



JANUARY 2016

# The Mustard Seed Planting the Seeds of Faith

## From the Pastor ...

A new year is a time when some people make resolutions to make their life better while as Christians, Christ is always working in our hearts to change us and this time of year may give us the opportunity to be more purposeful in examining our lives in the light of our Lord.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Movement, wrote this as part of his Covenant Service to be held on New Year's Eve or New Years Day:

*Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.*

*Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.*

*Christ has many services to be done.*

*Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful.*

*Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both.*

*In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.*

*But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.*

*It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.*

I like this because it reminds me what my life as a Christian, a Disciple of Christ, is really about. It reminds me that we, as disciples, do not always have it easy. Sometimes following Christ means we must do things which are uncomfortable but even those uncomfortable things fulfill the purpose of honoring our service to Christ.

As you begin the new calendar year, begin it with a renewed commitment to Christ; seek opportunities in which you can serve Christ and look for ways to deepen your own discipleship.

My prayer is that we will not just go through the motions of faith but instead we will make a real commitment to be both disciples and servants of Christ.

Blessings and Shalom,  
Pastor Kevin



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# HUNTERSVILLE NEWS

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I was thinking (because I really do that sometimes) that this Christmas Season is just so wonderful because it celebrates the birth of our Savior in oh so many ways. I love the Bible readings, the little plays, the caroling, the candlelight service, the FOOD, & all the other things that are so special in late December. Not the least of these, to me, is the getting together of families from far & wide to join in on all the trappings of Christmas as we celebrate with those we love so much & really don't see all that often throughout the rest of the year. To me, that makes these special days extra-special & I am so thankful I'm still around to do it. Corny as it sounds, it ranks real close to the actual "Reason for the Season."

And now, the "News" .....

We, at Huntersville UMC, did another successful "Friendship Soup" meal on the 20th with many bringing ingredients & enjoying the fellowship meal, followed by neighborhood caroling, & a stopover afterward at the Neiswenders for a little more refreshment & a warm-up. Thanks to all who participated. It was a good day!

Also, earlier that day, we were entertained by some of our kids & adults as they did our version of the Christmas Pageant, complete with little tykes dressed as cows, sheep & other critters, & grown-ups doing some pretty serious readings all having to do with the birth of the King of Kings. All in all, a better than good day!

Oh, & we were also entertained by Jameson Fetterman as he played two familiar songs on his trumpet, also very well done. This young man is already good on this instrument & I can't imagine what a few more years of experience will bring. Great job, Jameson!

Thanks to all who donated food for the four families in need in our area. Special thanks to Caroline Hall for putting it all together & seeing the food was properly distributed.

As usual, many of our young people are involved in activities, athletic & otherwise, with their schools. Abby Wingfield just recently found out she was ranked 4th in academics out of a class of over 1200 at West Point, an extremely great honor.

Jennifer Pidcoe came in 2nd, by a fraction of a second, out of 56 runners in the 200m race at a track meet at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, & it was her personal best thus far. That p.b. will be shattered very soon because this girl has got it! Megan Weber has been playing both JV & varsity basketball for the South Williamsport Lady Mounties & has been a very important part of both teams, in scoring & on defense. She's just getting started on a great four-year trip. Keagan Smith is continuing in his wrestling program in Hughesville & at 9 years old is showing some great potential. Way to go, Keagan!

Don't forget to do what's necessary to be a part of our "CONSIGNMENT SALE" on March 19, 2016. Anyone interested in consigning please call John Neiswender at (570) 435-0508.

Our new roof is on & looks pretty spiffy, all shiny & bright. So great to see the congregation getting together to make the necessary improvements happen on so many different projects. Our little church is on the move!

In closing, a couple was having the pastor over for Sunday dinner. Their 6 year-old son met him at the door & the pastor asked him "What's for dinner?" The boy replied, "Goat." "Goat?" the pastor asked? "Yep," said the lad, "I heard mommy tell daddy we might as well have that old goat for dinner today as any other day!"

I don't know.....is goat good??

Till next time, may the Lord bless you richly, Carl Schlappi, Huntersville "Newsguy"



## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



Pennsdale Trinity UMC has teamed up with Weis Markets to bring you a phenomenal deal! For every \$50 Gift Card purchased from Virginia Bitler, you can earn your gas rewards (10 points for every \$50 spent) **AND** earn money for our church!

Weis gift cards can be used at any Weis Markets location without any surcharges to purchase your groceries as well as gift cards to just about anywhere you can imagine to use as gifts for family, friends, teachers, bosses, secretaries, co-workers...just about anyone you can think of! Weis Markets regularly stocks more than 100 different gift cards to local & chain business & restaurants such as:

Best Buy	Lowe's	iTunes	WALMART
Regal Cinemas	Red Lobster	Cracker Barrel	MACY'S
Chilli's	Applebees	Subway	Barnes & Nobles
Dunkin Donuts	Target	GAP	Gander Mountain
Netflix	Google	Sam's Club	Bass Pro Shops
Build-a-Bear	Olive Garden	Amazon	Books a Million
Starbucks	Toys R Us	Home Depot	Dicks Sporting Goods Big Lots
Cheesecake Factory	<u>AND MANY MORE!</u>		



**Please contact Virginia Bitler at (570) 584-4524 TODAY to buy your WEIS gift cards!**

## TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?



***Not the question that a good Christian should be asking, right?***

...but the truth is that being a Sunday school teacher can enrich you in so many ways! Have you ever felt like your commitment to reading the Bible was lacking? Try teaching it! The Word will come alive for you in ways you never expected. Being in faithful service to the church obviously feels rewarding, and you will form bonds with the young members of our church. Your faithfulness to them becomes proof that adults care! When they search for Christian role models to emulate, it will be your face that comes to mind.

You only need to be 5 years older than the kids you teach so we welcome volunteers of all ages. Please consider signing up to teach 3 Sunday School lessons. You do not have to invent the lessons; they are provided for you! Pray about it. Is God calling you to lead and teach?

**See Jane Waldman, Sara B. Haas, Dorothy Mensch, Deb Muffly, Janet Patterson, or Pastor Kevin if you are considering this wonderful opportunity to work with our amazing youth!**



## HUNTERSVILLE UMC CONSIGNMENT SALE

**March 19, 2016 9—4pm**

Set-up is Thursday, March 17th at 4pm. Consigners can shop Friday, March 18th 5pm-8pm, & the sale is open to the public Saturday, March 19, 2016.

Consigners earn 75% of their sale & the remaining 25% will go back to our church. Interested?

Call John Neiswender  
at (570) 435-0508.

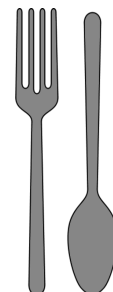


## PENNSDALE TRINITY'S "ALL YOU CAN EAT" BUFFET

The next buffet will be held:  
**February 17, 2016 4pm—7pm**

The menu is:

Herb & Garlic Marinated Chicken Breast  
Oven Roasted Bone-In Ham in Ham Broth  
Gourmet Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Homemade desserts, Hot & Cold Beverages  
We hope to see you there!



## SUBMISSIONS

If you have any important church or charge information or a special announcement for February's newsletter, please have it to Sara in the charge office by Sunday, January 13th or it will be put in the March Newsletter instead.

Thank you!

## LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

January 11, 2016 at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Kevin is asking **ALL** committee members to attend so we can better serve our church & our community in the name of Jesus Christ.



## POTLUCK SUPPER & GUEST SPEAKER: STEPHANIE KNIER WITH SERVICE DOG

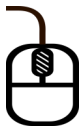
All are welcome to a "dish to pass dinner" in Fellowship Hall on January 10th at 5pm. We are so pleased that Stephanie Knier & her service dog will be joining us to speak about the program, Canine Partner's For Life, & the impact her service dog has had in her life. Please come & bring your favorite dish to share. Like my Mama used to say, "It always tastes better when you don't have to cook it!"



## HELP NEEDED AT PTUMC!



PTUMC Trustee's are seeking volunteers, at least 2 or more people or families each month to come & help with the upkeep of Fellowship Hall. The ideal time is each week Thursday or Friday, day or night, so that it is all clean for the weekend, & after any event during the month you sign up for. The calendars in the hall always have the dates & times of events so that there is no guessing when you will need to do it, especially during event times. There will also be a list of duties that are involved in the cleaning, what to use & where to find the supplies. Basic duties include wiping, dry & wet mopping, cleaning the restrooms, stocking any paper needs, & dusting. There is a sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall so that you will know when it is your turn or whose turn it is. Questions? Please see Pastor Kevin or Jim Muffly.



## VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER NEEDED!

The charge is looking for someone to be the webmaster of the charge website. The site is already up & running but it is in desperate need of updating on a regular basis. If you think you are the right person for this fun opportunity, please call, text, or email Pastor Kevin ASAP. Thank you!

## NEEDED! 2016 FAMILY PROMISE FOOD + VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

PTUMC is in need of a volunteer to coordinate meals, food preparation, & volunteers for the 4 weeks PTUMC will be hosting these wonderful families. The dates are February 14-21, May 1-8, August 28-September 14th, & November 13-20. If you can volunteer to coordinate the schedule for even just 1 of the weeks or all 4 weeks, please call Sara in the charge office at (570) 546-2619 or Janet Patterson at (570) 971-5637 & we will gladly show you how easy it is to make a huge difference in your community by helping others!

## KIDS FUN!



### Chinese Lantern Maths Facts Colouring

Solve the simple sums and then colour in the picture using the key on the right!

- 0 red
- 1 yellow
- 2 green
- 3 orange

8 - 5 =    2 - 1 =    4 - 1 =  
3 - 3 =  
9 - 9 =    2 - 2 =  
4 - 4 =    8 - 8 =  
6 - 6 =    1 - 1 =  
9 - 6 =    6 - 5 =    5 - 2 =  
7 - 4 =    7 - 5 =    8 - 5 =  
1 - 0 =    6 - 3 =

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## January Birthdays

1 – Ben Colburn	19 – Nathan R. Haas II	30 – Tim Ellis, III
2 – Kenzie E. Haas	19 – Tanner Updegrove	31 – Shelley Smith
3 – Jane McKown	21 – Kevin Smith	
5 – Dakota Rood	21 – Marissa Bonnell	
6 – Greg Gilbert, Sr.	22 – Hilary Hayhurst	
7 – Danielle Baum	24 – Tyler Wagner	
7 – Patrick Menges	25 – Lori Neiswender	
8 – Tootie Harner	25 – Melissa Thomas	
10 – Carl Schlappi	25 – William Poust	
11 – Myron Dyer, Jr.	26 – Brenton Poust	
13 – Charlotte Varker	27 – Bryan Pauling	
16 – George Fry	29 – Melissa Pauling	
17 – Fred Temple	29 – Holly Wingfield	
18 – Philip Bitler	30 – Denielle Thomas	
18 – Allen Bergquist	30 – Arnold Fry	



## Anniversaries

15 – Perry & Cindy Reed



## January's Worship Schedule

### January 3rd

Matthew 2:1-12

Seeing Christ from the outside

### January 10th

Isaiah 43:1-7

God is with us through all things

### January 17th

John 2:1-11

From ordinary to extraordinary

### January 24th

Luke 4:14-21

What the Good News of Jesus Christ is

### January 31st

Luke 4:22-30

Not recognizing God's message

Pastor Kevin will be out of the office January 1st—January 6th, January 13 & 14, & January 18, 19, 20. If there is an emergency or pastoral need please call/text him on his cell (717) 805-4626.

## Elementary Youth Group

January 17th, 4pm–5pm

We are pleased to announce the vote is in & the official name of PTUMC'S awesome elementary youth ministry group is...



**FAITH FINDERS**



Please join us this month for fun, contemporary Christian music, a light discussion on what Epiphany really means to Christians, & a fun snack! We hope to see all of fantastic elementary youth there!

The Youth Ministry @PTUMC exists to reach out to elementary school children in 1st through 6th grade in both our congregation & in our community, to not only introduce them to God's love but to further their relationship with our Lord. As your child grows & their faith matures we pray this group will stand as a strong foundation as they go out into the world to serve our Lord,





# JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 Men's Breakfast 8am
3 Holy Communion	4 Trustees (P) 7pm	5	6 Choir 7pm	7 7pm Contemp Worship Service	8	9 United Methodist Women 8am
10 Potluck Supper & Stephanie Knier speaker- 5pm	11 Committee Leadership Orientation 6:30pm	12	13 Choir 7pm	14 7pm Contemp Worship Service	15	16
17 World Thank You Offering Elem Youth Group 4pm—5pm	18	19	20 Choir 7pm	21 7pm Contemp Worship Service	22	23
24	25	26	27 All You Can Eat Buffet 4pm—7pm (H) Worship Team 6:30pm	28 7pm Contemp Worship Service	29	30

Notes:

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## **A big thank you to all for supporting our church & our children's missions!**

### **UNICEF**

The children of our congregation collected \$206 for UNICEF that will help reduce the number of childhood deaths from preventable causes by providing access to clean drinking water, provide medical attention, & provide mosquito bed nets to help prevent malaria. Thank you!

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE**

Pennsdale Trinity UMC filled 35 shoe boxes were filled & sent them along to children around the world. Just imagine the look on their faces as they open their special box & feel the love of Jesus that you put into each one! Thank you for making disciples of Christ one child at a time.

### **KIDS SHARING CHRISTMAS**

Instead of having a children's program last month, the children at Pennsdale Trinity made a nativity scene depicting each character that was discussed each week during Advent. They added their pieces to the church's decorations weekly and were then able to take them home so each child had his/her own nativity to share with their family. Thank you to everyone who helped make it this special project possible!

### **COATS FOR KIDS**

The congregation of Pennsdale Trinity UMC had the opportunity to be a part of "Coats For Kids" community outreach and mission work. The children at the Janet Weis Hospital really enjoyed the donated toys, puzzles and stuffed animals, and appreciate our continued prayers.

### **FAMILY PROMISE**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered December 6 through 13, 2015, for Family Promise. What a wonderful group we hosted & it is such a blessing to see our congregation embrace this worthwhile community mission. Family Promise will be joining us next on the week of February 14—21, 2016.

**Rejoice knowing you have Christ in your heart!**





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## PRAYER CHAIN (revised for 2016)

1. Janet McManigal	570-546-6221
2. Pastor Kevin St. Martin	570-546-5658
3. Thelma White	570-546-3285
4. Joanne Lockard	570-546-9059
5. Mary Walters	570-584-2751
6. Tootie Harner	570-546-6303
7. Edie Gilbert	570-546-2322
8. Sandy Martin	570-772-2481
9. Freddy Temple	570-546-3492
10. Tanya Lamoreaux	570-546-5724
11. Patty Lamoreaux	570-546-6230
12. June Harris	570-546-6674
13. Paula Miller	570-772-5486




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## THE IMPORTANCE OF EPIPHANY

Around the world, Epiphany, also known as “Three Kings Day” or “Twelfth Day”, & is celebrated on January 6th...but do you know the history of this special day or why it is celebrated around the world?

Epiphany literally translates to “manifestation” & has been known to be called Theophany, or “manifestation of God”, by Eastern Christians. It is one of the oldest Christian feasts as it has been celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was even established, & it originally focused on the nativity, incarnation, & baptism of Christ.

Today we celebrate Epiphany as the coming of the three wise men who brought such important, symbolic gifts to baby Jesus. The 3 gifts given were gold, which symbolized Jesus’ kingship & divinity, frankincense, a perfume or incense, as a symbol of deity, & myrrh, which is the foreshadowing of his death & embalming. These 3 important gifts all illustrated that Jesus was the king of all kings who came as the savior for the Jews & Gentiles.

For many Christians, Epiphany is a reminder of our Lord’s everlasting love & mercy, for the son he sent to take away our sins, & of the hope of salvation for all Christians. So on January 6th, please make sure to say a special prayer of thanks for the manifestation of God in the human form of his son, Jesus Christ, & all he gave for us.

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Pennsdale Trinity/Huntersville



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**Charge Office Staff— Office Phone: (570) 546-2619**

**Kevin St. Martin, Pastor**— pastorkevin@pthumc.org

*Parsonage: (570) 546-5658 Cell: (717) 805-4626 (text message friendly)*

**Sara B. Haas** Charge Secretary— office@pthumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday: 10am-1pm

**Charge Lay Leadership**

**John Neiswender, SPRC** Chair

**Fred Temple, Worship** Committee Chair

**PTUMC Lay Leadership**

**Butch Dauberman, Ad. Council** Chair/Lay Leader

**Phil Glasser, Missions** Chair

**Joanne Lockard, Fellowship** Hall Coordinator/UMW President

**Jim Muffy, Trustee** Chair

**Perry Reed, Ad. Council** Co-chair

**Ken Varkey, Finance** Chair

**HUMC Lay Leadership**

**John Neiswender, Lay** Leader

**Artie Fetterman, Ad. Council** Chair

**Russ Pidcoe, Trustee** Chair