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

February 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk



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

I will truly admit that when the arrangement was made for me to resign as your Interim Pastor effective January 31, it seemed like it was a long way off. But, now we are within two weeks of that date and it definitely has come faster than I would have thought. I have been very busy trying to tie up loose ends in order to keep continuity for Blymire's as well as myself with the trial sermon being held on February 26th. So, hopefully the month of February will go as fast as this past month has! I have been busy getting office details situated as well as making arrangements for Pastoral coverage for you until the trial sermon. I asked Pastor Curt if he would be willing to be supply Pastor for the three Sundays I need to be away and also to cover any visits, funerals and/or Pastoral emergencies. He has graciously agreed to fulfill the role of Pastor for the needs of the church until the 26th. THANK YOU CURT!!!!!! This will make this change more palatable because you know the people and the people know you! Hopefully no one will have any traumatic events happen to them, but we never know that, do we?

I will admit, it will be difficult to be detached from you for the month of February. I will not be able to attend any activities at Blymire's. So, I will not be part of the Chili Cook-off and I cannot attend choir rehearsals or sing with the choir during worship. OH-MY!!!!! Jeri will be able to continue with choir and in the booth as he has been doing, but I cannot be a part of this fellowship. (Perhaps it is a blessing that February is the shortest month!) I also am not to do pastoral visits through this time, but Pastor Curt will be there for anyone who needs!

Since February is "the month of love", I just want to say once again how much I love all of you!!!!! I have felt a great love from you too! I am excited about the journey that awaits and I hope you are too. I give praise to God for His love, for His leading me to Blymire's, for His presence with us these past 2-1/2 years and I look forward to God guiding us as we walk together our pathway of faith and service for Him. I always try to give praise to God in all that I do and I feel you all do to. What an exciting and maybe challenging time awaits as we look forward to our joint ministry for the glory of God.

I am certainly going to miss lots of hugs while I am away, but, rest assured from Feb 26 on, I will give and look to receive hugs to make up for the hugs we will miss! My sincerest LOVE to you! {{{{HUGS}}}}}} } } } } } } to carry us through. And, (I do feel the need to say this to some of you)...... BEHAVE YOURSELVES!!!!!!!

God Bless! With love, Pastor Lou Ann

SPECIAL SERVICES in FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 - Epiphany 5 - Rev. Curt Weber, Supply Pastor

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon: "You Are the Light of the World" Anthem: "Let Your Light Shine" Besig/Price

Feb. 12 - Epiphany 6 - Rev. Curt Weber, Supply Pastor

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-26

Sermon: "How Do You Deal With Anger?"

Anthem: "I Want To Be More Like You" Hogan/Nix

Feb. 19 - Epiphany 7 - Rev. Curt Weber, Supply Pastor

Gospel: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon: "The Foolishness of God"

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

Feb. 26 - Transfiguration Sunday - Pastor Lou Ann's Trial Sermon and Vote

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "Refreshed, Renewed, Transfigured"
Anthem: "The Light of the World" Besig/Price



SAVE THESE ITEMS!!

We continue to collect:

- 1. **Can tabs** given to the Ronald McDonald House in Hershev.
 - 2. Campbells Labels for Education-given to local schools
 - 3. Box Tops for Education-given to local schools.
- 4. **Unused keys**-given to Camp Kydnie. This is a program run by the Kidney Foundation of Central PA for children with kidney disease.

Containers for these items are on the shelf above the coat rack in the hallway.



5. Unused coupons-given to the Kaltreider Benfer Library.

A box for these is located on the Welcome Table

in the Gathering Room.



SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for FEBRUARY

GREETERS:

Feb. 5 - Nancy Taylor

Feb. 12 - Donna Sleeth

Feb. 19 - Sterling Boyd

Feb. 26 - Marlene Matthews

GIFT COLLECTORS:

Feb. 5 - Ed & Barb Adams

Feb. 12 - Tarry Ness

Feb. 19 - Tim & Donna Sleeth

Feb. 26 - Diana Myers

LAY READERS:

Feb. 5 - Barb Marshall

Feb. 12 - Ginny Weber

Feb. 19 - Linda Eichelberger

Feb. 26 - Sonja Ness

ACOLYTES:

Feb. 5 - Ed & Barb Adams

Feb. 12 - Joel & Steph Frey

Feb. 19 - Randi & Eric John

Feb. 26 - Greg & Sonja Ness

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

Feb. 5 - To be announced

Feb. 12 - To be announced

Feb. 19 - To be announced

Feb. 26 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

Feb. 5 - Terry Doll

Feb. 12 - Ed Adams

Feb. 19 - Chase Matthews

Feb. 26 - Wyatt Myers

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

Feb. 5 - Joel Frey

Feb. 12 - Greg Ness

Feb. 19 - Greg Ness

Feb. 26 - Sterling Boyd

CAMERA OPERATORS:

Feb. 5 - Greg Ness

Feb. 12 - John Sterling

Feb. 19 - Todd Miller

Feb. 26 - Terry Doll

VIDEO OPERATORS:

Feb. 5 - Sydney Brown

Feb. 12 - Jeri Jones

Feb. 19 - Judy Bishop

Feb. 26 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER: February 15

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

- 1. Jamie Luckenbaugh
- 3. Marlene Matthews
- 4. Gerry Geesey
- 6. Beth Herbst Anita Spahr
- 7. Bryan Adams
- 10. Bryan Barley
- 12. Landan McKenzie

 James Klyeman
- 13. Mark Morton
- 14. Dale Wise
- 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



May God
Bless You
on Your
Birthday!

CELEBRATING FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 12 - Charles and Theresa Diehl - 6 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2016	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$7,887.33	\$8,395.21	\$549.65	\$151.88	\$451.20	\$0.00
February	\$14,123.82	\$8,677.36	\$1,249.27	\$181.00	\$0.73	\$1,095.00
March	\$9,627.13	\$11,746.85	\$522.60	\$413.84	\$0.64	\$2,324.23
April	\$8,812.60	\$7,989.95	\$503.95	\$123.18	\$0.48	\$325.00
May	\$11,191.79	\$8,122.81	\$1,002.85	\$2,056.78	\$0.40	\$1,485.00
June	\$8,631.06	\$12,019.11	\$1.97	\$402.36	\$0.24	\$2,214.08
July	\$9,481.53	\$7,228.27	\$502.06	\$69.11	\$6.10	\$2,255.00
August	\$10,605.11	\$9,943.73	\$1,072.21	\$117.33	40.62	\$2,135.38
September	\$8,222.30	\$12,162.42	\$593.59	\$417.79	\$0.32	\$2,719.08
October	\$11,295.55	\$11,278.13	\$678.28	\$74.16	\$0.14	\$935.00
November	\$9,114.38	\$8,107.25	\$503.24	\$226.53	\$800.31	\$1,965.00
December	\$12,223.92	\$12,473.68	\$578.38	\$311.76	\$0.36	\$801.58
Total	\$121,216.52	\$118,144.77	\$7,758.05	\$4,545.72	\$1,261.54	\$18,254.35

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ January 1, 2017

\$6,686.48

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ January 1, 2017 (Includes \$42,033.18 Endowment)

\$68,635.04

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ January 1, 2017 (Includes \$710,819.22 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation))

\$718,959.18

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2016

	# Total Families \$\$\$		Monthly		Available		
			\$\$\$		Donations		Balance
Beginning						\$	361.26
January	2	\$	50.00	\$	80.31	\$	391.57
February	2	\$	75.00	\$	95.47	\$	412.04
March				\$	96.41	\$	508.45
April	3	\$	75.00	\$	82.46	\$	515.91
May	2	\$	50.00	\$	95.29	\$	561.20
June	5	\$	500.00	\$	91.32	\$	152.52
July	2	\$	50.00	\$	106.13	\$	208.64
August	1	\$	25.00	\$	78.28	\$	261.93
September	1	\$	50.00	\$	93.66	\$	305.59
October	1	\$	50.00	\$	123.07	\$	378.66
November	1	\$	50.00	\$	76.41	\$	405.07
December	4	\$	175.00	\$	167.31	\$	397.38

Total 24 \$ 1150.00 \$ 1186.12

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry

1240 South Pleasant Avenue Dallastown, PA 17313 244-2282

Anita Spahr

36 West Main Street Dallastown, PA 17313 244-7392



Peggy Luckenbaugh

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



and pray for **************

A1C Ness, Brandon

98950 East Harmony Lane Tucson, AZ 85748



MEN'S GROUP



Due to Valentine's Day falling on Tuesday, February 14, the Men's Group will not be meeting in February in order to spend time with their significant other.



FAITH KIDZ will be meeting every Wednesday in February from 6:30-8:00PM. We will continue with Fruit of the Spirit lessons.



On Sunday, February 5, COOK we will be holding our fifth annual Chili Cookoff. It will begin immedi-

ately after the worship service. There will be no Sunday school that day. Prizes will be given for the best tasting chili, the hottest but still eatable, and the best theme. Past winners are asked to please bring back the trophies they won last year.



TEENS will hold their regular meeting on Sunday, February 5, at 6:30 PM at the church. We will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on Friday, February 24, and Saturday, February 25.

BOOK SALE

Our annual Book Fair has now begun and will run through February 26. Check out the tables in the Gathering Room to see if there is anything that you would like to purchase. New items will be put out as they are received, so keep checking each week. In addition to books, we are also collecting DVD's and CD's. PLEASE do not donate magazines or musty-smelling books. Thank you.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on **BOOK** February 14 and February 28 at * 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. We are currently discussing the book Small Great Things by Jodi

Picoult. New members are always welcome to join us.



KITCHEN REMODEL and STOVE REPLACEMENT

The kitchen remodel is now in full swing. A hand washing sink will be added, plus stainless steel wrapped counters and a new backsplash will be put on part of the kitchen. We will also be

painting the cupboards. A new stove has been ordered and it should arrive in a few weeks. It is regulation size like the old stove, but it is gas instead of electric. If you would like to donate to any of these kitchen projects, please see Nelson Leader, Heather Matthews, or our secretary, Wanda Strickler. The Men's Group and SOS (Sisters of Service) thank you for your support.

PAINT AND CREATE PARTY

On Sunday, February 26, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, the Crafty Chicks will sponsor a Paint & Create Party with instructor, Julie Smith. Julie is an art teacher in the Hanover School District. Even if you have NEVER painted and those who have, in only TWO HOURS you will have created a "masterpiece" which is yours to keep and display! The



class (being held in ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL) is open to anyone from age 10 and up. Cost is \$25 per person which includes all art supplies and light refreshments. Some of the proceeds will go to help fund the Women's Retreat on April 7th and 8th. Invite your family and friends. There will be a 50 person limit; a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Deadline for reservation and payment is Sunday, February 19. Please make checks payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC and indicate the check is for the Paint Party. If you have questions, you may ask Marti Leader (741-1166) or call the church office at 244-0655.

UPCOMING CRAFTY CHICK EVENTS

If you are unable to come on February 26 or if painting is not your thing, here are some other activities taking place in the next few months that may be of interest to you. Mark your calendars and watch the bulletin board for sign-up sheets.

On March 26 Barb Marshall will be teaching a class on decorating cupcakes. She will supply the cupcakes, icing and all other materials that are needed. The class will begin at 1:00 PM and the cost is \$15.00. If you have seen Barb's work or tasted her cakes, you know you will be learning from one of the best.

Our April class will be held on April 23. Mary Jane Miller will be teaching us how to make Needle Felted Sheep. We will be making two, a ram and a ewe. The cost is \$25.00 and all supplies will be included.

On May 21 Kim Dilling, owner of Prayer Bead Junction, will be teaching us how to make Prayer Beads. The cost is \$25.00 and again all supplies will be included.

Crafty Chicks (Roosters are welcome too) meet on the 4th Sunday of each month from 1:00-5:00 PM. If you don't wish to participate in the above classes, you are still invited to bring other crafts and join us for fellowship. Bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon out!!

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

February 2017

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.



TEN THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU INTO 2017

Kindness

Eyes that see the best

Compassion

Hands that help others

Acceptance

A heart that forgives the worst

Peace and calm

A mind that forgets the bad

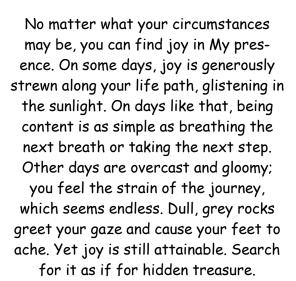
Gratitude for what you have

A soul that never loses faith.



HEALING HEARTS INSPIRATIONS

February 2017



Begin by remembering that I have created this day; it is not a chance occurrence. Recall that I am present with you, whether or not you sense My presence. Then, start talking with me about whatever is on your mind. Rejoice in the fact that I understand you perfectly, and I know exactly what you are experiencing. As you continue communicating with Me, your mood will gradually lighten. Awareness of My marvelous companionship can infuse joy into the grayest day.

From Jesus Calling

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow!



VALENTINE FROM JESUS



Jesus does not send perfume

To linger in the air

Instead He sends salvation, sweet

To show how much He cares.

He doesn't bring me candy hearts
In boxes of delight
Instead He always lets me know
I'm precious in His sight.

He doesn't pass out pretty cards
Trimmed in shades of red
Instead He gave His life for me
His precious blood was shed.

He doesn't hand out fancy gifts
Like we would send to mother
Instead He sends a message clear
To always love each other.

He doesn't give me teddy bears
That whimper, "Please be mine"
Instead He gave His heart to me
I wear it all the time.

He doesn't give me roses, pink
For all the world to see
Instead He gave eternal life
That's good enough for me.

Marilyn Ferguson

How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world! How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make their contribution toward introducing justice straightaway. . . . And you can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness!

Anne Frank



GRIEF IS LIKE A SHIPWRECK (An old man's perspective) G. Snow

I'm old. What that means is that I've survived and a lot of people I've known and loved did not.

I've lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, mom, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can't imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here's my two cents...

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. But I never did. I don't want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don't want it to "not matter". I don't want it to be something that just passes. My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it.

Scars are a testament to life. Scars are a testament that I can love deeply and live deeply and be cut, or even gouged, and that I can heal and continue to live and continue to love. And the scar tissue is stronger than the original flesh ever was. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can't see.

As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it's some physical thing. Maybe it's a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive.

In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, maybe months, you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come further apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything...and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O'Hare. You can see it coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out.

Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. But you learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them too. If you're lucky, you'll have lots of scars from lots of loves. And lots of shipwrecks.

Heaven knows no difference between Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. God longs to speak as clearly in the workplace as he does in the sanctuary. He longs to be worshiped when we sit at the dinner table and not just when we come to his communion table. You may go days without thinking of him, but there's never a moment when he's not thinking of you.



Revelations for FEBRUARY from "Bly Mire" Mouse

What time of year is it???? My calendar says January BUT.... the temps have been so warm it seems like late Spring! I even got outside yesterday with my golf clubs (after I cleaned off the spider webs) and hit some shots over by the pavilion. I guess I should have warmed up before I did that because this morning my muscles are "ouching"!!!!!!!

Someone else also has some "ouching" going on. On January 15th we had some ice in the morning and, bless her heart, our organist Brenda was practicing at St. Paul's. (That's why she is so amazing — she practices a lot!) But, when she came out from the church — KER-PLUNK!!!! Rev. Rodkey took her to the ER and after they checked her out she went home. She pulled her left ham string and now has STIFF and SORE muscles. (I put those in caps to let you know how much she is hurting now!) GOD BLESS, BRENDA!!!!

Other years it seems like January slows down a little bit with the activity around the church but not this year. A number of people have been busy little beavers in the kitchen! From clearing out the cupboards along both walls where the sinks were, to getting those cupboards removed from the walls, to getting rid of the old stove, to painting, to "WHEW", I am tired just mentioning all the work that has been going on already!!!! THANK YOU to NELSON, LINDA, ROD, GREG, CHARLIE, TIM, and, I am sure there are others who pitched in to do things when I have been out of the building. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU ALL!!!!! It sounds like the kitchen will be AWESOME when it is finished.

I am kind of confused today too. I heard Pastor Lou Ann and Marti say something about converting the church to a Cozy Mountain Lodge. (I didn't think the kitchen change was going to be to this extent!) I heard someone say about putting a front porch outside the Sanctuary doors and having a bedroom in the Gathering Room. Boy, when people get the renovation bug, watch out. UPDATE — I just heard Pastor Lou Ann on the phone and these suggestions are part of the Women's Retreat in April. They are doing "COZY MOUNTAIN LODGE" and these "rooms" will be part of the event. "WHEW!!!!!!"

I also heard Pastor Lou Ann say how much she is going to dread February. I kind of agree. It will be different with her not being in the office the month of February. I did hear that Pastor Curt has agreed to fill in for her so, it will be great to see him.

Well, since it is still kind of warm today, I may try to get in a little bit of exercise and walk around the parking lot. I am aware that I need to keep my weight down and since there is going to be a Chili Cook Off on Sunday, February 5, I need to watch what I eat between now and then because, BOY, DO I LIKE CHILI!!!!!! Yum! Yum! Yum!

I will see you all next month. And, in the meantime, have a blessed Valentine's Day. May you know without a doubt how much you are loved!!!!!!

God Bless us all!

From the Church

Mouse

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!



Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- · Bowl and spoon
- · Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

- Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
- Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
- Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half.
 Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
- 4. Cut grapes in half.
- 5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
- Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!

Love your neighbor as yourself
Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?
Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12 th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.
(1) You really like ice cream!
(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab.
(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels.
(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph
(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns.
(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently.
(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled.
"Honor and
, and your
Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, MIV