



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

JUNE 2021



Members and Friends of St. Mark's,



On Tuesday, June 29, the church remembers and celebrates the ministry of the great apostles Peter and Paul. Through the ministry of these two great leaders, we are reminded that the church is always called to be both catholic (a specific tradition) and Evangelical (of the good news).

In the gospel appointed for this day (John 21:15-19), Jesus asks Simon Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Peter answers in the affirmative and Jesus says to him, "Feed my lambs." Jesus' threefold question to Peter stood in direct contrast to Peter's threefold denial of Jesus prior to his crucifixion. In asking Peter the question, Jesus wanted to emphasize what the real cost of feeding his flock would be for Peter.

In the second reading appointed for this day (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18) Paul shares that, like Peter, he too came face to face with the realities of serving Christ, having to "fight the good fight" of faith.

Both Peter and Paul knew that what Christ asked of them was pastoral leadership:

- To love
- To teach
- To discipline (correcting in the way of Christ)
- To care

The ministry and way to which Jesus called Peter and Paul, is the way Jesus calls all disciples. A call not to moralize; not to chastise; not to make lists of more rules to "fix" the sheep. It is the way to feed them with the only food that truly sustains life: The Good News of God's infinite love.

The cost of doing so is great. It demands sacrifice and hardship. It often involves criticism and persecution. And yet, in this way of life, there is fulness of life and life eternal.

The way of Peter and Paul is the way of the church and reminds us that the blessings of God can only be achieved through grace, and in committing ourselves to the way and rule of Christ's love.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Please Note: Although the Center for Disease Control has provided new guidelines stating that some re-

strictions have now been lifted, Bishop Collins asks us to please continue to "wear masks when we gather." Our Congregational Council agrees with our bishop and so as a congregation we will continue to "stay the course by continuing to follow the precautions that we have put in place." These include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones, hand washing and using hand sanitizer often, and the use of "celebration cups" for holy communion. A full copy of Bishop Collins' recommendations is included in this month's Lion and is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you!

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at our worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Read any good books lately? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily "moved some books" from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

Thank You Kathy Eshelman and Matt Fortin! After many years of service, Kathy Eshelman has "retired" as coordinator of our Stephen Ministers. We thank Kathy for her many years of service and dedication to Stephen Ministry at St. Mark's. Matt Fortin, an experienced Stephen Minister, has agreed to become the new coordinator. Thank You Matt! If you wish to learn more about Stephen Ministry feel free to contact Matt (570-337-3023).

One Worship Time for Summer! Beginning June 6, St. Mark's will offer one Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 am. Our two worship times (8 am and 10:30 am) and Sunday Church School will return in the fall. We will continue to make available video worship from our website and Facebook page so that all may have the option to worship in-person or by way of video.

PASTOR'S VACATION: June 20-28
Pastor Vasey will be on vacation June 20-28 (returning to the church office on June 29). Should you need a pastor during this time, please contact the Rev. Ronald Montgomery:

Email: rgmontgomery527@gmail.com
Pastor Montgomery's Phone: 570-584-4465
Trinity Lutheran (Hughesville) 570-584-3490

Pastor Vasey's at church "Office Hours":

Monday- Thursday 9 am-Noon
 Friday Pastor's Day Off

*Should you have a pastoral need and/or wish to schedule an appointment, please call the Church Office 570-323-4619. Pastor is always available by email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Home phone (emergencies only please) 570-523-1415.

Please continue to hold Bernadette Jones in prayer as she continues her treatments and convalesces at home. Cards are welcome and may be sent to: 665 Fifth Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701.

Patricia Alexander has changed her contact information:

Pat Alexander
 1201 Rural Avenue; **Room 322 B**
 Williamsport, PA 17701
 570-917-8212

In recognition of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021.

A Prayer for Memorial Day:

O God of life, you are older than time. You have seen generations who have died through sacrifice, war, courage and folly. You have comforted generations who mourned and grieved and sang solemn songs and laid flowers on graves. Gather us in your embrace. And cradle us with compassion. As we remember those who have died in past wars and conflicts, help us to remember that you were there when mountains were formed. You were there to soothe our grief and breathe hope into the hopeless. You are with us still. We give you thanks in Jesus and pray that our lives may be reflections of his love. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

Practice CDC guidelines associated with COVID-19: Wash hands, stay home when sick, limit travel, practice social distancing.

Council met on May 17, 2021.

A generous donation designated for general use was received by St. Mark's from the Ruth Lamade Estate.

M(Mel Wentzel- 2nd Ralph Zeigler) SC: CC: 21.5.1

Motion approved to stay the course and continue with our current covid guidelines at this time.

M(Pam Jensen – 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.5.2

Motion approved to stay the course and continue with our current covid communion process.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Next meeting scheduled for June

7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Property Committee: Update provided by Ed Gair.

Glenn Yapple volunteered to construct in the courtyard planter box containing a few palms. Council has requested Glen submit a plan such as location of plantings, size of trees, etc. for the next council meeting.

Faith & Fellowship: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann.

Books from our Library have been placed in the front-lounge where the congregation may sign them out. The books will periodically be replaced with a new supply from our library.

Rally Day/Ministry Fair will be held on September 12, 2021.

Vacation Bible School will be offered virtually through United Churches of Lycoming County June 28 - July 1. This year's theme is Bedtime Stories and is available for children ages 3-8. Additional information to follow.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

The July 4th activities will not be held in 2021 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

An announcement will be made requesting congregation members to volunteer to send cards to members on the special concerns list (cards will be provided by the church).

Sometime in mid-late June the electronic billboard on Market St next to the church will display a special message wishing all of Williamsport a Happy 4th of July from St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

The committee continues to work on finalizing the Sexton job description.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

M(Worship & Music – 2nd by Mel Wentzel) SC:

CC: 21.5.3 Motion approved to begin a single worship service at 9:30 am. beginning June 6, 2021 thru September 5, 2021. Two services will resume on September 12, 2021.

Next meeting: June 14, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

Working from home, Bernadette is again creating and editing the newsletter. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues her treatments and convalesces at home. Cards are welcome and may be sent to: 665 Fifth Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701.

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

500 Reitz Blvd., PO Box 36

Lewisburg, PA 17837

The Reverend Barbara J. Collins, Bishop

UPDATE FOR PANDEMIC GUIDELINES: 5.7.2021

As the CDC has provided new guidelines, and Governor Wolf has made a statement saying that some of the restrictions will be lifted beginning Memorial weekend, I have been asked if there are any changes to our guidelines for congregations in taking precautions during the pandemic.

At this point, with the number of cases still at unsafe levels across our territory, I would hope that we stay the course by continuing to follow the precautions that we have in place. I see no need in changing the way congregations have spaced themselves out for worship, nor should we throw away our masking protocols. The state is still under the directive to mask while in public and so we need to continue to wear masks when we gather. As for singing, unless your congregation is minimizing the amount of sung music and everyone remains masked while singing quietly, I would strongly urge our congregations to not go back to the bold singing that we Lutherans love to do. I am a musician and I miss singing as much as anyone, but it is the right thing to do at this time.



What we may see change is the ability to have more freedom to gather in safe ways, especially as more and more of us receive the vaccine. I am aware of at least one of our congregations where every member, but one has been vaccinated. I believe they feel a lot safer in doing things together because of vaccinations.

No matter what, we need to keep in mind those folks in our midst who are still worried about being in person for worship and other events. Even though I am fully vaccinated, and feel a great relief because of that, I still wear my mask (or shield for preaching) and refrain from shaking hands to respect those around me and to do my best to help keep this virus from spreading any further. I don't think any of us want to live through another surge or shut down that is caused by us giving in to our desires too quickly.

Shalom, Bishop Barb Collins

SHARING IN THE CARING

Although we have returned to in-person worship and aspects of our everyday lives have improved, we are still being called to serve those in need. Please consider making a donation to one or all of the following ministries in these unprecedented times. The Outreach Committee continues to accept monetary donations for the purchase of take-out containers for Redeemer Lutheran and Sojourner Truth Ministries. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line stating "Take-Out." Tubs and

a table in the Narthex are available for your non-perishable donations.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

United Churches Food Pantry: The Pantry continues to accept non-perishable food items. Items most in need are cups of fruit and applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, soups, condiments, cake mixes, frosting, pasta, pasta sauce and healthy snacks.

Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene items in regular sizes for children women and men are always needed. Specific needs this month are dish detergent, shampoo and conditioner and laundry pods in smaller household packages.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Individual healthy snacks and crackers, Cup of Soups, Microwave mac and cheese or other pasta foods, ramen noodles and socks (new or gently used) are needed. **FYI:** Travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap and toothpaste are also needed for the Blessing Box. Many homeless people prefer this smaller size due to the inability to store larger sizes.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: This ministry provides take-out meals to between 70 – 100 people per day. This month they are in need of mayonnaise, bottles of salad dressing (Italian, Ranch, French and Thousand Island,) cooking oil and paper napkins.

Soda Tabs: Collected to support the Ronald McDonald House in Danville. Containers are in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Pennies for Youth Activities: A container is available in the Narthex for your donations.

Bazaar Room: The Women of St. Mark's continue to accept donations for the annual Fall Bazaar. Please pack donations in small boxes for ease of moving. Place them in the Bazaar Room away from the door. If you cannot get to the Bazaar Room, items may be left on the lower landing of the back stairwell as you enter from the parking lot.

Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, June 10, 2021 starting at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal picked up at the curb. For several months Redeemer Lutheran has been distributing 120 meals at this dinner. All are welcome.

Daniel's Closet: Is now open! Donations of spring and summer clothing may be dropped off Thursday, June 10, 2021 from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM. Saturday. Large quantity of clothing, please call Barb Horn at 570-974-3744.



High School Graduation!
 Congratulations are being sent to our 2021 Loyalsock-high school graduate, Sean Jensen! Sean is the son of Mike and Pam Jensen and the grandson of Harold and Joyce Hershberger. Sean plans on

attending the University of Pittsburgh in the Fall. Best wishes and God's blessings as you begin this next step on your journey.

Operation Christmas Child

In 2018, 10,623,776 shoebox gifts were sent to 112 countries and territories, and more than 2 million students made decisions for Christ ~ the most since this program began in 2009. Christ is working for good through our simple gifts. Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate items for our OCC collection.

In June, we are collecting: ~ **small balls (no super balls please), yo-yo's (light up if possible), and sidewalk chalk, and bar soap.**

Monetary donations are also welcome as we are looking into including "Grow With Me" shoes in this year's boxes. There is a sample pair of these shoes in the Narthex if you would like to take a look. While these are a bit pricey at \$20.00/pair, they adjust over time and can "grow" 5 sizes as the child's foot grows. A huge blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark's with OCC in the memo line.

These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!

*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)



Join us from the comfort of your own home as we embark on a Virtual Vacation Bible School Adventure. Each

night beginning at 7:30 (and running for about 30 minutes) we will come together to read a bedtime story, complete a short activity or craft, and enjoy a snack. Friends from all around the Williamsport area are able to join in via a zoom link. Can't watch us "live"? No problem. Our stories will also be found on Facebook under The United Churches of Lycoming County. Registration is open until June 20th. Hope to "see" you there!

Family Promise

Hi - our next hosting begins on July 4. I will be contacting people about meals during June. Family Promise is now back to having overnight hosts at the day center. If you are willing to be an overnight host please contact me. This is in a room away from the guests and has 2 twin beds. The room is cleaned daily. Thanks for helping to keep homeless families together - Deb B, coordinator 570-323-1707 dabuckman65@gmail.com

July Fourth Celebration

After much thought and discussion the Outreach Committee with input from Pastor Vasey, has decided this is not the right time to resume our annual July Fourth celebration. We are optimistic that with continued vaccinations and lower infection rates we will be able to resume our July Fourth celebration in 2022.

Card Ministry

The Outreach Committee is seeking church members who could assist with sending cards to our Special Concern folks. The committee will supply all cards and postage along with the names and addresses of those receiving cards. We are hoping that with enough volunteers, it would be possible for a volunteer to send cards only one month per year. If interested please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585 for more information.



Nibbles from the Church Mouse



It has been a really tough year for the mouse— running around empty pews— no voices to lift his spirits— very lonely time! But “Praise Be” things are getting better— the sound of music and voices are back to make his day to day life much more interesting.

We wondered how others had coped with this past year and decided to take a small poll to get some answers. Our first call was on Mel and Mindy Wentzel. They reported that they trusted the recommendations they were hearing and followed the rules— all the Wentzels have asthma so that was a special concern.

Sally Bjornstadt had a very busy year. She is often caretaker for her grandson Harper. His school was not in session so she went back to her first grade teacher mode and organized a daily learning routine for him. The session were held in math, spelling, art, and a myriad of other topics. Harper will go to kindergarten next fall already reading on a second grade level! Kudos to Sally and I know it was a joy for her to be such an important part of his life— he also is an adorable young man!

A different part of group setting and a safe one was part of Linda Rosini’s life during the pandemic — some of her friends from high school and a few neighbors formed their own bubble. They planned outings, looked for activities they could safely do and were able to enjoy one of the group’s swimming pool ! As things began to open up they traveled a little further — how nice for all of them!

Ralph and Lou Ann when asked how they survived the pandemic and said they credit it to lots of faith, will, determination and baked goods made the days easier! Those of us who have tasted their creations agree that would have been a special thing!

Family time was a big plus for Pam Jensen — she loves games and the quarantine made it possible for her to enjoy game night with her family which as truly special especially since son Sean will be off to the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Having on line church was a blessing for the Newcomer family — they looked forward to being a part of the service, even remotely.

I talked to Bernadette Jones about getting her my information and she sounded quite good — considering what she has been through — some things are going well for her but there are some areas of concern — it was good to talk to her: I’m sure her year was taken up with trying to get better! We keep her in our prayers and hope to see her soon!

For the mouse and me we go along day by day grateful for good health and loving family and looking forward to getting into the garden and the creek!

Blessings, Joyce

And another note our mouse received from the Wentzel family:

Hello again Joyce,

The Wentzel family ducked away from the Covid issues because of all four having asthma and varying allergies. We did not want to jeopardize other people if we did not protect ourselves or others by following CDC and Health guidelines established and implemented by the state. We trust our government to protect us and since we, as citizens, make up the government we feel justified in following all procedures and recommendations put in place.

We also were prudent in attending public events, going to the stores and certainly not going to restaurants without the appropriate protections.

Our daughters needed to double mask at PSU in the music Department and the Music buildings and also had to cover their wind instruments with cloths so as to not infect others through the spread of the covid germs.

I hope this helps you in preparing your article.

Hate us if you will but we wanted to protect our family as well as others from this virus.

Have a good evening.

Mel

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Remember to send in any corrections for the Church Directory so that they can be printed here!

We don't know of any changes unless you tell us!



Patricia Alexander
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave., 322B
Williamsport, PA
17701

Grace Arner

Tanya Bower

Gary Clark

Bernadette Jones
665 Fifth Avenue
Williamsport, PA
17701

Ashton Ott

Kay Poliska
1100 Allen St.
Montoursville, PA
17754

Elizabeth Ruesskamp
Rose View Center, 222B
1201 Rural Ave.
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Elsie Sechler
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1445 Sycamore Road,
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17754

Lenny Sherlinski

Marion Waldeisen
Williamsport Home
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17701

Cheryl Williams

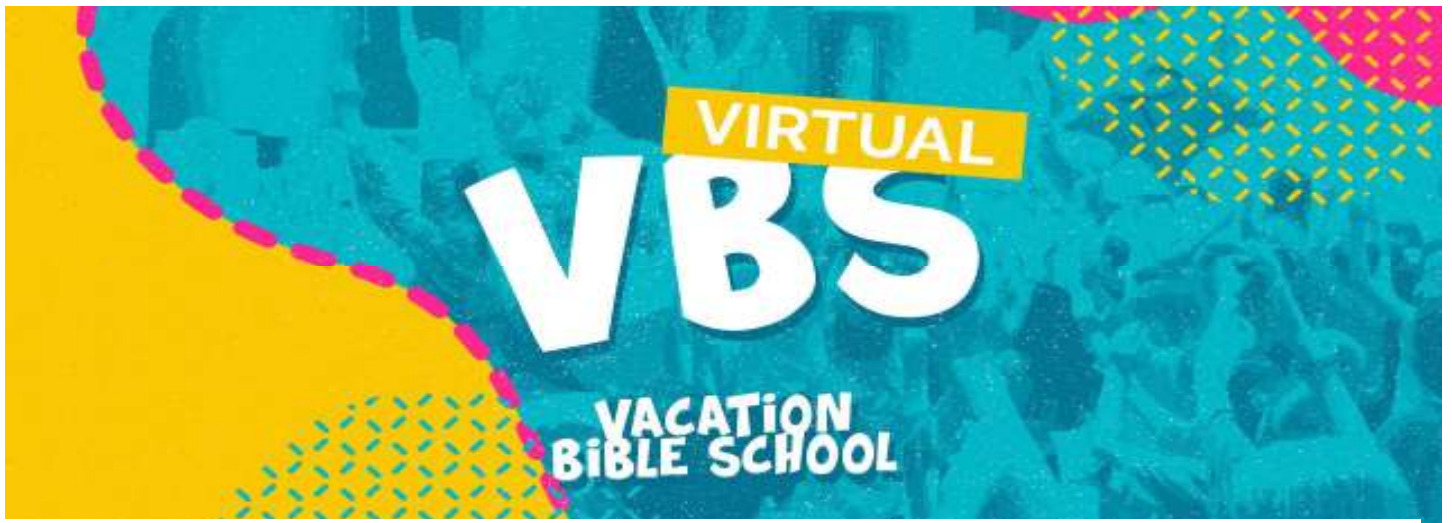
Birthdays:

6/1 Andrew Sims
6/2 Katy Elkin
6/2 Evelyn Bastian
6/3 Grace Arner
6/3 Edward Barone
6/3 Sean Jensen
6/7 Breanna Bower
6/8 Jeffrey Kneedler
6/9 Ryan Goertz
6/10 Jennifer Robertson
6/10 Heather Snyder
6/12 Adam Clokey
6/12 Alex Clokey
6/15 Kambriana Bieber
6/15 Ruth Sherlinski
6/16 Wanda Fortin
6/17 Nathan Edler
6/17 Norma Lehman
6/18 Carl Knowlden
6/18 Kelli Travis
6/19 Christina Raup
6/20 Brandon Fortin
6/22 Cheryl Williams
6/23 Taigen Tebbs

6/23 Taigen Thorne
6/23 Tali Thorne
6/24 Liam Elkin
6/24 Nathan Fillnow
6/24 Robert Helm
6/25 Ernestine Doane
6/27 Kristin Lynn
6/27 Seth Eshelman
6/28 George Poliska
6/30 April Clark
6/30 Emily Welker

Anniversaries:

6/8 Shane & Amy Stugart
6/13 Barbara & Donald Switzer
6/13 Kristine and James Wacker
6/14 Steven & Randa Bieber
6/18 Charles & Ann Kuntz
6/18 Gary & Shelby Weber
6/20 Daniel & Diana Zeigler
6/21 John & Brenda Bower
6/23 Kenneth & Donna Elkin
6/23 James & Susan Newcomer
6/28 Andrew & Vicki Haussmann
6/30 Harold & Joyce Hershberger



Live on ZOOM, posted to Facebook
Monday, June 28th – Thursday, July 1st
7:30pm each evening

Designed for ages 3 – 8 and special abilities adults

Includes: Stories, Activities and a Light Snack

A bag with the ZOOM information and all of the supplies for the week will be prepared and available for pick-up or delivery prior to the start of the program.

Registration Form (one per child/person)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Cell #: _____

Food Allergies: _____

Age: _____ Permission to take and use photos: Yes _____ No _____

Please drop-off or mail information by Sunday, June 20th

New Covenant UCC, 202 E. Third St., Williamsport PA 17701

or email the information to, bmwalmer@comcast.net

Participating Churches: First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, St. John's UM, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourner Truth Ministries and Trinity Episcopal



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U.S. POSTAGE
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Williamsport, PA 17701

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET ST.
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
Address Service Requested
Phone: 570-323-4619
Fax: 570-323-2452
Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>
Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Please join us on Sunday, June 13, at 9:30 am for worship, and celebration of Pastor Vasey's 35th anniversary of his ordination.

Our Bishop, Barbara Collins, will be preaching and presiding. There will be a basket available for congratulatory cards/and best wishes, as well as a couple of surprises to add to the festivities!

Hoping to have you with us for this very special day
Linda Rosini, Council President

STAFF OFFICE HOURS
Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
Mon - Thu 9am—12pm & by appointment
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
Summer: Mon 1pm-3pm & by appointment
Sexton: Lou DeSeau
Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu 8:30am—1pm
Bookeeper: Jackie Baysore
Tue 8am—12:00pm
Secretary: Bernadette Jones
Mon, Wed, Fri 9am—1pm

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452
Website: [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org)
Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org
570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415
Sam Robinson, Church Organist srobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Bernadette Jones, Secretary stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Linda Rosini, Council President lr10152@yahoo.com
Becky Miller Pryor, Vice-President home 570-971-4585
Wanda Fortin, Secretary 570-337-9137
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer jskinney1@yahoo.com
Matt Fortin, Stephen Ministry 570-337-3023
Janet Jones, Parish Life jgmacookie@comcast.net
Debra Buckman dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckman65@gmail.com
Family Promise Coordinator
Prayer Chain—coordinator needed