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From the Pastor's Desk

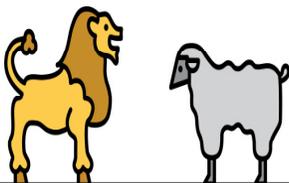


I will begin with wishing everyone a HAPPY SPRING!!! Of course, our winter has been very mild so it seems like we have been having spring for weeks. Also, usually when Jeri and I go to Florida, the difference in temperatures is wide enough that we definitely soak up the warmth while there. Well, half of the time we were in Florida, the chill took over. Now, it was still light jacket for us, but it was chilly. The beautiful thing is to see all the flowers in bloom. Even when we visited our friends in South Carolina! I know though, some of our flowers are already poking through the soil so we too will soon see the beauty of spring!

For this column, I have been tossing around a couple of thoughts....one being the recent passing of a friend and colleague. Rev. Dennis Weidler was always an active person and very fit. Suddenly on a Friday morning as he was completing his usual morning routine his wife saw him sitting on the bed and twirling his arm in the air. She (being a nurse) jumped into action. It turns out Dennis had bleeding in the brain. For about ten days he was in ICU but there was nothing the doctors could do. Dennis did not want life support. He passed away just after noon on February 9th. His funeral was Valentine's Day. I got to know Dennis in Seminary because we were in the same Collegium group for all three years of our schooling. Dennis was very active in the UCC both in Association and Conference levels. He was a dedicated servant of God all of his life. He was one of the most stalwart people you could ever hope to know. Dennis will be missed! And, I ask you to keep his wife Jean and his sons, Jonathan and David in your prayer thoughts!

The other focus that I have contemplated for this month is, of course, Lent. We observed Ash Wednesday on February 26th. This is always a moving service because early on, we have our prayers of Confession and then we receive the mark of the cross - a sign of penitence and prayer. Then we also share the Sacrament of Holy Communion.... something that adds so much meaning to the Ash Wednesday experience. (I had not ever combined Communion with the Imposition of Ashes until I experienced it here and I definitely appreciate the spiritual intensity!)

Being in the season of Lent of course brings us to a more intentional and intense prayer life. We are called to be introspective about our devotion to God and His will and calling of our life. We are to seek the voice of God opening our eyes to the areas of life where we should put away the things of this earth and fill that void with the things of God. Part of this process involves "giving up" something for



Lent. This is part of our observation of fasting that is also an intense part of our Lenten journey. Many people choose to give up something that they have already been able to do without but for an indulgence now and then. But that is not what our intent should be...we should try to give up something that we generally feel we “just can’t live without” because when we “fast” from that sort of thing, we are more challenged to live life focused on God rather than on having (or enjoying) the item we are giving up. Over the years I have given up eating candy; giving up soda (back in the days I drank it); etc. This year, I am not sure as of the writing of this message just what I will give up. I have already uninstalled some games on my phone that I played every day (two games remain). I have changed my eating habits so that I do not eat as much starch or pasta; I could do a fast from iced tea but I drink it unsweetened so there is no benefit other than drinking water instead. Goodness, I am not sure what I will fast from doing this Lent season. But, the important thing is to deepen our interaction and our interrelatedness to God for the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. (Do remember, Sundays are a free day so we do not include them in the forty days.)

God bless you in whatever you “give up” for Lent. God give us all the spiritual strength we need to be devoted to Him.... ALL WAYS, always!

God Bless us ALL! With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH

March 1 - Lent 1 - Women’s Sunday

Gospel: John 1:1-5

Sermon: “Celebrating What’s Right With the World”

Anthem: “Daughters of Promise, Women of Faith” Martin

March 8 - Lent 2

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Sermon: “Born From Above”

Anthem: “Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love”

Key, et al/Martin

March 15 - Lent 3

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Sermon: “We Have Heard for Ourselves”

Anthem: “Into the Waters” Mock/Drennan

March 22 - Lent 4

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sermon: “Spiritual Blindness”

Anthem: “Still Changing Me” Metzger

March 22 - Dallastown/Yoe Ministerium Community Lenten Service

Our church will be hosting this year’s service at 6:30 PM.

Rev. Steve Abend of Christ Lutheran Church will be preaching and there will be a combined choir from all the churches.

March 29 - Lent 5

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Sermon: “For the Glory of God”

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for MARCH

GREETERS:

March 1 - Nancy Taylor
March 8 - Charlie Diehl
March 15 - Curt Weber
March 22 - Diana Myers
March 29 - Joel & Steph Frey

GIFT COLLECTORS:

March 1 - Delores Noll
March 8 - Michael & Roberta Wills
March 15 - David & Susan McDowell
March 22 - Diana Myers
March 29 - Lynz Leader

LAY READERS:

March 1 - Roberta Wills
March 8 - Janie Montgomery
March 15 - Linda Eichelberger
March 22 - Barb Adams
March 29 - Steph Frey

ACOLYTES:

March 1 - Janie Montgomery & Roberts Wills
March 8 - Cindy Innerst Axe
March 15 - Sterling Boyd
March 22 - Tim & Donna Sleeth
March 29 - Curt & Ginny Weber

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 1 - Linda Eichelberger
March 8 - Barb Marshall
March 15 - Susan McDowell
March 22 - Janie Montgomery
March 29 - Lynz Leader

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

March 1 - Terry Doll
March 8 - Ed Adams
March 15 - Eli Matthews
March 22 - Greg Ness
March 29 -

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

March 1 - Joel Frey
March 8 - Greg Ness
March 15 -
March 22 - Sterling Boyd
March 29 -

CAMERA OPERATORS:

March 1 - Greg Ness
March 8 - John Sterling
March 15 - Greg Ness
March 22 -
March 29 - Greg Ness

VIDEO OPERATORS:

March 1 - Jessica Keller
March 8 - Jeri Jones
March 15 - Judy Bishop
March 22 - Nelson Leader
March 29 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams
DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER: March 15

MARCH
BIRTHDAYS



2. Sarah Smith
Lexus Luckenbaugh
9. Madison Leader
10. Patrick Michaels
12. Joel Frey
13. Gary Matthews
16. Lillie Eberly
19. Nicki Barley
20. Erin Michaels
22. Joyce Raver
24. David Morton
Jamison Rost
28. Maya Ness
Peter Busch
29. Wayne Althoff
31. Marshall Geesey

May God Bless You
On Your
Birthday

CELEBRATING MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 29 - Terry and Frances Doll - 56 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2020	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,741.85	\$12,109.48	\$0.35	\$269.82	\$812.70	\$1,291.80
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$9,741.85	\$12,109.48	\$0.35	\$269.82	\$812.70	\$1,291.80

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ February 1, 2020

\$1881.87

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ February 1, 2020
(Includes \$53,501.38 Endowment)

\$74,015.65

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ February 1, 2020
(Includes \$828,822.00 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$834,361.60

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2020

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 437.35
January			\$ 69.87	\$ 507.32
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total			\$ 69.87	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
The Haven at Springwood
2321 Freedom Way
York, PA 17402

Linda Trone
Room 700
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

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



Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Burl Gingerich
Nancy Taylor
Linda King
Friends battling cancer



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

A1C Ness, Brandon
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756



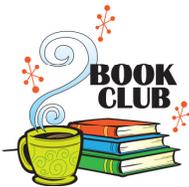
MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

SISTERS OF SERVICE

Sisters of Service (SOS) will be holding their next meeting on Monday, March 16 at 6:30 PM. All women are invited to join us.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesdays, March 10 and 24, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. And . . . just like the Book Club in Mary Ann Shaffer's novel, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, we are each reading our own book choices and discussing them with the group. New members are always welcome.



On Saturday, March 14, at 6:00 PM we invite you to join us for a covered dish dinner, followed by the movie "The War Room." If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room.



The FAITH KIDZ will be meeting on Wednesdays, March 11 and March 25, from 6:30-7:30PM.

If you don't want to be late for church on Sunday, March 8, remember to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 7. Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 AM that Sunday.



“Finding yourself’ is not how it works. You aren’t a 10-dollar bill in last year’s coat pocket... ’Finding yourself’ is actually returning to yourself, remembering who you were before the world got it’s hands on you.”

Ellen McDowell



What if you gave a dear friend or adult child a precious family heirloom; say, maybe a delicate Chinese celadon bowl? You place it gently into their outstretched hands and slowly drawing back your hands, you ensure that it nestles in their possession. They glance at it momentarily, then flip it in the air and catch it just before it hits the ground. Next, they bang it a few times on the wall; then they casually spin the now-cracked bowl a few times before dumping half a jar of salted peanuts into it. When we abuse our physical bodies, be it with drugs, alcohol, junk food, lack of exercise or too much stress and too little sleep, we insult the Creator who place the spark of life into these "wondrously made" bodies He has given us out an unfathomable love for us, His children, His dear friends.

Lisa Bowman

“Life is not a race - but indeed a journey. Be honest. Work hard. Be choosy. Say "thank you", "I love you", and "great job" to someone each day. Go to church, take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given, it is not accidental, search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh Often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry, less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself ~ plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Live for today, enjoy the moment.”

Bonnie Mohr

The Finnish call March, "maaliskuu," which comes from "maallinen kuu," and means "earthy month." The name comes from the hope that earth or dirt will actually be visible under the snow during this time of year.

DR. SEUSS

Theodore Seuss Geisel was born in March 1904. Dr. Seuss, as we have come to know him, gifted us with 42 world famous books written for children of all ages. He befuddled our minds, touched our hearts and challenged our conventional wisdom. He was a life long student of human nature, both as it was and as it could be. Dr. Seuss passed away in 1991, but he will live forever in the hearts of both the young and old...
A few Seussisms...

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

" A person is a person, no matter how small."

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."



WAR ANGEL

Crossing the border into Baghdad, my husband’s unit settled in for a rare operational pause. He realized his extreme lack of sleep, but the perimeter needed to be secured. Soon, he was back home in bed, feeling the most comfortable he had ever felt...so warm... not cold at all, peaceful. Suddenly, he felt our daughter tapping him. She was tapping, tapping and saying “Daddy, wake up. Daddy, Daddy, wake up.” He woke with a start, thinking that he would be seeing our daughter’s sweet face looking down at him. Instead, he saw movement along the horizon. Needless to say, the sighting was verified to be enemy forces and the platoon was alerted in time. The love and devotion for her father came through in such a strong spiritual way that will never be forgotten. God used her to help!

We are all truly connected by love.

Deanna Cineros

THE LISTENING DOLPHIN

Bottleneck dolphins are amazing animals and quite intelligent. They communicate primarily by sound, which makes sense because sound travels up to five times faster underwater. Dolphins have a complex social network and hunt together in pods for food.

At the early age of three or four months, each dolphin begins to develop an individual whistle, called its "signature" whistle. According to research, this particular sound identifies the dolphin. The whistle may be used to signify distress, to let the rest of the pod know where it is, or to maintain contact with another dolphin, especially in the case of mother and calf.

One important fact is noted from studying dolphins. They never whistle all at once. To communicate, they must listen first. Such a simple fact. I am **not a good listener**. I don't know if its because there were nine children in our household, or the fact that I was the oldest. My mother used to say "Can we please keep the noise down to a dull roar?" There was a lot of noise in our home, and perhaps to be heard, we all had to speak loudly and often. As an adult, I am trying to improve my listening skills.

Someone has observed that we have two ears and one mouth because we need to listen twice as much as we speak. In the ever increasing "noise" of social media, in this information world in which we live, it seems that true listening and communication have fallen by the wayside. To learn to listen is one of the most important things we can do. Rather than always needing to talk, we need to truly listen. We need to understand that it is not always necessary to have our own opinions expressed. Give someone the gift of truly listening to them!

Renee Yancy

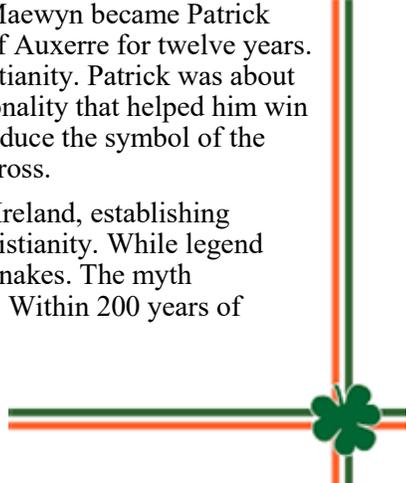


HAPPY MAEWYN SUCCAT DAY!

Did you know that Saint Patrick's name at birth was Maewyn Succat? He was born somewhere near the end of the fourth century and took on the name Patrick after he became a priest, much later in his life. At the age of sixteen Maewyn Succat was kidnapped from his native land of Wales, by a band of pirates, and sold into slavery in Ireland. Maewyn worked as a shepherd and turned to religion for solace.

After six long years of slavery he escaped to the northern coast of Gaul. In Gaul, Maewyn became Patrick (a more Christian name) and studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for twelve years. He came to believe that it was his calling to convert the pagans of Ireland to Christianity. Patrick was about sixty years old when he arrived in Ireland and it is said that he had a winning personality that helped him win converts. He used the shamrock to help explain the concept of the Trinity. To introduce the symbol of the cross, he superimposed a pagan sun onto it, creating what we know as the Celtic Cross.

Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries and setting up schools and churches to aid in converting Ireland to Christianity. While legend has it that St. Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland, in truth, the island never had snakes. The myth probably evolved as a metaphor for the eradication of pagan practices from Ireland. Within 200 years of St. Patrick's efforts, Ireland was a completely Christianized society.



GRACE!

The bank gives us a grace period. The seedy politician falls from grace. Musicians speak of a grace note. We use the word for hospitals, baby girls, and pre-meal prayers. We talk as though we know what grace means.

If you turn the page of your Bible and just look at the words, you might as well be gazing at a cemetery...lifeless, stony...nothing moves you. But you don't dare close the book, no sirree. You dare not miss a deed for fear that God will erase your name.

If that's your feeling, grace can speak to you. God's grace has a drenching about it. It comes after you. It re-wires you! From insecure to God's secure. From regret riddled to better-because-of-it. From afraid to die to ready to fly.

As Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Grace!

You might call it a spiritual heart transplant!

Max Lucado

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

March 2020



Easter Project

For Easter we are planning to give out extra food bags, including gift cards for meat, to our clients to make a special holiday meal. We could use the following donations to help fill those bags: **Instant mashed potatoes, canned gravy, stuffing mix, canned carrots, canned pineapples, brownie mix, muffin mix and bags of candy (peeps, jelly beans, chocolates, anything Easter themed).** Please bring these donations to the church no later than Sunday, March 15, to allow time to sort and shop for anything that is not donated. The bags will be given out on March 28 and April 4. Thank you.

Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box above the coat rack in the hallway. 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."



E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal/Oatmeal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Pancake Mix
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Soap
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Children's books/toys
Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

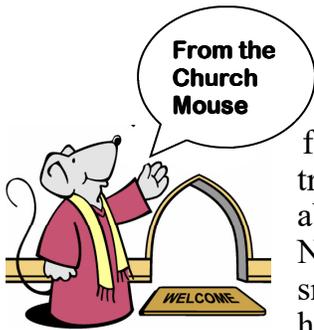
Assorted beverages
Canned mixed vegetables
Chicken helper/canned chicken
Pancake mix/syrup
Canned pasta
Canned spam
Cereal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Scalloped potatoes
Assorted boxed macaroni/pasta

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



THANKS FOR CARING!

Revelations for MARCH from “Bly Mire” Mouse



Have you heard the adage...”Spring has sprung. The grass has ris’. I wonder where the flowers is?” I am amazed to see that some of our spring flowers are already popping their heads out of the soil. But, I just hope that the trees do not bud so early because there is always a chance of a late freeze. How about this winter? I had to chuckle this morning. I heard Joe Calhoun say that North Carolina and South Carolina had a chance of getting a couple of inches of snow. If they do, they in one storm may get as much, if not more, snow than we have gotten all winter. I am not complaining, but this winter has been so mild, I just hope that does not mean a hot humid summer is around the corner. But, as I think back to the beginning of last summer, with all the rain and weather conditions we had I heard a number of people say that the coming winter was going to be frigid and lots of precipitation. Well, we did have a good bit of rain throughout this winter season, but IT WAS NOT SNOW!!!! And the temps were really not that cold.

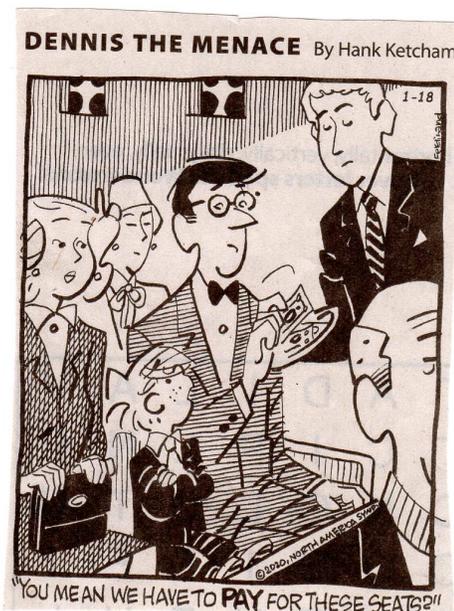
I am wondering if some of you are as concerned as I am about the Coronavirus? I listen to the news every day to catch up on what is reported. I feel sorry for everyone whose loved ones died after contracting this virus. And, I pray for everyone who has been quarantined throughout this time. I cannot imagine how business owners in China are making it. And for those who were quarantined on the ships..... OH MY! I remember back in September when I snuck along on the cruise to New England and Canada, I was so glad to get off the ship after nine days. (Remember two of those days we sat in port in Baltimore before we got sailing.) But, to have to stay on board the ship for two weeks after it is docked in port and knowing that the virus in making its move through the passengers..... AAARRRRGGGGHHHH! Where do you go to stay safe from the germs???? But, God Bless all who are affected! All of you, PLEASE stay safe and healthy!!!

March’s humor:

This happened to one of my little ones this school year: One day a substitute teacher was called in for a day. She walked in the room and saw a young boy in the front row moving his jaws in such a way it looked like he was chewing gum. She came over to him and quietly asked him if he was chewing gum. He looked up at her and replied....”No ma’am. I am Bobby Jones.”

and

If you have a bit of tension so much so you end up with a headache, here is an easy prescription to follow. It is on an aspirin bottle.... “take two aspirin” and “keep away from children.”



With our Love, BLY and MIRE



Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| A type of horn | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURTETP |
| Played by King David | <input type="checkbox"/> | PRHA |
| Plucked to make sound | <input type="checkbox"/> | IGSNSTR |
| Similar to a tambourine | <input type="checkbox"/> | MRBELIT |
| A type of harp | <input type="checkbox"/> | ELRY |
| Blown through to make sound | <input type="checkbox"/> | EPPI |
| A percussion instrument | <input type="checkbox"/> | YBLACMS |

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV