## News, Notes and Revelations from St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ

### February 2018

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## From the Pastor's Desk



## Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again, it is mind boggling to think that it is time for the February column. But then, on the other hand, when I think about New Year's Day (and, on the calendar this is January 18th, so just 17 days ago) it seems as though the celebration of New Year's was a couple of months ago. The passing of time is definitely relative. Some times we think about an event and it seems so long ago. Other times we think about things long ago and it seems like just last year.

This is definitely the case with my life and the length of time I have been ordained as well as the years I have been Mrs. Jones (varies depending on the day you encounter me). When I think about being ordained 35+ years, it most definitely does not seem like it. When I talk about being ordained, I generally say that it seems like half that length of time or less. And, when talking about age, my catch phrase is..... Age is only on the calendar numbering the days, it is not how you feel. We also have numerous phrases to qualify how we count the days and one of my favorites is..."Don't count the days, but make the days count!"

February is also the "month of love" and I think one of the best ways to fulfill making our days count is by filling every day with love. Certainly most of the advertisements we hear over TV, radio or the internet tell us that we just have to purchase their product in order to show our significant others how much we love them. But, I can do much better than that! This year, our "day of love" takes on a whole different focus for me. Valentine's day - February 14th is also Ash Wednesday! So instead of making a reservation for dinner at that one special place or spending the evening with dinner and a movie, Christians far and wide will be worshipping and many will receive the imposition of ashes during their worship service. For me, this is one beautiful expression of love.... of my love for my Lord! I will receive the mark of the cross from one of the worshippers who come to the chancel to receive the mark from me. I will wear this mark on my forehead to be a reminder of what my Lord did for me when He died on Calvary. I will wear this mark as I begin my journey of Lent for 2018 and with each day of the season I will look to the cross and give praise and thanks to God that He loved me so much He chose to do

this - for ME! This is THE greatest expression of love E-V-E-R!!!! (no matter what the advertisements try to tell us.)

So, my hope is that you always feel you are surrounded by love. If you share your house with a spouse or significant other, or if you find yourself without someone right by your side, know always that you are never alone! God is ALWAYS with us and loving us! That is one of the beautiful things about our awesome God! He is ALWAYS with us and ALWAYS loves us! People who share our love will come and go but the love of God in our life is CONSTANT!

In this month of love my prayer is that everyone will be able to know the love of God in their life. I hope to be able to share the reality of God's love for everyone with everyone I meet. And I hope for those who do not know God and know how much He loves them, may they feel that love or see that love through me. It is the least I could do for my loving God!

God Bless! With love,



Pastor Lou Ann

### **SPECIAL SERVICES in FEBRUARY**

Feb. 4 - Epiphany 5

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: "Source of Strength"

Anthem: "People Need the Lord" Nelson/McHugh/Larson

Feb. 11 - Epiphany 6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: "Follow Jesus to Transformation"

Anthem: "Lord, Let your Light Shine Down on Me" Besig/Price

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 PM

Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

Sermon: "What Do We Treasure?"

Anthem: "Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance" Knippa/Angerman

Feb. 18 - Lent 1

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: "Baptism to Temptation to Ministry"

Feb. 25 - Lent 2

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Sermon: "Followers of Christ"

### COVERED DISH VALENTINE'S/ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER

Since Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year, we want you to be able to have a nice dinner and also attend our Ash Wednesday service. We invite you to bring a covered dish and we will all enjoy a dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM on February 14. If you

plan to attend the dinner, please put your name(s) and what you will be bringing on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

### SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for FEBRUARY

#### **GREETERS:**

Feb. 4 - Nancy Taylor

Feb. 11 - Curt Weber

Feb. 18 - Linda Flinchbaugh

Feb. 25 - Donna Hartley

#### **GIFT COLLECTORS:**

Feb. 4 - Gwen Wise

Feb. 11 - Diana Myers

Feb. 18 - Lonnie & Carol Barnhart

Feb. 25 - David & Susan McDowell

Feb. 4 - Barb Adams

Feb. 11 - Janie Montgomery

**LAY READERS:** 

Feb. 18 - Carl Criswell

Feb. 25 - Sonja Ness

#### **ACOLYTES:**

#### Feb. 4 - Beth March & Janie Montgomery

Feb. 11 - Joel & Stephanie Frey

Feb. 18 - Sterling Boyd

Feb. 25 - Joan Mickey

#### **COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:**

Feb. 4 - To be announced

Feb. 11 - To be announced

Feb. 18 - To be announced

Feb. 25 - To be announced

#### **SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:**

### Feb. 4 - Terry Doll

Feb. 11 - Ed Adams

Feb. 18 - Chase Matthews

Feb. 25 - Wyatt Myers

#### **LIGHTING OPERATORS:**

Feb. 4 - Joel Frey

Feb. 11 - Greg Ness

Feb. 18 - Greg Ness

Feb. 25 - Sterling Boyd

#### **CAMERA OPERATORS:**

#### Feb. 4 - Greg Ness

Feb. 11 - To be announced

Feb. 18 - Todd Miller

Feb. 25 - Terry Doll

#### **VIDEO OPERATORS:**

Feb. 4 - Sydney Brown

Feb. 11 - Jeri Jones

Feb. 18 - Judy Bishop

Feb. 25 - Nelson Leader

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER:** February 15

## <u>FEBRUARY</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u>



May God
Bless You
on Your
Birthday!

- 1. Jamie Luckenbaugh
- 3. Marlene Matthews
- 4. Gerry Geesey
- 6. Beth Herbst
- 7. Bryan Adams
- 10. Bryan Barley
- 12. Landan McKenzie
  James Klyeman
- 13. Mark Morton
- 15. Trent Hake
- 20. Allie McKinsey
  Madelynne Shisler
  Kolton Knickel
  Amber Sipe
- 22. Kathy Rayhart
- 24. Donna Hartley
- 27. Jamie Reid Susan McDowell
- 28. Emerson Knaper Sandra Ness
- 29. Donna Busch Linda Rost Emma Boyd

### **CELEBRATING FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Feb. 12 - Charles and Theresa Diehl - 7 years

### FINANCIAL REPORT

**Undesignated General Fund** 

**Red Brick Chapel** 

Cemetery

Month-2017	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	
January	\$13,069.96	\$14,011.17	\$503.43	\$181.75	\$354.55	\$850.00	
February	\$10,907.93	\$5,404.56	\$3.09	\$211.14	\$0.29	\$0.00	
March	\$11,915.46	\$13,831.65	\$1,153.48	\$423.97	\$0.32	\$251.56	
April	\$9,693.50	\$9,902.05	\$528.42	\$293.05	\$40.30	\$376.81	
May	\$11,958.80	\$8,938.88	\$1,003.57	\$100.58	\$0.27	\$947.00	
June	\$8,679.72	\$13,211.83	\$353.54	\$284.53	\$0.19	\$2,515.00	
July	\$11,233.38	\$8,194.28	\$3.64	\$144.18	\$6.56	\$2,121.58	
August	\$10,150.20	\$8,481.16	\$3.62	\$124.75	\$100.39	\$1,965.00	
September	\$8,703.07	\$13,161.93	\$3.47	\$374.09	\$0.29	\$2,556.58	
October	\$12,988.46	\$10,561.04	\$3.56	\$115.95	\$800.22	\$1,965.00	
November	\$9,788.25	\$8,247.13	\$3.43	\$101.09	\$0.18	\$935.00	
December	\$11,575.93	\$12,548.75	\$3.53	\$225.91	40.14	\$1,100.00	
Total	\$130,664.66	\$126,494.43	\$3,566.78	\$2,580.99	\$1,303.70	\$15,583.56	

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ January 1, 2018

\$10,856.71

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ January 1, 2018 (Includes \$48,674.30 Endowment)

\$76,261.95

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ January 1, 2018 (Includes \$778,902.89 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation—transferred \$9000 from UCC Foundation to B B & T Bank)

\$781,763.00

### Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2017

	#		Total	Monthly		Available	
	<b>Families</b>	ies \$\$\$		Donations		Balance	
Beginning						\$	397.38
January	1	\$	50.00	\$	84.27	\$	431.65
February				\$	116.61	\$	548.26
March				\$	71.58	\$	619.84
April	1	\$	25.00	\$	115.87	\$	710.71
May	3	\$	75.00	\$	20.02	\$	655.73
June	3	\$	75.00	\$	139.95	\$	720.68
July				\$	109.37	\$	830.05
August	2	\$	75.00	\$	55.02	\$	810.07
September	2	\$	625.00	\$	55.40	\$	240.47
October	3	\$	100.00	\$	61.21	\$	201.68
November	2	\$	75.00	\$	90.41	\$	217.09
December	1	\$	25.00	\$	184.48	\$	376.57

**Total** 18 \$ 1125.00 \$ 1104.19

### REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

### Freda Berry

The Haven at Springwood 2321 Freedom Way York, PA 17402 717-718-3615



### Peggy Luckenbaugh

Room 704B Colonial Manor Nursing Home 970 Colonial Avenue York, PA 17403

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A1C Ness, Brandon 98950 East Harmony Lane Tucson, AZ 85748

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### HOMEWOOD HOMES NEEDS YOU



If you can do simple sewing, Homewood Homes needs you! The skilled care facility needs soaker pads and laundry bags for the residents. The directions for each are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. There is a box of material located in the fellowship hall— flannel for the soaker pads and cotton for the laundry bags. Any questions, please see Steph Frey. Thank you for supporting this project.



### DALLASTOWN ELEMENTARY FOOD BACKPACK PROJECT

The Dallastown-Yoe Ministerium has begun working with the Dallastown schools to prepare backpacks to send home with needy students each Friday. These backpacks contain food items that can be eaten at home over the weekend. They are currently in need of the following items: Regular sized (12 oz) boxes of cereal, boxed mac and cheese, applesauce cups, cracker packs, and peanut butter. Donations may be placed in the designated box in the Gathering Room.

#### . LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at our church on March 5. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, You may call toll-free 1-888-653-6441, text the word circle to 797979, or visit http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle. If you or someone you know would like the screenings, but cost is a problem, please see Pastor Lou Ann. She has a few complimentary certificates.



### MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, February 13, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Those attending the meeting please bring information on potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.



FAITH KIDZ will be meeting every Wednesday in February, except for the 14th (Ash Wednesday) from 6:30-8:00PM. At the February 7th meeting we will be making Valentines to be delivered to Saubel's Market which will then distribute them to nursing home residents.



### **BOOK SALE**

Our annual Book Fair is returning the middle of February, so now's the time to start collecting the books you've read and bring them to church. They may be placed in

boxes in the Gathering Room by the windows. The Book Fair will begin on February 18 and run through the middle of March.

In addition to books, you may also donate DVD's and CD's. PLEASE do not donate any magazines or musty-smelling books. We are looking forward to a great book fair.

Our next Crafty Chicks session will be held on Sunday, February 25, from 2:00-4:00 PM. Joan Mickey will teach us how to paint



glass so that it looks like stained glass. The cost is \$10 for the materials. There are sample projects on display in the Gathering Room. Please sign up on the sheet next to the display so she knows how many supplies to bring.



TEENS meetings have tentatively been scheduled for Sunday, February 11, and Sunday, February 25, at 6:30 PM at the church.

Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on February 13 and February 27 at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. We are currently discussing the book How, Then, Shall We Live by Wayne Muller. New members are always welcome to join us.

### WOMEN'S EVENT

You are invited to join us on Saturday, March 10, when our

church becomes a Seaside Escape for women of all ages. Women will bask in God's presence, experience the life-changing power of God's love, and explore the stories of Sarah and Hagar. SeaSide Escape uses the imagery of the beach to create a peaceful, relaxing retreat for women. You can almost hear the gentle waves and smell the salty air refreshing women and reconnecting them to God and each other. Our time together will include worship, Bible study sessions, crafts, and more. All women are invited—bring your moms, sisters, daughters, friends, or neighbors!

The cost for this event is only \$10 per person and includes snacks, lunch and all materials. Times are 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline to register is Sunday, March 3.

### . TOILETRIES COLLECTION

We are once again collecting toiletries for Helping Hands to give out. You may put your donations in the boxes under the coat rack in the hallway. Please try to keep items gender neutral. We will also be giving out bags to children, so kids' items are needed as well. Thank you.

### **EMMANUEL'S CLOSET**

February 2018

### **Diapers**

Diapers are the item that is most requested by our clients, but they are not something normally donated during the food and clothing

drives which organizations hold throughout the year. Therefore we are asking for donations of any brand of diapers, especially sizes 2 through 6. We are also asking for donations of wipes of any brand to give out along with the diapers. Smaller packs of approximately 50 are best. We want to give everyone equal amounts and large packs cannot be opened and separated.

### **Cartridge Recycling**

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet bin in the



Gathering Room. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."



### THANKS FOR CARING!

#### **E.C.** Continuing Needs

Juice

Cereal

Peanut Butter/Jelly

Spaghetti Sauce

**Boxed Dry Pastas** 

Helper Meals

**Dessert Items** 

**Condiment Items** 

Canned Tuna/Meats

Canned Broth

Canned Fruit/Vegetables

Coffee/Tea

Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes

Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels

Dish Washing Liquid

Laundry Detergent

All-Purpose Cleaners

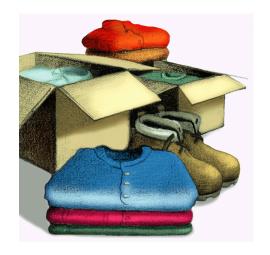
Baby food, formula, diapers, etc.

Children's books/toys

Small household items

### Please, NO Expired Food Items

We are now collecting spring and summer clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.





# HEALING HEARTS INSPIRATIONS



### FEBRUARY 2018

"Love puts the fun in together, the sad in apart, and the joy in a heart."

#### PROBLEMS HAPPEN

You'll never have a problem-free life. Ever! This headline will never appear in the paper or on your screen: We Have Only Good News to Report!" You might discover a way to e-mail pizza and become a billionaire. You might be called out of the stands to pinch-hit when your team is down to its final out of the World Series. You might hit a home run. It's not likely, but it is possible. But a problem-free, no-hassle, blue-sky existence of smooth sailing? Don't hold your breath.

But not all people see problems the same way. Some people are overcome by problems. Others overcome problems. Some people are left bitter; others are left better. Some people face their challenges with fear, others with faith. You don't have a choice about having problems, but you do have a choice about what you do with them. Choose faith, won't you?

Max Lucado

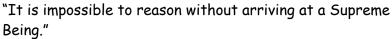
"The heart of most spiritual practice is simply this: Remember. Remember who you are.

Remember what you love. Remember what is sacred. Remember what is true. Remember that you will die, and that this day is a gift. Remember how you wish to live." Wayne Muller

#### WISE WORDS

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON

"It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one."



"Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."

"Common looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them."

"How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

"If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?"

"I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

" A woman is the only thing I'm afraid of that I know won't hurt me."



As gently as a snowflake may peace come into your heart.

Japanese proverb





#### JUST WHO WAS THIS SAINT VALENTINE?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.



Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl-possibly his jailor's daughter-who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it s alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and-most importantly-romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

#### NO STRINGS ATTACHED

The little boy had just moved into a new neighborhood. His name was Brad, and he was very shy. One February day he told his mom that he knew Valentine's Day was coming up and he wanted to make a valentine for every child in his class.

Brad's mom's heart sank. She was certain her little boy's heart would be broken in the process, because every afternoon she watched the kids walking home from school together laughing and playing\_\_ all except Brad. He trudged along behind them. But she went along with the idea and bought him paper, crayons, glue and glitter. Day after day he spent his time after school carefully creating 35 one-of-a kind valentines. When the day came to deliver them he was so excited. He raced out the door to get there before the other kids arrived. His mother thought sadly, This will be such a tough day for Brad. I'm going to bake his favorite cookies for him. I wish I could do more to ease the pain he'll feel when he doesn't get very many valentines.

That afternoon she put the warm cookies and milk on the table and watched for her son. Sue enough, here came a big gang of children, laughing, packages of bright valentines under their arms. And there was Brad, trailing behind. He was walking faster than usual and she thought, Bless his heart, his arms are empty and he is about to burst into tears.

When he came into the house she said tenderly, "Honey, Mommy has some cookies and milk for you." She was startled to see that his face was aglow. He marched past her as he declared. "I didn't forget a single one...not a single one!" He was grinning from ear to ear.

What a message for those of us who forget that the greatest joy is not in receiving, but in giving from our one-of-a-kind hearts. When we get outside ourselves enough to let God flow through us, the sweet fruit of his spirit will grow and nourish everyone around us.

Do you have spiritual fruit in your life? What are you doing to actively show love and kindness to others? If you have been caught up in what you are \_\_or are not\_\_ getting from others, think about this little boy. Then ask God how he wants to use your one-of-a-kind self to touch somebody today. Give His love away with joy.

No strings attached!

Barbara Johnson



### **Revelations for FEBRUARY from "Bly Mire" Mouse**

This is a "Jeri joke" I heard Pastor Lou Ann use this past Sunday.... "Jesus called John as a disciple and said—'Come forth and I will give you eternal life!' John came fifth and got a microwave." Get it???? Uh, hopefully we all come forth and get eternal life!

From the December column.....And, how about the school chorus and string ensemble concert???? Unfortunately, school was canceled that day and so was the concert. (Sad face) I had to go to the school to hear them, but it was

#### AWESOME!!!!!

From the Church

Mouse

I have got to share that I had a message from my cousin Mickey! Pastor Lou Ann and Jeri were in Florida the end of December and spent some time in Disneyworld. Mickey and Minnie are doing fine even though they were bundled up in their winter coats and gloves and long johns! They said they hope Mire and I could come along the next time. So, maybe we will work on that.

Are any of you as tired of the cold weather and the snow as I am????? I know this is winter, but—enough is enough!

We are now into the middle and latter days of January and, as usual, there is not much on the schedule for this month because of the "iffy" weather, but there is something I am keeping in my heart. We recently have lost two beautiful spirits from our church family. RUTH KNAPER passed away the beginning of November and, even up to the time she went into the hospital and then rehab, Nina would bring Ruth and Emerson to church at least one or two times a month. We definitely miss this beautiful lady and her loving heart! Now, this month we lost a second lovely lady. January 5th ANITA SPAHR passed away. She was not able to be with us in worship for the last year or so, but she was still a great part of our fellowship in spirit! She will be missed by all of her brothers and sisters of faith! GOD BLESS all the family mourning the passing of these beautiful ladies!

LOOKING AHEAD - Upcoming events—the BOOK SALE! We will again be offering our book sale so if you have any books just collecting dust, consider donating them to our book sale! We will also accept video tapes and Movie DVD's. PLEASE — NO MAGAZINES!!!!! I will go through the little ones' books and see what I can give!

Well, I just heard Jean tell Pastor Lou Ann that she added some snow flakes to the decorations in her room. THEY BETTER BE PAPER!!!! I have seen too many snow flakes outside.... And I sure do not want to see that kind inside!!!! It is bad enough that our floor is now white inside the door because of us dragging the ice melt inside.

Until next month...... With, we hope, warmer weather!

With our love!

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!





Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

#### What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

#### What you do:

- Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
- Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
- With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
- If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



Another, John 13:34, MIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one