

On the Journey ... at St. John's

March
2017

St. John's United Church of Christ
538 E. Thomas St.
Coopersburg, PA 18036
610-282-3310

Volume 18 Issue 3

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Lent is upon us once again! I have been working hard with the worship committee and area pastors to make this a meaningful season. We have many special events planned and I hope you will partake of them! More than ever we need a season of healing and walking close with Jesus to find new meaning in life and healing of our nation.

Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. Like all Christian holy days and holidays, it has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, in preparation for Easter.

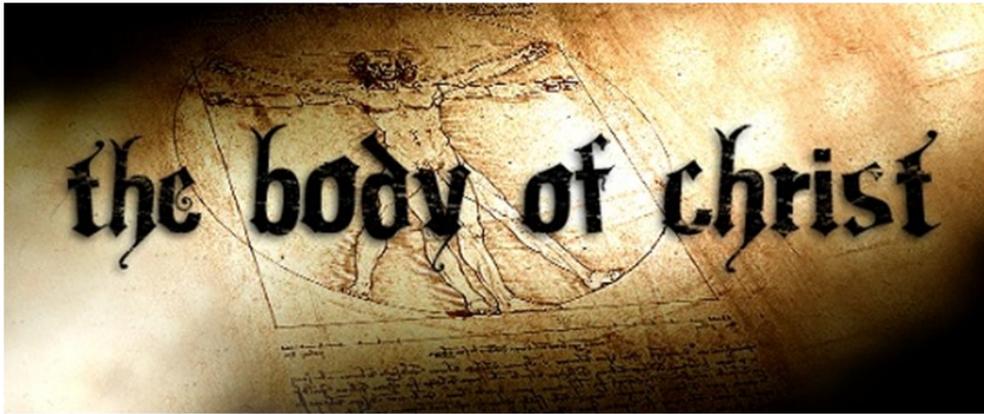
The age-old question pops up, what are you giving up for Lent. Personally, I like the idea of taking something on to make the time more meaningful. It keeps my focus on Jesus' teachings and missions.

Our vespers service continues to be a success and self-supporting! We also have a new yoga class Monday nights as well as a Brownie/Girl Scout troop starting. We continue to explore new ways to use our building. This requires some organization. If you have a committee meeting in the evenings, please clear the date through the church office so we can accommodate everyone.

Finally, I want to let you know my office door is open and I would love to sit and just check in with all of you. It is hard to catch up with everyone on Sunday morning. Give me a call and we can catch up over a cup of coffee at your place or mine.

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Teresa



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday March 1st. "Drive By Ashes" 7-8 am. Stop by the church for quick prayer, the celebration of the ashes, grab a lite breakfast to go and be on your way! Ashes offered again between 10-11 am and service a 7 pm. EVENING SERVICE WILL BE AT THE MORNING STAR MOVARIAN CHURCH, LITERALLY AROUND THE CORNER FROM OUR CHURCH.

Sunday March 5th First Sunday of Lent.
We will be celebrating Holy Communion. We also begin our new Sermon Series "THE BODY OF CHRIST." The theme of the day is Feet of Christ.

Sunday March 12th the theme will be Hands of Christ.

Sunday March 19th the theme will be Mouth of Christ. Vespers will be 5 o'clock in the evening. Theme will be Forgiveness and Healing.

Sunday March 26th the theme will be Ears of Christ

Sunday April 2 the theme will be Eyes of Christ. Evening Concert from the Young People's Philharmonic, Woodwind Quintet Coach and our own Patrick Devine with an ice cream social to follow.

Sunday April 9 PALM SUNDAY Heart of Christ.

Thursday April 13 Maundy Thursday Services - look for more info about a special service!

Friday April 14th Good Friday. Church Will be open from 12-3 allowing time for one and all to stop by and pray.

Sunday April 15th Easter Celebration at 10:30 am.// Vespers at 5 o'clock in the evening.

We are also participating in a **Lenten Round Robin on Thursday Nights**. We are participating with three other churches in this program. The theme will be "At the Crossroads". The weekly themes include such topics as Betrayal, Judgment, Compassion, Declaration, and Obedience.

Dinner at 6--Crockpots of different soup, bread, and beverage only.

Service at 7.

St. John's will host on the 9th
Morning Star Moravian on the 16th
Faith UCC on the 23rd
Friedens Lutheran on the 30th

On the fifth Thursday, April 6th, we are going to come back to St John's for a potluck dinner. Everyone attending will bring something for dinner. Ministers will be drawing straws on who is preaching.



Our Vespers vocalist next month will be Carol Broughton-Poladian. She was born in Fairmont, WV where she was raised listening to the music of her parents as well as her grandmother who was a choir director and played the pipe organ. Carol eventually settled in New York where her lifelong love of music led her to study jazz/stage in New York City with Cobi Narita, as well as in the Jazzmobile with the late Myrna Lake. She has a diverse repertoire which she strengthened at workshops around New York. Since moving to Easton in 2005, she has performed at various venues including Starfish Brasserie, Valenca, Larry Holmes Champ's Corner, Ginny's Bistro & Wine Bar, Lafayette Bar and Easton's Jazz in the Square. Her style is standard jazz and R&B which she interprets with a jazz slant. Currently, she is working on her CD, "My Turn," which will be available in the Fall of 2017.

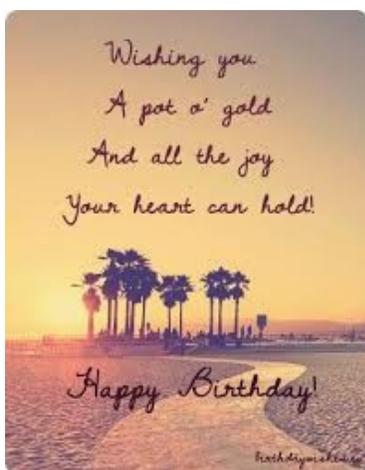
HATHA YOGA

Calm your body, mind and spirit while developing flexibility, strength and balance with this all levels yoga class. Please bring mat and/or blocks if you have them.

Mondays from 6-7:15pm. Cost is \$12 per class.

For more information call 610-217-5564 or the church office.

Come out and join us!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

- 10 Teresa Martin
- 25 Marlene Ruby
Ashley Humphreys
- 26 John Musgnung

Please help keep this listing up-to-date by contacting the office with additions and/or corrections! Thank you!



COB CORNER

It is with heavy hearts that the COB Team acknowledges the loss of one of our own. The loss of Kristin Snell is a profound loss to so many. Kristin was brought into the COB family Team by her dad, Jim. Her twin sister, Ashley also helped with events. When the 5K idea was born through the idea of Carol Ziegler and the forging of relationships with DeSales University by Ed Hepner, Kristin stepped up to head the event. Though she had to take a hiatus due to hospitalization she came back to work on it with Nancy Carr in September to see it through in October! Her enthusiasm, leadership skills and hard work insured a successful first COB Cares 5K Run, Walk and Roll. Kristin was only 27 years old and had so much to give to the world. We will miss her terribly.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 2nd during worship, we will be having a special concert presentation by the Young People's Philharmonic, Woodwind Quintet, and our new church musician will be performing some of his own pieces. The concert will be followed by an ice cream social. This special group of young people uses our Fellowship Hall in the evenings for rehearsal. Watch for more info.



MUSIC NOTES



Calling all those who can carry a tune! We are looking for those interested in working with Patrick, our new church musician, to present special music during the Lent/Easter season. We are hoping to get a group together to sing some familiar tunes to add to our worship experience. Meeting will be March 5th after church to pick music and set up rehearsal. Any questions please speak to Pastor Teresa. Please consider adding your voice to this group.



ASH WEDNESDAY - March 1st

We invite everyone to join us in this Holy celebration.

Ashes will be available from 7-8 am and again from 10-11am. Service in the evening at 7 pm at Moravian Star Church.

Stop in for a quick prayer, a lite breakfast to go and be on your way.

Guidelines for Emergency Relief Requests

All requests go through Pastor Teresa.

SLAC list checked for individual activity.

Request then referred to Social Ministry.

Referred to Council for approval.

Requests for social ministry funding will not be directed to Pastor expecting an immediate outcome. The vetting protocol listed above will apply.

In addition, St. John's will follow the criteria for assistance based on The Southern Lehigh Area Churches Good Samaritan Fund.

Does the request follow the Mission Statement?

Is this truly a crisis?

Is the need immediate?

What other attempts were made to remedy this situation?

Are there other agencies with which we can partner or are better suited to meet the present need?

What is the likelihood that this situation will reoccur?

How will our help lead to behavioral change and avoid a cycle of dependency?

Unfortunately, people do game the system, thereby hurting people who are in legitimate need.

Council may also suggest a special offering directed to the Good Samaritan Fund.

Also, please be advised St. John's has designated 16 monthly missions in this calendar year. These are monetary gifts already being supported by the congregation.

Most of all, St. John's does not have cash in hand for regular emergencies. St. John's is currently operating at a deficit. We do not have petty cash available.



The Penn Northeast Conference
of the United Church of Christ

...God is still speaking.

The 55th PNEC Annual Meeting will be held on
April 29, 2017 from 9AM to 4PM at
St. John's UCC, 1415 Rising Sun Road, Laurys Station, PA 18059



If you would like to join Pastor Teresa for the day and attend the PNEC annual meeting please let her know by March 10th. Cost is \$35 per person. (If this is a burden please also let her know, funds can be made available) We will be carpooling from the church parking lot!

MISSION—THANK YOU!



In December, 2016, monies received from 10,000 Villages supported our special needs members with Christmas Poinsettias for the holiday season. The rest of the proceeds went to Bethany Children's Home.

Souper Sunday was a delicious success! Between the soup sales and the noisy offering, we supported our area Soup Kitchen with \$364.00.

Thank you to all for your kind donations of socks for the homeless. They will be distributed by the Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Helverson

MISSION OF MONTH—ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees



and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to build sustainable communities, respond to disaster, and minister to refugees. In more than 80 nations, OGHS has enabled people to rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy and other forces that deny and destroy human dignity.

OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of natural and human caused disasters. OGHS responds with help, hope and advocacy for people who have been uprooted from their homes.

The United Church of Christ partners with six other Protestant denominations thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness. Seven Christian denominations - American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise over \$10 million annually.

This February 2017, almost 100 United Church of Christ clergy, pastors and executives are among 2,000 interfaith leaders from across the country opposing President Donald Trump's plan to block refugees from entering the United States. Those religious leaders — which include 95 UCC national and conference leaders, as well as active and retired local church pastors — are asking for continued support of refugee resettlement as part of their faith call to welcome the stranger.

Words cannot capture the anguish of people when they lose everything in a disaster or have to leave it behind while fleeing war or conflict. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more.

You can find OGHS on the web: www.ucc.org/oghs, and on Facebook and Twitter.

St. John's United Church of Christ
538 Thomas Street
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www.stjohnsucccoop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR MISSION:

To know and share the love of God through worship,
fellowship and outreach to the community.

