call Gwen at 570-419-1464.

### MARCH:

- The People Jesus Met On His Way to Jerusalem**
- 4 - **Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza**, Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, *"Zacchaeus"* Luke 19:1-10
- 11- **Rev. Glenn McCreary**, Resurrection Catholic Church, Muncy, *"The Disciple Who Wanted To Know More About Prayer"* Luke 11:1-13
- 18- **Rev. David Smith**, Montoursville Presbyterian Church, *"The Brother Who Wanted Some Of The Family Inheritance"* Luke 12: 13-21
- 25- **Rev. Brad Walmer**, New Covenant United Church of Christ, Williamsport, *"The Lawyer Who Tests Jesus"* Luke 10:25-37.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Lenten Project


The Faith and Fellowship and Outreach Committees are asking for your help. During Lent, coin folders will be available for your use. We ask that each day you say a prayer and add a quarter to the folder. At the conclusion of Lent return the filled folder to church. These many quarters will be counted and given to the Shepherd of the Streets for their prescription fund. Coin folders are available in the Narthex.



\*\*\*\*\*

*"Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart."*

~ Martin Luther

The following was  posted on Facebook by Kay Poliska on Valentine's Day:

This Valentine's Day, remember the "givers" in your society, church, etc. You know, the first ones to reach even deeper into their pockets to give even more to worthy charities, sponsor a week of camp for a child, contribute to Christmas collections to help make a poor family's holidays better. They don't need much—but a simple card, even a hand-made card if you're broke, means so much to them. They don't hear a thank-you nearly often enough.

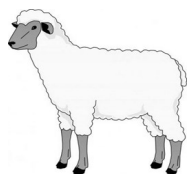
As I think over the past year, I would like to give a shout-out to everyone who contributed to my grandson's liver transplant. St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the staff at Loyalsock Area High School raised enough to cover the family's rent for several months. Several of my daughter's co-workers donated vacation days so she could stay in Philadelphia with her son. Others donated food for the family. Some people bought meal tickets so Ashton's parents could eat while he stayed at CHOP for 3 months. Everyone who donated to the "Go Fund Me." Those who have donated to the Make-A-Wish foundation will be happy to know they will be treating Ashton's family to a week in Florida to visit Disney, The Epcot Center, and Sea World.

While I hope I haven't missed anyone, I probably have. Please know that an omission is not intentional. Most sincere gratitude is sent out from the bottom of our hearts. Bernadette Haas Jones, please share with supportive church members who may not have Facebook. Ashton continues to do well and is meeting all his milestones. This is only possible because of each and every one in our community who reached out.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\***

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.,  
570-322-6538, [shepherd@uclc.org](mailto:shepherd@uclc.org)



**Human life is sacred.** Molded and crafted by God and brought to life by the Breath of God. That life is unique and matchless in all creation. Yet for each of us we sometimes face challenges and difficulties. For all too many life can become so diminished that it brings the hardships of poverty with it and often low self-esteem. Our Shepherd of the Streets Ministry often has the opportunity to speak to people who are struggling, and drop seeds of life and hope to hearts that have been battered with fear, desperation, poverty and/or inferiority.

To help us bring hope and help to those who ask, send a blessing to Shepherd of the Streets, Box P.O. 2184, Williamsport, PA 17703 and/or visit us at Shepherd of the Streets, 320 Park Ave., Monday—Thursday, 9am-2pm., and/or contribute by way of your 2020 Lenten offering.

**MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULES**

**USHERS**

3/1	Miller/Poff	Fortin Team/Ruth S.
3/8	Miller/Poff	AlbrightTeam/Sally B.
3/15	Miller/Poff	MaggsTeam/Connie S.
3/22	Miller/Poff	JensenTeam/Pam J.
3/29	Miller/Poff	Fortin Team/Cindy H.


**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

3/1	Drew Haussmann	Kathy Dancho
3/8		Dan Zeigler
3/15	Becky Pryor	Joyce Hershberger
3/22	Lou DeSeau	Ray Huff
3/29	Drew Haussmann	Deb Buckman

**LECTORS**

3/1	Dinah Labenberg	Joyce Hershberger
3/8	Walt Haussmann	Kathy Dancho
3/15	Becky Pryor	Kathy Eshelman
3/22	Leah Haussmann	Donna Boston
3/29	Drew Haussmann	Mary Ann Stiller

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (10:30)**

3/1	Dan Zeigler	
3/8	Carl Hieber	
3/15	Gregg Dancho	
3/22	Wanda Fortin	
3/29	Mel Wentzel	

\*\*\*\*\*

**Family Promise Volunteer Needed!**

Dave Williams, who has been serving as co-coordinator of our hosting here at St. Mark's, is stepping down from this position here and moving over to help more at his home congregation. Would someone please consider stepping up to fill his shoes? Please contact Deb Buckman regarding your interest.



\*\*\*\*\*

**May 18, 2020: Lutheran Day at the Capital**

Lutheran Day at the Capital is set for Monday, May 18, 2020. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA invites you to save the date and start promoting the event in your congregation. "Bring Your Faith to the Table" and join Lutherans from around the state for worship, learning, advocacy and action.

**Event Categories:**

Health Care, Homelessness, Housing, Human Trafficking, Hunger, Immigration, Interfaith, Racial Justice, Refugees, Sustainable Agriculture, Training, Water Justice, Economic Opportunity, Environment, Advocacy, Civic Participation, Climate, Criminal Justice, and Education

## Sharing in the Caring

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their donations of cocoa mix, Ramen Noodles, Cup of Soups and snack crackers for the Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC. New Covenant is grateful for these donations on behalf of the many people who stop each day looking for food.

### Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- \* United Churches Food Bank: Non-perishable food items are always in need. Mona Rundio, Coordinator of the pantry, encourages folks to purchase the BOGO specials and donate one to the food pantry.
- \* Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene items in regular sizes for infants, kids, and adults. Also needed are disposable diapers and new or gently used towels and bedding.
- \* Soda Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House: Containers are in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.
- \* Bazaar Room: The Women of St. Mark's continue to accept donations for the annual fall bazaar. Items should be packed into small boxes and placed away from the door. This year's sale is Saturday, September 12, 2020.

### Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:

- \* Free Community Dinner: Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 5:30-6:30. All are welcome.
- \* Daniel's Closet: Free seasonal clothing on Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 9:00—11:00am. Donations may be dropped off at Redeemer on March 26, from 4:00-6:00pm.



*If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Barb Horn @ 570-974-3744 or Carol Johnson @ 570-772-6674 to arrange a mutually convenient time to take your clothing directly to Redeemer Lutheran.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Recycle your Items at FPLC

Beginning January 4th and continuing throughout the year, the first Saturday of each month Family Promise of Lycoming County will be open for donations and as a food pantry and clothing closet. Hours are 10am-1pm.



If you would like a donation pick-up of items, we are available at that time to pick up your donation. Call the office at 570-567-7103 to get on our pick-up schedule.

We accept the following in good condition:

*couch            clothing            chair            kitchen items*  
*tables & end tables    dressers            appliances*

If you have questions please call us at 570-567-7103.

## Raise the Region

First Community Foundation of PA, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, will once again be launching a 30-hour online fundraising event starting Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 6:00pm though Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 11:59pm.

Take some time to visit [www.raisetheregion.org](http://www.raisetheregion.org) to see the many non-profit organizations accepting donations. A few charities that come to mind at St. Mark's are the Community Theatre League, Inc., Family Promise of Lycoming County, United Churches of Lycoming County, the SPCA and the Newberry Branch of NGA. All gifts are tax deductible and will help make your favorite nonprofit's mission possible.



\*\*\*\*\*

**The Project Linus Susquehanna Valley Chapter** is a 100% volunteer nonprofit organization that provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need, through the gifts of bright, new, handmade washable blankets, quilts and afghans. In our area, these blankets are distributed to UMPC Williamsport, Muncy Valley, Jersey Shore and Lock Haven Hospitals.

In addition, we deliver to Wise Options for Women, Family Promise, Warrior Run School District, Daniel's closet, other social services, police, and fire departments. In 2018, 800 blankets were distributed in our area; in 2019 that number increased to over 900. The need continues to grow as the weather turns colder and children are forced to sleep in their coats because the family can't afford heat.

With the aid of volunteers, we are establishing a Williamsport Community Make a Blanket day at St. Luke on May 2. The local chapter in Lewisburg hosts one every year, but many from this area can't attend. This way our community can help.

We are collecting materials for quilts, hand-tied fleece blankets, knitted and crocheted blankets. Items we need:

- NEW Cotton children's fabric
- Batting
- New flat bedsheets
- Minimum 2 yards of fleece (this makes one blanket)
- Take an already assembled kit of yarn to make granny squares or knit a blanket.

We will also accept donations of new or handmade quilts, afghans, and blankets at the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Nau at [nauhill2@comcast.net](mailto:nauhill2@comcast.net).



**FOOD PANTRY**

**Mona Rudio, Coordinator 570-322-1657**

**Email - [foodpantry@uclc.org](mailto:foodpantry@uclc.org)**

**We are so grateful** to all who have contributed to food that currently stocks our shelves. Our prayer is that the contributions continue so we can help those in need. We are all given the ability to help others and it is always amazing to see how you stretch your abilities and are so thoughtful and caring when shopping.

The pantry is never totally filled and it seems like things fly off the shelves as fast as we can get them stocked each week. Currently we are in need of the following items to help the families in our community:

- |                          |                       |               |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Canned Meat</i>       | <i>Canned Fruit</i>   | <i>Coffee</i> |
| <i>Baking Items</i>      | <i>Healthy Snacks</i> | <i>Pasta</i>  |
| <i>Canned Vegetables</i> | <i>Condiments</i>     | <i>Cereal</i> |

Location and Hours :

320 Park Ave., Williamsport, rear entrance  
 Monday—donations/stocking 9-1am  
 Tuesday and Thursday—clients 10:15am-2pm

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Ecumenical Festival Choir** is once again forming to begin rehearsals for their spring concert (April 26.)

This Ecumenical Choir is open to any youth or adult who *loves* to sing Sacred Choral Music. There are no auditions or robes. You do *not* need to sing in a church choir to sing in the Ecumenical Festival Choir. Spread the word ... All are welcome!

Call the Faxon Kenmar Church Office at 570-323-7272 to register. Registration is \$25, payable to Faxon Kenmar UMC. Rehearsals are at Faxon Kenmar, 1301 Clayton Ave., Williamsport, on the following dates:

Sunday Afternoons from 1-3pm on:  
 March 22 & 29  
 April 5 & 19  
 Dress Rehearsal: Saturday April 25 from 9am - Noon  
 Performance: Sunday April 26, Warm-up 1:15pm, Concert 2pm

\*\*\*\*\*

**DIAL -A -DEVOTION**

Have you called yet today?

The number is 570-322-5762, available 24/7

Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God."

- 3/2-8 Rev. Ron Shellhamer
- 3/9-15 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner
- 3/16-22 Ms. Pat Jenkins
- 3/23-29 Pastor Tammy Aichner
- 3/30-4/5 Ms. Yvonne Shenuski



Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

**INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS**

**Conversations in the Holy Land:** On January 8th, eight United Methodists from the Williamsport Area led by the Rev. Lenore Hosier from Saint John's-Newberry UMC boarded a flight to Tel Aviv from JFK to spend a week of immersion in the Land of the Bible. They joined with 34 other pilgrims from a variety of other Christian traditions to visit the sites of both the Old and New Testaments. Beginning in the North, they went to places such as Tel Dan, the Mount of the Beatitudes, and Capernaum. They took a boat across the Sea of Galilee and passed the snow-capped peaks of Mount Hermon on their way to the Golan Heights. From there, they ventured south along the Jordan to Jericho, Qumran, Masada, and the Dead Sea. A few final days around Bethlehem and ancient Jerusalem wrapped up the week-long trip, but this was not the full extent of their experience.

Among the other pilgrims was the Rev. Dr. Gary Mason, a Methodist minister, professor and conflict transformation consultant from Northern Ireland who led daily chats about peace-building and the Middle East. The group met Muslims, Christians, and Jews and got their perspectives on the situation in Israel and Palestine.

Pilgrims had opportunity to go to meals in the community in both Palestinian and Israeli homes to have open dialogue with people with differing viewpoints. At the trip's end, many agreed that the trip was life-changing, not only in their faith-walk but also in their thoughts about people from other faiths and in political views in the Middle East. It was not just the rocks and ancient churches that told stories of faith, but the people themselves who ate together, struggled together, laughed together and had fellowship with one another that allowed the participants to experience God in a profound, new way.



Rev. Hosier is part of the United Churches' Interfaith Dialogue Commission and willing to share resources about the Holy Land and Interfaith Dialogue. Fr. William Corcoran of St. Boniface/St. Lawrence Catholic Parish, with extensive work in the Middle East, is also a helpful resource for those interested in learning more or traveling to that part of the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Faxon Free Community Church Concert:**

These fantastic concerts held at Faxon Kenmar UMC, 1301 Clayton Avenue, Williamsport. Everyone is welcome on Sunday afternoon, March 1, at 2pm, when John Bate, organist from St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Ocean City, NJ, presents his program.

**SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST**

**Patricia Alexander**  
Rose View Center, 223B  
1201 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Catherine Lundy**  
c/o Carol Butters  
123 Aberdeen Road  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Betty Stroup**  
Rose View, Room 210  
1201 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Dottie Bingaman**  
Williamsport Home, Rm 309  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Ruth Pile**  
Wmspt Home Care Ctr #105A  
1900 Ravine Road  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Frank Ulman**  
Muncy Place, Room 132  
215 E. Water St.  
Muncy, PA 17756

**Marie Byerly**  
Arista Care Nursing Ctr.  
1445 Sycamore Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Kay Poliska**  
1100 Allen St.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Marion Waldeisen**  
Williamsport Home  
1900 Ravine Rd. Bldg C Apt. 1213  
Williamsport, PA 17701



**Elizabeth Ruesskamp**  
Rose View Center, 222B  
1201 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701



*Happy Birthday!*

Theodore Comerford	03/01
Ruth U. Pile	03/01
Trisha Harvey	03/05
Robert Shaible	03/06
Madison Walz	03/06
Michael Kinney	03/11
Romain Bastian	03/14
Roxanna Larson	03/15
Dinah Labenberg	03/16

Diane Bardsley	03/18
Diana Davenport	03/18
Gary Weber	03/24
Leah Haussmann	03/25
Sara Larson	03/25
Jonathan Bower	03/27
Sandra Edler	03/28
Mark Bittenbender	03/29
Tyler Bower	03/29
Carl Hieber	03/29

*Happy Anniversary!*

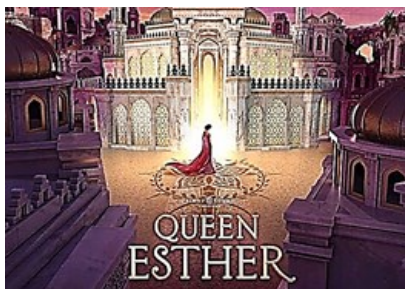
Gary & Donna Clark	03/06
--------------------	-------



**BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND**

A Susquehanna Trailways bus trip to Sight & Sound is planned for April 15, 2020. The cost for the trip is \$153 per person. Susquehanna Trailways has assured us that there is plenty of room—they will arrange additional buses as necessary.

Several members of the congregation already plan to go. For more information, please contact Cheryl or Dave Williams at 570-327-1627.



**POVERTY: A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**

He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save (Psalm 72:12-13). The verses from Psalm 72 hopefully will inspire us to rescue the poor when they are afflicted. The failure to raise the state's Minimum Wage is such an example calling us to take action.

**Take action** - Contact your House Representative - Ask your House member to support passage of increase in the state's Minimum Wage.

Hon. Garth D. Everett or  
400 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202084 P  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-5270

Hon. Jeff C. Wheeland  
427 Irvis Office Building  
O Box 202083  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-2885



**Sunday March 1, 2020**

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION  
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL Children & Adults  
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

**Mon March 2, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 6:00pm Safety Team meeting  
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue March 3, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 9:30am Staff Meeting  
 1:00pm City Pastors' Lunch

**Wed March 4, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 11:30am Midday Lenten Service  
 12:00pm Soup & Bread  
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch  
 7:00pm Evening Lenten Service at St. Luke

**Thu March 5, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 10:45am Faith & Fellowship

**Fri March 6, 2020**

**Sat March 7, 2020**  
 4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

**Sun March 8, 2020**

Daylight Saving Time begins  
 8:00am HOLY COMMUNION  
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL Children & Adults  
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

**Mon March 9, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue March 10, 2020**

**Council Agenda Due**  
 9:00am Morning Prayer  
 9:00am West Branch Conference meeting

**Wed March 11, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 11:30am Midday Lenten Service

12:00pm Soup & Bread  
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch  
 7:00pm Evening Lenten Service at St. Luke

**Thu March 12, 2020**

**Lion Article Deadline**  
 9:00am Morning Prayer  
 5:30pm Redeemer Community Meal

**Fri March 13, 2020**

12:00pm Alona Hopler Memorial Service

**Sat March 14, 2020**

4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

**Sun March 15, 2020**

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION  
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL Children & Adults  
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

**Mon March 16, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 6:00pm Civic Chorus Board Meeting  
**6:00pm Council Meeting**  
 7:00pm Wmspt. Dog Training Club  
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue March 17, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 9:30am Staff Meeting  
 6:30pm Property Committee

**Wed March 18, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 11:30am Midday Lenten Service  
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch  
 12:00pm Lunch 'n' Fellowship  
 4:00-6:30pm Lasagna Dinner & Trinity Episcopal  
 7:00pm Evening Lenten Service at St. Luke

**Thu March 19, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Fri March 20, 2020**

**Sat March 21, 2020**

4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

**Sun March 22, 2020**

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION  
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL Children & Adults  
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

**Mon March 23, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue March 24, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 9:30am Staff Meeting

**Wed March 25, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 11:30am Midday Lenten Service  
 12:00pm Soup & Bread  
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch  
 7:00pm Evening Lenten Service at St. Luke

**Thu March 26, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 4:00pm Daniel's Closet Drop-off

**Fri March 27, 2020**

**9:20am Lion Crew**

**Sat March 28, 2020**

9:00am Daniel's Closet  
 4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

**Sun March 29, 2020**

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION  
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL Children & Adults  
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

**Mon March 30, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue March 31, 2020**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
 10:30am Publicity Committee  
 9:30am Staff Meeting  
 6:30pm Outreach

