

The Mustard Seed

Planting the Seeds of Faith

MARCH 2017

On Ash Wednesday, March 1st, the season of Lent starts. Lent is a season of the Church year specifically set aside for self-reflection; to prepare oneself spiritually to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. It is a time to look deeply within ourselves to determine the ways we are living out our lives faithfully, and in what ways we are not doing so. One of the ways to facilitate this reflection is to attend special worship services on Ash Wednesday and during Holy Week. I will also be preaching a series focusing on the practice of a few classical Christian spiritual disciplines. To help us put these spiritual disciplines into practice, we are asking members of the congregations to join a small group that has been designed specifically to help us implement the different spiritual discipline that will be talked about at each Sunday service during the series.

Spiritual disciplines are actions that we take to prepare ourselves for an encounter with the living God. The spiritual disciplines that I will be looking at during Lent are the practices of solitude, simplicity, service, meditation, prayer and fasting, and celebration.

Each person is unique in how each of the spiritual disciplines works in their own life. Some that are hard for you may be easy for others, and vice versa. The small group will help you to learn what other people experienced in their practice of the spiritual discipline thereby deepening your own experience.

With the energy and effort that we will be putting into our spiritual lives during Lent, I know we will see God changing our hearts and our lives. Have a blessed Lent and a powerful experience with the resurrected Christ.

Blessings and Shalom,
Pastor Kevin



Pennsdale Trinity
United Methodist Church



Huntersville
United Methodist Church





In this present climate of political in-fighting & partisanship, sometimes beyond nasty or necessary, it's very nice to see some occasional "random acts of kindness" happening around the country. More than likely these acts way outnumber the negative ones, but we so often aren't privy to them because it "doesn't sell papers" or "increase viewership." For examples, just this past week, Dave & Penny Booth's neighbors came to their rescue when they experienced a house fire, & I saw on two occasions, where physically & mentally challenged young people on basketball teams were allowed to play & score a basket, thanks partly to the opposing team allowing them to do so, to the absolute joy of the crowd & themselves. It was heart wrenching & beautiful to watch. I also saw a girls basketball game between South Williamsport & Line Mountain where, before the game, the team seniors were honored with carnations. The South girls honored not only their own but gave flowers to the Line Mountain senior girls as well. I couldn't help but think that in all these occasions, in sharing His love, God was working overtime, & these instances, along with others too many to comprehend, happen all the time. He is so good! Don't you agree?

And the "News" is.....

Continuing on with the fire at the Booth's house last Sunday morning, a chimney fire bled over into some wall area & luckily was extinguished before it could spread. The Booth's were very thankful for the promptness & expertise of the fire companies responding, & to a neighbor who quickly came up with some plywood sheeting to cover any damage & holes. Penny said, "Good neighbors did good things," & "They were lucky that they could still sleep in their own beds" after the incident. We're all thankful it turned out as well as it did.

Galen & Cheryl Delker continue to give us feedback on their trip which includes Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, & beyond. They are just taking their time & soaking in the beauty of this great country & loving it. We wish them Godspeed & are so happy they can do it.

The Huntersville Cantata will be held "just before Easter" according to Lori Neiswender. Practices will be held every Sunday evening at 7:00 PM at Huntersville, & more specifics will be forthcoming. I do know they are calling for anyone who wishes to be a part of the Cantata to contact Lori at 570-435-0508.

Gary & Nancy Houseknecht's granddaughter, Bethany Lunger, is an expert archer, so much so that she went to Las Vegas, NV, to participate in the International Archery Competition. Now get this.....she finished 8th out of 75 individuals who participated! Pretty good, I'd say. Congratulations Bethany! I have a feeling we haven't heard the last about your accomplishments in the archery field.

Jen Pidcoe celebrated her 18th birthday last week with a nice party at her home. Congratulations to you, Jen, & especially since we all know the hardship & pain you have had to endure due to your injuries. You are one brave, young lady, & we hope and pray you'll soon be able to enjoy the normal life you deserve.

Kudos also to John Neiswender for his achievement of becoming a Licensed Local Pastor. For those of you who didn't know, John is pastor at the Trout Run United Methodist Church where he is doing very well, according to many of the members of his congregation. (Yes, John, I have talked to them.)

Please keep Galen Delker, Charlie Hall, & Faye Simcox in your prayers.

Save the Dates of April 29 for our SPAGHETTI SUPPER, May 21 for our GOSPEL SONGFEST, & June 3 for our world famous TURKEY DINNER.

In closing, A grandma asked her four-year old granddaughter, "Were you a good girl in church today?" "Yes, grandma," came the reply, " A man came to me & offered me a whole plate of money & I said, 'No thank you!'"

Until next time, may God bless you richly,
Carl Schlappi, Huntersville Reporter





MARCH 2017 WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Services: Pennsdale Trinity 9am & Huntersville UMC 10:30am

Special 7pm service: Ash Wednesday, March 1st at Pennsdale Trinity

Sunday Message series: *"Spiritual Disciplines"*

Sunday services: March 5th *"Solitude"*

March 12th *"Simplicity"*

March 19th *"Service"*

March 26th *"Meditation"*

Upcoming special Sunday offerings at PTUMC



March 19 World Thank offering (UM Women)

March 26 One Great Hour of Sharing (S. Conference)

Family Promise Mission Opportunity- March 5th-12th

Pennsdale Trinity is hosting Family Promise from Sunday, March 5th, to Sunday, March 12th. We welcome you to volunteer for any of the following tasks to help make this week successful: set-up on Sunday, March 5th, driving the van, preparing the evening meals, hosting for a couple of hours in the evening, staying overnight at the church, laundering the sheets used at our church, or clean-up on Sunday, March 12th. We also invite you 'movie night' on Friday, March 10th. All ages are welcome to join in this valuable mission opportunity. If you are available to help please call Sara in the charge office at 570-546-2619, Janet Patterson at 570-971-5637 or Virginia Bitler at 570-584-4524. A training session is scheduled for March 19th at 10:30am (following the 9am Worship Service). Thank you Melissa Margargle, Executive Director of Family Promise of Lycoming County, our guest speaker during the February 19th service. It was very inspiring & informational, especially to learn that the average age of homeless in our area & the US is just 9 years old!

Youth Group at Huntersville UMC

Join us from 6pm-7:30pm the
1st & 3rd Sunday of each month

March dates: 5th & 19th

Lori dedicates 1/2 hour-45 minutes for bible study/devotions followed by fellowship with one another in the Youth Group space in the basement.



Send Us Your Pictures!

Our charge website coordinator, Lori Neiswender, is looking for pictures from events at both Huntersville & Pennsdale Trinity to add to the charge website, www.pthumc.org. Please confirm there is permission granted from everyone involved to take & post the pictures, & send them via email (pdf format preferred) to: lori.neiswender@gmail.com or to: office@pthumc.org



MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES



"Fresh Expressions" Vision Day Workshop

Date: March 31, 2017

Location: Faith United Methodist Church

Time: 9am-3:30pm

700 Fairview Drive, Montoursville, Pa 17754

Vision Day is a great way to discover more about Fresh Expressions, a worldwide movement that is cultivating new forms of churches alongside existing congregations in order to reach a changing world. By empowering & equipping God's people to develop creative expressions of church, Fresh Expressions is changing the ministry landscape! Hear how Fresh Expressions is renewing the church, discover how Fresh Expressions helps churches develop & grow, consider what a fresh expression might look like in your church, discover your role in releasing these new missions.

Register online: www.freshexpressionsus.org under "what we do"

\$20/person (for members of S. Conference), lunch included \$35/person for general admission

Please see the calendar board outside of the charge office for detailed flyer & contact info

Prayer Workshop at Pennsdale Trinity UMC



On March 16th, please join us from 10am-2:30pm, for a four-hour encounter with four traditional types of Prayer. We will explore The Prayer of the Ordinary, an exercise that enables us to become more aware of the presence of God in the common things of everyday, then we will move to an exercise in prayer as the Scriptures lead us, traditionally called Lectio Divina, or Divine Reading. From there we shall move to the Jesus Prayer—a type of prayer that enables us to encounter the mercy of Christ as we have encountered it in our own spiritual walk. We will close with what is called Centering Prayer, or resting in the healing presence of God. Cost: \$15 (lunch included) To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/prayer-workshop-tickets-31972515655>, mail a check to the church, or call Sara in the charge office at 570-546-2619.



WEIS Gift Card Mission

For every \$50 Gift Card purchased from **Virginia Bitler (570) 584-4524**, you can earn your gas rewards (10 points for every \$50 spent) **AND** earn money for missions at Pennsdale Trinity! Weis gift cards can be used at any Weis Markets location without any surcharges to purchase your groceries. And *Weis Gift Cards make gifts!* Please note: Weis gift cards cannot be used to purchase gift cards for other retailers & restaurants. Thank you for your support!

AYCE Buffet Statistics

January's AYCE Buffet at Pennsdale Trinity served 355 people & raised \$2,592 for the church & \$288 for future missions at Pennsdale Trinity.

Thank you to everyone who brought baked goods, volunteered, &/or attended!



THE MUSTARD SEED
PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH



rightnow MEDIA

We are excited to announce our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" & has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever & wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

As a charge, we're always looking for ways to help you develop & strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work, & in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow. If you would like to receive an official invitation email to give you FREE access to RightNow Media email the church office at: office@pthumc.org. Once you receive the email, simply click on the link, sign up for an account, & you're all set to explore more than 12,000 videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you & your family!

VERY "COOL"!

The Council has approved the purchase of AC units for the Sanctuary through Memorial gifts!

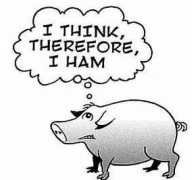


MARCH ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

Catered by: Springman's Country Store of Pennsdale

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 4pm - 7pm

at Pennsdale Trinity UMC
658 Village Road in the Village of Pennsdale



ENTRÉE:

- Boneless Chicken Breast Stuffed with Herbal Stuffing
- Boneless Pork Chop Stuffed with Herbal Stuffing

SIDES:

- Mashed Potatoes served with Chicken & Pork Gravy
 - Mixed Vegetables
 - Tossed salad served with Ranch or Italian Dressing
- Hot & Cold Beverages, Dessert

PRICING:

\$12 for Adults \$6 for Children age 5-10
Children age 4 & under are free!

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE - \$12 each



Pennsdale Trinity UMC is Handicap Accessible & we warmly welcome everyone to join us!





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 – William Hiller (P) | 17 – Wayne Wagner (P) | 24 – Jacob Colburn (P) |
| 04 – David Witmer (P) | 18 – Barry Waldman (P) | 24 – Sandy Martin (P) |
| 06 – Caroline Hall (H) | 20 – Leland Harner-Steele (P) | 24 – Gary Saam (P) |
| 09 – Megan Weber (H) | 23 – Lana Baker (H) | 25 – Janet Patterson (P) |
| 13 – James Colburn (P) | 23 – Stephanie Trimble (P) | 28 – Oliveah Bitler (P) |
| 16 – Tyler Mensch (P) | 23 – Cookie Smith (H) | 29 – Hattie Gleason (P) |
| | | 31 – Thaddeus Martin (P) |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 27 – Phil & Shirley Glasser (P)
 28 – Steve & Denise Artley (P)
 30 – Kevin & Letty St. Martin (P)



*** If you notice a birthday or an anniversary of a charge member or of a regular attendee that is not on this month's list, kindly call Sara in the Charge Office at (570) 546-2619 to have the information added to our list & to receive future celebration cards from the Pastor*

Matthew 28 / Church Conference Update

A Church Conference was held on Monday, February 20th, at Pennsdale Trinity, to elect the new Council members for both Pennsdale Trinity UMC & Huntersville UMC, & to recommend John Neiswender to be a Licensed Local Pastor. Congratulations to all!

Pennsdale Trinity UMC

2017	2018	2019
Stephanie Trimble	Woody Fry	John Lamoreaux (Council Chair)
Ken Varker	Sandy Martin	Paula Miller
Perry Reed	Deb Muffly	Mary Walters (Lay Leader)

Huntersville UMC

- Opal Schlappi (SPRC Chair)**
Artie Fetterman (Council Chair)
Lori Neiswender (Lay Leader)
Carl Schlappi
Opal Schlappi
Carol Bower
Ray Bower
Alice Faus
Gary Houseknecht

Submissions for: April Newsletter & Sunday bulletins

Do you have important church or charge information or a special announcement for April's newsletter? If so, deliver your submission to the charge office 10am-2pm Monday - Thursday, slide it under the door if before or after office hours, or email it to Sara at: office@pthumc.org

If the deadline of noon on Tuesday, March 21st is not met, then the submission will have to go into April's Newsletter instead (if still applicable). If you have information for the bulletin, please give it to Sara in the charge office by noon on Wednesday of the week prior in order for it to be added to the upcoming Sunday bulletin. *Thank you for your cooperation!*





March 2017

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm (P)	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast 8am (P)
5 Family Promise week begins <i>Holy Communion</i> Youth Group 6-7:30pm (H) Cantata practice 7pm (H)	6	7	8 Worship Team 6pm (P) Worship Team 7:30pm (H)	9	10	11 UM Women 8am (P) Family Promise Week →	18 Prayer Workshop 10am-2:30pm (P)
12 end of Family Promise week Daylight Savings time begins Girl Scout Sunday Cantata practice 7pm (H)	13	14	15	16	17 	25	
19 World Thank special offering (P) Youth Group 6-7:30pm (H) Cantata practice 7pm (H)	20 Council 6:30pm (H) Closed Council organizational meeting 6:30pm (P)	21 April 2017 Newsletter submissions due by noon @PTUMC	22 AYCE Buffet 4-7pm (P)	23	24	31	
26 1 Great hour of Sharing special offering (P) Cantata practice 7pm (H)	27	28	29	30			



Pennsdale Trinity/Huntersville UMC

Worship - Rachel Smith

Discipleship - Stephanie Reitmeyer
Outreach - Virginia Bitter & Letty St. Martin

Church Directors:

2019 - John Lamoreaux (Chair), Paula Miller, Mary Walters
2018 - Woody Fry, Sandy Martin, Deb Muffly
2017 - Perry Reed, Stephanie Trimble, Ken Varker
John Lamoreaux Council Chair

Church Council:

PTUMC Leadership

Parsonage: (570) 546-5658

Cell: (717) 805-4626 (text friendly)

Email: pastorkevin@pthumc.org

Kevin St. Martin, Pastor

Sara B. Haas, Charge Secretary

Email: office@pthumc.org

Office: (570) 546-2619

HUMC Lay Leadership

Artie Fetterman, Council Chair

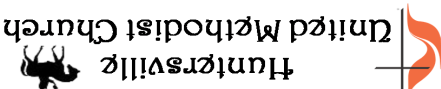
Lori Neiswender, Lay Leader

Alice Faus

Charge Lay Leadership

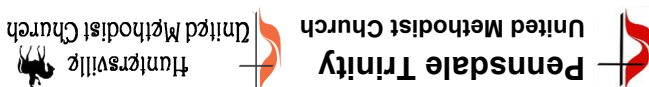
Opal Schlappi, SPRC Chair

Charge Office (570) 546-2619
Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm



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