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From the Pastor's Desk



PASTORAL REFLECTION – coming home and deep appreciation

“There’s no place like home,” Dorothy says in the Wizard of Oz. Mark and I can agree that there is no place like home. We are settling back in and getting used to the routines in our house once more. Even with boxes still piled up in the basement, my office slowly coming into shape, and the walls semi bare, it feels like home.

What makes a specific place feel like home? Is it the people? Is it the memories? Is it a sense of security? Or a combination of all of these and more.

For Mark and I, we ultimately find home in one another and with our God. We try not to be too attached to things or places, but, we have found that there is something sacred about the building, the house, that we have chosen to call home. Within the walls of our house, we have created a sanctuary – a place where we can let the rest of the world roll away. It is the place where God leads us to rest and be renewed. We have truly encountered that as we have moved back into our house. We have slept better and more than we have since before the fire, and our cats have settled in and are resting better as well.

This time of moving back in has also been a time of reflection. You have heard it said, you don’t really know what you have until you lose it. While we didn’t totally lose our home, we have gone through the process of experiencing deep loss, and now the joy of restoration and a sense of coming home once again.

As we put our home back together again, we are being more intentional about what we bring back in. We are so grateful for the generous gifts you all have given us of love, prayers, and even financial support. Our beloved home, our sacred space is taking shape around us and is filled with even more love because of each of you. It is not just a place of comfort and love, it is now a place filled with deep hope and joy. It is a shelter from the chaos of the world that bubbles over with laughter, music, and soul-deep contentment.

My hope for you all, is that you have or can find that place that is a sacred HOME for you. Within that place, may you experience rest, soul-deep contentment, and regeneration.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Brenda



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 “The Vision Beautiful”

Matthew 5:1-12 Beatitudes

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 – “Restoring Beauty”

Matthew 5:13-20 Salt & Light/Law and the Prophets
Annual Town Meeting after the worship service

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 – “Mountaintop Experience” Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 – Lent 1: “Abundant Grace”

Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus’ Temptation



TOWN MEETING

Since our services were cancelled when our Town Meeting was originally scheduled on Sunday, January 18, it has been rescheduled for February 8. It will be held immediately after the worship service to discuss and approve the budget and the members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2026. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Please join Pastor Brenda and Pastor Cindy on **THURSDAY** mornings at 11:00am as we dive into the scripture being used to preach each week. See you then!

It's that time of year when the weather outside can be frightful. On the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room you will find papers explaining our church's inclement weather policy. Please pick one up and keep handy at home for those Sundays when you don't like what you see outside your window.



On Sunday, February 1, we will welcome Andy Stump to our worship service to give us an update on his ASAPH ministry. He will also be bringing tickets for an upcoming banquet at Christ Lutheran Church on February 6. See flyer below for more details.

You are invited to attend the first ever

ASAPH BANQUET

featuring Authentic Haitian Cuisine!
Rice, Beans, Chicken, Pork, Red Beet Salad, Fried Bananas,
Haitian *Pikliz*, and Tropical Juices! Plus: Ice cream!



Friday February 6th @ 6:00 pm
Christ Lutheran Church
126 W. Main St. Dallastown, PA
(snow date February 7th)

Tickets are required.

Get your ticket now for only \$10!

Reserve tickets at andyclairstump@yahoo.com

**A SHORT PRESENTATION WILL FOLLOW,
AS WELL AS A FREE WILL OFFERING
TO BENEFIT ASAPH TEACHING MINISTRY.**



FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS



*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
Madelynn Shisler
Kolton Knickel
Amber Sipe
22. Kathy Rayhart
24. Donna Hartley
27. Jamie Reid
28. Sandra Ness
29. Donna Busch
Linda Rost
Emma Boyd

CELEBRATING FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 7 - Bronley and Peggie Free - 56 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Month-2025	Income	Expense	Net			
January	\$7,763.00	\$10,980.79	(\$3,217.79)			
February	\$8,040.00	\$10,783.87	(\$2,743.87)			
March	\$11,744.00	\$16,632.22	(\$4,888.22)			
April	\$8,612.00	\$8,434.27	\$177.73			
May	\$11,583.00	\$13,079.42	(\$1,496.42)			
June	\$11,541.00	\$13,404.75	(\$1,863.75)			
July	\$9,360.00	\$11,104.65	(\$1,744.65)			
August	\$7,405.00	\$9,587.43	(\$2,182.43)			
September	\$9,301.90	\$12,834.83	(\$3,532.93)			
October	\$16,737.00	\$10,090.42	\$6,646.58			
November	\$11,754.64	\$10,883.93	\$870.71			
December	\$29,238.00	\$15,253.85	\$13,984.15			
Total	\$143,079.54	\$143,816.58	\$9.11			

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ January 1, 2026
(transferred \$7,195.00 from investments in September)

\$10,955.27

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2025

	# Families	Total \$\$\$	Monthly Donations	Available Balance
Beginning				\$ 542.38
January	4	\$ 225.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 398.38
February	3	\$ 175.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 310.38
March	2	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 320.38
April	4	\$ 200.00	\$ 92.92	\$ 213.30
May	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 84.21	\$ 222.51
June	2	\$ 225.00	\$ 143.19	\$ 140.70
July	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 91.81	\$ 232.51
August	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 177.00	\$ 409.51
September	5	\$ 250.00	\$ 86.00	\$ 245.51
October	4	\$ 175.00	\$ 186.65	\$ 257.16
November	4	\$ 400.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 8.16
December	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 262.06	\$ 245.22
Total	31	\$ 1850.00	\$ 1552.84	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Terry & Fran Doll
Room 346
Residence @ Fitz Farm
2200 Springwood Rd.
York, PA 17403
Terry's cell (717) 968-2454
Fran's cell (717) 968-8754



Peggy Luckenbaugh
Room 710B
York View Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Wendy Black
(Jeanette Black's daughter)
Room 210B
Pleasant Acres Rehab
118 Pleasant Acres Rd.
York, PA 17402



**Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military**

Tech Sergeant Brandon Ness
221 E. Catalpa Ct.
Derby, KS 67037

KNITTERS/CROCHETERS

We continue to collect donations of handmade scarves and blankets for Memorial White Rose Hospice. They are especially in need of items for men. If you would like to participate in this ongoing project, there is a box in the Gathering Room for you to put your donations.



EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

Thank you so much for your continued support of Emmanuel's Closet. If you are considering a donation, these are the items that we are most in need of right now: Dishwashing liquid, canned fruit, mashed/scalloped potatoes, gravy, spaghetti sauce/pasta, beverages (juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix).

On March 21, we are planning a special Easter give out in addition to our regular food bags. Items needed for the Easter bags are holiday cake mix/icing, light brown sugar, and the following canned items: cranberry sauce, yams, carrots, pineapple, cherries. Deadline for Easter donations is March 2. We will also be giving grocery gift cards to our clients to use to purchase meat and other perishable food items. We welcome donations of funds to buy these gift cards as well.

Meat Pie Fundraiser

The Fun Team is now taking orders for Zook's homemade meat pies. These delicious pies are made in Paradise, Lancaster County. They are available in two sizes: 6" (12 oz) for \$7.00 and 9" (32 oz) for \$14.00. You may choose from chicken, beef, or sausage flavors. There are order forms on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. Feel free to take one with you and get orders from friends and relatives also. The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 1. Pickup will be on Wednesday, March 18, from 4:00-6:00PM.



Some of you may not know or have forgotten all the things that we recycle here at Blymire's.

On the shelf above the coat rack in the hallway there is a box for you to place your empty printer cartridges. For each one that we recycle at Staples, we receive \$2.50 in rewards to use to buy office supplies.

On that same shelf there is a plastic container to collect soda can tabs. These are given to the Ronald McDonald house to use to get funds to help families who stay there.

In the Gathering Room we have a bin to collect used clothing to take to Community Aid. Donations benefit the Dallastown School District's Caring and Sharing Fund.

Your used books, DVD's, games and puzzles can be recycled and shared with others through our book room.

As mentioned in the January newsletter, we now have used medical equipment that can be borrowed as needed.

And of course in the Gathering Room we have a recycling bin to collect cans, bottles, cardboard, etc. Please remember to put them in this bin rather than the regular garbage can.

As you can see, there are many ways that we can help both our planet and others at the same time.



MEN'S GROUP

Our next Men's Group meeting will be Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 PM



at the church. Jeri Jones will be doing a program that he dangerously calls "everything you didn't know about Jeri."



CHAIR YOGA

Are you looking for some gentle, easy exercise? Come check out our Chair Yoga classes! These classes are especially good for beginners. No equipment is necessary. Yoga is one of the most highly recommended forms of exercise for seniors! You can come occasionally, one, two or three times a week. Just come and give it a try! It's easy! Men, this is not for women only! You don't have to be a church member to participate. All are welcome.

Classes are from 10:00-11:00AM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays here at the church. There is a \$10 fee for each class. Hope to see you there!

GUIDED MEDITATION AND DRUM CIRCLE



Meditation and Music are very good ways to deepen your personal spiritual practice. Relax, let go of worldly thoughts, and sink into your soul. You are invited to join us Saturday, February 21, at 10:00 AM, for Guided Meditation, followed by Drum Circle, with a variety of instruments available. We meet at the home of Cindy Innerst-Axe, 2285 Swamp Road, Dallastown. Questions, call Cindy (717) 855-6330.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in. Meetings are now the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our February meetings will be on the 11th and 25th. Come join in the fun one or both weeks.

The FUN Team will be hosting a social on the fourth Sunday of each month between our worship service and Sunday school. The purpose will be to celebrate those members whose birthdays or anniversaries fall during that month. Please join us, especially if you are one of those being honored that day.

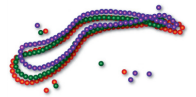


WOMEN OF WONDER

Who? What? Where? When? We are a group of women who just enjoy each other's company, conversation and compassion...while sharing a message of God's love to each other, our church family, and our community. We read scripture and share devotions. We offer advice, support, and sometimes a shoulder. We laugh together and find joy.

If this sounds like something you or a friend would like to do, please join us. We meet at 11:00 AM on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our next gathering will be on February 28. Lunch afterwards is optional. Everyone is welcome. For more info, text or call Ginny Weber at (202) 549-4358.

CRAFTY CHICKS



Our Crafty Chicks group has started back up again, with the first meeting Sunday, March 8, from 1:00-3:00 PM. We will be making beaded necklaces to donate to Homewood Homes as bingo prizes. Even if you have never made a necklace before, come join us. It's easy and someone will help you get started.



Our FUN Team has been busy planning lots of exciting activities for the coming year. Below is a list of some that will take place in the next few months. Put them on your calendars now and watch for more details in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

March 21, 11:30 AM-3:00 PM—"Angels Among Us" Ladies' luncheon - cost \$20

April 10-13 —Beach weekend

May 3—Silent Auction & Sub sale begins

May 31, 10:00 AM—Joint worship/picnic

@ Hayshire, Silent Auction ends

June 20, 5:00 PM—Potluck, 6:30 PM—Movie "Father of the Bride"



CELEBRATE LOVE!
Valentine's Day is not just for couples. It's about love for family, friends, the whole world!



You will never forgive anyone more than God has already forgiven you. Is it still hard to consider the thought of forgiving the one who hurt you?

If so, go one more time to the room. Watch Jesus as he goes from disciple to disciple. Can you see him? Can you hear the water splash? Can you hear him shuffle on the floor to the next person? Keep that image. John 13:12 says, "When he had finished washing their feet..." Please note: he finished washing their feet. That means he left no one out. Why is that important? Because that means he washed the feet of Judas.

Jesus washed the feet of his betrayer.

That's not to say it was easy for Jesus. That's not to say it's easy for you. That *is* to say God will never call you to do what he hasn't already done.

Max Lucado

Jesus doesn't ask you to prove your worth, to earn His love, or to come to Him already healed and whole. He meets you exactly where you ... Tired, broken, doubting or worn down_ and offers grace freely, without conditions. His love is not a reward for good behavior or strong faith, it is a gift given simply because you are His. You don't have to explain your past or justify your pain. You only have to open your heart. Grace is already extended... the choice is yours whether you will receive it.

Rose Marie Ruth

I can completely mess up and still know I'm enough. I trust that life going forward can be the best of my life by allowing the past to be. Today is a new beginning filled with hope and possibilities! I can choose to think differently, adopt new behaviors, be the best version of me. No looking back; I'm not going that way.

Patricia Ramsden



IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT'S DAY ABE-ISMS

"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?"

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

Unknown

GUEST TOWELS In my house we have something called "guest towels." And the main thing I know about guest towels is: I'm not allowed to use them. Which is difficult. Because guest towels are amazing. Thick, and fluffy, and still the same color as when we bought them. The opposite of the once-white things we put on our Kohl's registry 20 years ago. Thin and fraying, but functional. Over Christmas, getting out of the shower at my in-laws', I reached into the cabinet for a towel. The moment my fingers touched it, I knew it wasn't for me. Soft and pillowy, and blindingly white. A guest towel. I reached back to find another. Then it hit me. Here, I am the guest. This is my towel. This is for me. My Bible commentaries tell me that having your head anointed was a gesture of hospitality in the ancient near east. Weary travelers, dried out from the road, were oiled & perfumed by their hosts. I don't know about that. I've never shown up to my in-laws' and been offered a scalp massage. Or even so much as a face moisturizing. I don't know how it feels for the Good Shepherd to anoint me. But I imagine it's something like wrapping myself in that luxurious, blanket-sized guest towel. The kind of thing you know is kept on hand just for you. That kind of thing makes you want to dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long.

Prayer - Lord of Hosts, make me your guest.

Vince Amlin U.C.C. Daily Devotions

The older I get, the more I realize what I miss isn't just things... It's the feeling of how life used to be. Slower days. Front porches. Kids outside until the streetlights came on. Neighbors who knew your name, not your opinions.

The world moved on. But the memories stayed. If this hits you, you are not alone!

A FEW WAYS THAT THE WORLD GOT BETTER IN 2025

A nonprofit has repurposed more than 6,000 guns, turning them into garden tools and art.

'Plastic Cup' competitions are cleaning up rivers in Hungary. Afloat on boats they built themselves, teams of volunteers have removed over 450 tons of plastic waste from the Danube River and its tributaries.

A tree-planting effort using the DNA of the world's mightiest trees could help save the world's last old-growth forests from extinction.

A LESSON FROM THE FROST

"One winter morning I awoke to see magnificent lines of frost stretching across my window panes. They seemed to rise with the sunshine and the bitter cold outside. They looked like little miracles that had been formed in the dark of night. I watched them in sheer amazement and marveled that such beautiful forms could be born during such a winter-cold night. Yet, as I pondered them I thought of how life is so like that. We live our long, worn days in the shadows, in what often feels like barren, cold winter, so unaware of the miracles that are being created in our spirits. It takes the sudden daylight, some unexpected surprise of life, to cause our gaze to look upon the simple, stunning growth that has happened quietly inside us. Like frost designs on a winter window, they bring us beyond life's fragmentation and remind us that we are not nearly as lost as we thought we were, that all the time we thought we were dead inside, beautiful things were being born in us."

Joyce Rupp

There's no greater satisfaction than a quiet, cozy home.

A pantry filled with the things you love.

A car that starts every morning.

And takes you where you need to be.

You don't need luxuries to feel rich.

Just comfort, safety, and a few good people who make the ordinary days feel special.

Peace doesn't come from having more,

It comes from finally realizing you already have enough.

Unattributed

WINTERING

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars.

Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun, whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy,

Nature is simply pulling you to slow, like the life, flora and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are wintering. And you are right on time.

Donna Ashworth

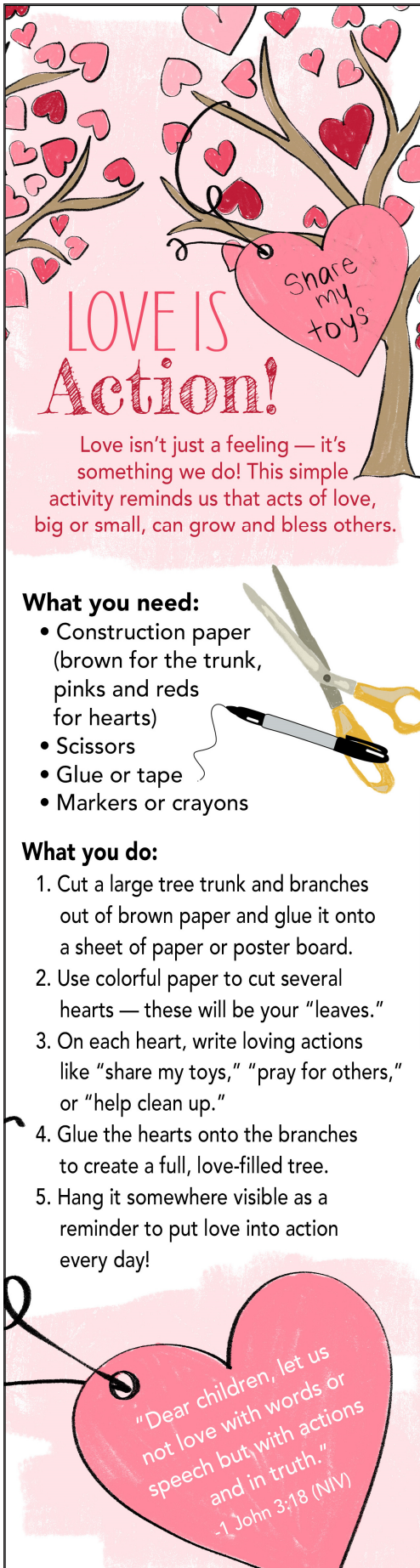
GIFTS OF WINTER

Not every one likes snow, but *is* it an amazing work of God. He takes a barren winter landscape and creates it anew. I can almost hear the Lord saying, "Behold, I make all things new!" In the modern world we often walk past the glory of God and hardly notice the gifts that God daily provides.

Don't miss God's gift. It is true, snow comes at the price of weather related hardships. But *MAYBE* just maybe, God can get a few of us to stop, for just a minute and rest a while, and behold his glory. Getting "snowed in" for those who get more than we are expected to get, is a wonderful chance to become reacquainted with our family and even our very selves. Just looking out the window and marveling at the snow as it falls with a hypnotic and calming steadiness can be a prayer, if we think of God who sends it. Wherever you are on this planet, don't walk through life and miss the glory of God!

Monsignor Charles Pope

"A million feathers falling down
A million stars that touch the ground
So many secrets to be found
Amid the falling snow."



LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

Change:

C's to L Z's to H P's to R
J's to A Q's to T X's to E
K's to O

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L _ _ _ _ _ Q _ _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _
C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P

_ _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _
G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

_ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _
Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C

_ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _ _
Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z

_ _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _ M _ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _
J C C Y K U P M T N D J N D

_ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _
W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

_ _ _ _ _ . "
S Q P X N G Q Z

Mark 12:30

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."