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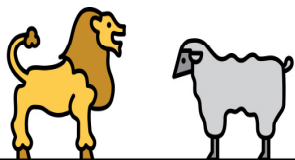
From the Pastor's Desk



An update on the healing process.... Things are getting better day by day. I am writing this message on February 18, and this afternoon I will begin Physical Therapy hoping to gain more freedom in turning my head to the right (especially) and the left. I still have some discomfort while I am working at the computer so I also hope therapy can help with that. Otherwise, the arm pain is basically only when I am getting dressed or turn my arm the wrong way. And, the numbness in the hands seems to be less than it had been. Praise God!!!

Also, part of my focus is the upcoming season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 6 this year and so we begin the journey to Jerusalem and the Cross. Lent for me is always an emotional journey. During the Ash Wednesday service, we share the imposition of ashes and also the Sacrament of Communion. And, I know it doesn't happen all the time but, often as I direct worshippers to "take and eat" or, "take and drink," I get choked up thinking about what Jesus did for ME! Then, as we gather for worship on Maundy Thursday, again I always find this service moving because of the somberness. With Holy Communion and sometimes the Tenebrae focus, I emphasize exiting in silence and meditation. Often, I am teary-eyed as the service concludes. Of course, then the joy of Easter!!!! But, that will be the focus of April's column.

Since Lent is a journey of thinking about God in our lives, this will somewhat "piggyback" on last month's message. But, something I obtained recently, I want to mention. As we think about God in our lives we sometimes are led to question the suffering we see around us. This is what our adult Sunday School Class also talked about yesterday as we are doing two sessions from Adam Hamilton's study "Why?". The first chapter looks at why we think God allows suffering and we had a good discussion on this. And, even though I did not mention this during class, I was on a thought process about children suffering — especially with cancer. The reason for this is that I had just purchased a book on Amazon that I heard about the week before. It is called Dirty, Stupid, Cancer and is about a five year old boy who died from cancer. He told his parents what he wanted in his obituary and what he wanted at his memorial service. They then put Garrett's thoughts into this book. It is a very moving book! On the television interview Garrett's mother read from the book and what she read is what moved me to buy the book. These words hold an eternal truth for all of us!



MARCH

I quote:

“That’s the story of Dirty, Stupid, Cancer told by a five year old boy.
No matter the outcome, cancer won’t win to a heart filled with love and joy.
The illness will never define us, in spite of what others may see.
Be strong and fight like Garrett for we are who we choose to be.”

O,,,,, MY,,,,, GOSH!!!!!! The power of those last two lines!!! We, as people of faith, should hope that what defines our life is not the suffering we experience or even see around us. But, what should define our life is our trust in and love of God! And, we can choose to be so overpowered by “down times” that we then allow the suffering to define our lives, OR we can choose to trust God to give us the strength we need to face and battle anything that comes our way.

So, once again, as I look back on the journey I have been on, I hope that I have not left pain and limitations define me, but rather that I have pushed on with the strength of God’s Spirit guiding my every step.

The book Dirty, Stupid, Cancer is at the church and available for anyone to borrow! It is a short, easy-read book written in the style of Dr. Suess. I hope you either borrow the church’s copy or even invest for yourself because the truth shared in the quote above is eternal and for all! Let us all fill our hearts with love and joy!

God Bless you ALL!

With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH

March 3 - Transfiguration Sunday - Women’s Sunday

Focus for the service: “Hope, Faith, Light”

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

Sermon: “Father Knows All”

March 10 - Lent 1

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: “Jesus vs. Satan”

March 17 - Lent 2

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: “O Jerusalem . . .”

March 24 - Lent 3

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: “Second Chances”

March 31 - Lent 4

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Sermon: “The Love of God”

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for MARCH

GREETERS:

March 3 - Nancy Taylor
March 10 - Donna Sleeth
March 17 - Linda Eichelberger
March 24 - Lonnie Barnhart
March 31 - Joel & Steph Frey

GIFT COLLECTORS:

March 3 - Women's Sunday
March 10 - Carl & Sharon Criswell
March 17 - Nancy Myers
March 24 - David & Susan McDowell
March 31 - Sally Bosley

LAY READERS:

March 3 - Women's Sunday
March 10 - Linda Rost
March 17 - Linda Eichelberger
March 24 - Janie Montgomery
March 31 - Barb Adams

ACOLYTES:

March 3 - David & Susan McDowell
March 10 - Greg & Sonja Ness
March 17 - Nelson & Marti Leader
March 24 - Cindie McKinsey
March 31 - Joan Mickey

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

March 3 - Diana Myers
March 10 - To be announced
March 17 - To be announced
March 24 - To be announced
March 31 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

March 3 - Terry Doll
March 10 - Ed Adams
March 17 - Chase Matthews
March 24 - Wyatt Myers
March 31 - To be announced

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

March 3 - Joel Frey
March 10 - Greg Ness
March 17 - Greg Ness
March 24 - Sterling Boyd
March 31 - To be announced

CAMERA OPERATORS:

March 3 - Greg Ness
March 10 - John Sterling
March 17 - Greg Ness
March 24 - Terry Doll
March 31 - Greg Ness

VIDEO OPERATORS:

March 3 - Sydney Brown
March 10 - Jeri Jones
March 17 - Judy Bishop
March 24 - Nelson Leader
March 31 - Nelson Leader

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

MARCH
BIRTHDAYS



2. Sarah Smith
Lexus Luckenbaugh
3. Helen Myers
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 - 55 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2019	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,497.09	\$9,547.51	\$0.41	\$304.33	\$923.15	\$1,053.87
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$10,497.09	\$9,547.51	\$0.41	\$304.33	\$923.15	\$1,053.87

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ February 1, 2019

\$480.46

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ February 1, 2019
(Includes \$44,890.64 Endowment)

\$68,927.29

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ February 1, 2019
(Includes \$729,922.67 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$732,875.78

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2019

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 253.90
January			\$ 78.55	\$ 332.45
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total			\$ 78.55	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry

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

Doris Harper

Arlington Court, Room 121
Senior Commons
@ Powder Mill
1775 Powder Mill Rd
York, PA 17403

Emerson Knaper

855 New School Lane
Dallastown, PA 17313
717-244-5003



Peggy Luckenbaugh

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

Joyce Shenberger

2105 Knob Hill Road
Apartment 213
York, PA 17403
717-845-3162

Linda Trone

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



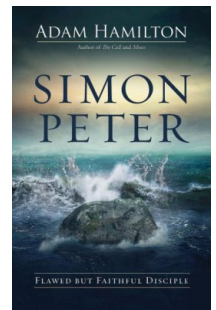
**Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military**

A1C Ness, Brandon

6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Starting in Lent (March 3-April 7), during Sunday school time (10:30-11:30) we will be studying the book SIMON PETER (Flawed but Faithful Disciple) by Adam Hamilton. Jeri Jones, Pastor Lou Ann and Pastor Curt will be leading the class discussion. The video segments of 16-20 minutes are filmed on location in Israel and Italy. Each week we will focus on a Bible passage, watch Adam Hamilton's DVD segment, and have a group discussion based on questions from the leader's guide.



It is interesting to note that most of the twelve disciples are scarcely mentioned by name in the Gospels. However, Peter is mentioned by name over 120 times. Peter was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impulsive, but possessed a passion that would change the world. Simon Peter left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

Come join us! It's not a long commitment. It's only six weeks during our Lenten Season. Take an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter. Thanks!



If you don't want to be late for church on Sunday, March 10, remember to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9. Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 AM that Sunday.



MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire's on Tuesday, March 12, 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.



The FAITH KIDZ will be meeting on Wednesdays, March 13 and March 27, from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church

SCRAPBOOKING/ CRAFTING WEEKEND



On Friday, March 15, and Saturday, March 16, from 9:00AM- 9:00PM the Fun Team will be sponsoring a scrapbooking/craft event. The cost is \$30 for one day or \$50 for both days. There will be a light breakfast, lunch, supper, snacks and drinks each day! Each person will get their own working area. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Room. Any questions, call Diana Myers at 717-741-1840 (home) or 717-855-4752 (cell).



You are invited to come to our Crafty Chicks gathering on Sunday, March 24, from 1:00-5:00 PM. Please bring any needlework, scrapbooking or other craft project that you are working on. We will have a good time finishing those projects and fellowshiping with friends.

WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE MINIMIZE the use of fragrances, perfumes, or colognes when you come to church. These strong odors are dangerous irritants that can trigger asthma attacks in some of our members.



Thank you for your consideration.

SISTERS OF SERVICE

Sisters of Service (SOS) will be holding their next meeting on Monday, March 18, at 6:30 PM at the church. Heather Matthews will lead the devotions and Sandy Innerst will provide the refreshments.

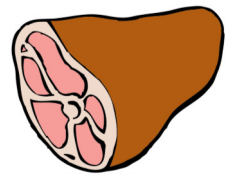


Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, March 12, and Tuesday, March 26, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room.

And . . . just like the Book Club in Mary Ann Shaffer's novel, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, we are reading our own book choices and discussing them with the group. New members are always welcome.

"HAM" IT UP

The York County Food Bank is asking us to help them provide 200 Easter meals to those in need in the community.



They have designated Sunday, April 7, as "Ham It Up Sunday." On that day you are asked to bring any size frozen ham to church with you.

Food bank volunteers will collect them after the worship service. Easter meal boxes will then be assembled and distributed to those in need.

Contact Wendy Murphy (717) 887-1219 if you have any questions. Thank you.

HERSHEY PARK DISCOUNT TICKETS

Are you or any of your friends or family members planning to visit Hershey Park this summer? If so, Homewood at Plum Creek is giving you an opportunity to buy discount tickets at only \$38 per person. The price at the gate this summer will be \$69.80!! They are also selling discount meal tickets for \$11.99. You will not only save money for yourself, but help the Benevolent Fund at Homewood at the same time. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Room. Please make your checks payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC, since we will be compiling all the orders and sending one check to Homewood. Deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, March 10. Thank you.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

March 2019

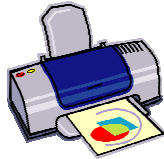


Easter Project

For Easter we are planning to give out extra food bags for our clients to make a special holiday meal. We could use the following donations to help fill those bags: **Instant mashed potatoes, canned gravy, canned pineapples, brownie mix and bags of candy (jelly beans, chocolates, anything Easter themed)**. Please bring these donations to the church no later than Sunday, March 17, to allow time to sort and shop for anything that is not donated. The bags will be given out on April 6 and April 13. 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

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

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

Canned pasta
Canned beef stew
Spaghetti noodles
Spaghetti sauce
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Chicken Helper
Boxed jello
Boxed pudding
Pancake Mix
Pancake Syrup
Children's Books



THANKS FOR CARING!

YOU ARE A BRAND NEW IDEA

God made you and broke the mold! Every single baby is a brand-new idea from the mind of God. Scan history for your replica; you won't find it. God tailor made you. You aren't one of many bricks in the mason's pile or one of a dozen bolts in the mechanic's drawer. You are it! And if you aren't you, we don't get you. The world misses out.

You offer a gift to society that no one else brings. When you and I do the most, what we do the best for the glory of God, the Bible says that we are "marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body (Romans 12:5). You play no small part, because there is no small part to be played. God "shaped each person in turn." (Psalm 33:15). We need you to be you. And YOU need you to be you!

Max Lucado



Healing Hearts Inspirations

March 2019

We restore the holiness of the world through our loving-kindness and compassion. Everyone participates. It is a collective task. Every act of loving-kindness, no matter how great or small, repairs the world. All those ever born have shared this collective work since the beginning of time.

Rachel Naomi Remen



SPRING IS ALREADY; SPRING IS NOT YET

We're dancing in Minnesota! Spring arrives on March 20th and for us living in the northern hemisphere this brings great hope. There are signs around that spring is real. Our days are longer and brighter. Most of our snow is melting and rivers are rising, in some places to flood level. This morning I heard flocks of geese flying overhead - though the lakes are still iced over. I saw a robin on the lawn - though the frost is still in the ground and I don't think she'll be pulling any worms out of the soil anytime soon. Spring is coming on the calendar and real evidence supports this fact. Still, the stubborn grip of Old Man Winter hasn't relented: the thermometer on our deck reads 22 degrees. Spring is already; Spring is not yet.

There's a spiritual parallel to the dualistic reality of the season. God's promises state facts that are literally true: God heals and provides and brings us peace and security and in this season we have access to these promises. But our own health and relationships and finances don't always reflect these facts. We are "already" living in the "Spring" of God's goodness, but we still have to wear a coat. Already/not yet.

This is where prayer comes in play. We see God's promises and believe them, though we don't see perfect evidence that they are all here and now. We hold God to his word and ask him to bring "Spring" when it still feels like "winter."

"God, thank you for Spring and for the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days. Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth. Thank you that things are coming awake in the world. This is what our calendar says, and we do see some signs that it is real. But we also still struggle with the residual layover of winter. It's still cold out there! Now we ask that you would bring into reality all that belongs in this season. Your word says that we will have provision, and hope, and joy, and health, and loving relationships here and now in this life. Now we ask that what belongs in this season would become actual in our practical lives. Yes, it is already spring; but it is not yet spring as well. Let everything in our lives as they are supposed to be. We hope in you and in your promises. We hope in your gift of Spring."

Mark Herringshaw





THE REALLY HAPPY PERSON IS ONE WHO CAN ENJOY THE SCENERY ON A DETOUR.



Aren't detours wonderful? I look at them as life's way of showing me something that I wouldn't have seen otherwise. They're me being guided or led (or I suppose even forced) to go in a direction or on a road that I would have chosen to avoid had I been able to do so. Some of the most amazing things that I've ever seen have been on detours--and I don't just mean being redirected while driving my car.

Sometimes life pushes us into little detours, too--sometimes we find ourselves going down roads that we never expected to travel because a job ended or an opportunity fell through or another opportunity arose that we never could have imagined. Sometimes when we think we have our route all figured out, boom!--life throws us a curve ball and we end up doing something completely different, going somewhere completely unforeseen. And when that happens, life will still offer us wonderful scenery--even if it isn't the scenery we had planned on seeing.

Some people find detours to be frustrating or annoying or even awful. And when they're in the state of mind that makes them see things that way, their eyes aren't necessarily open to the beauty of their new route--because they're focused on where they wish they were instead of where they are. Perhaps they're worrying about the detour taking twenty minutes more than they had planned on, or they're worried about not finding their way back to their original route. Or perhaps they're just not open to new and different things, preferring instead the "safety" of what they knew and what they had planned on.

But if a detour is a gift--it's a chance to see something that's new and different and unplanned--almost like forced spontaneity (a great oxymoron). And if we follow that detour with a closed mind because our attitude is negative, we most certainly won't get anything out of it. But if we keep our minds and hearts open, we may find in each detour that we take something that will help us to come closer to being the people we were meant to be.

Tom Walsh

Have courage for the great sorrows of
life and patience for the small ones.
And when you have finished
your daily task, go to sleep in peace.
God is awake.

Victor Hugo



"Springtime is the land
awakening. The March
winds are the morning
yawn."

Lewis Grizzard



AN IRISH PRAYER

May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each
prayer.

You don't get to choose how you're
going to die. Or when. You can only
decide how you're going to live. Now.

Joan Baez

What you leave behind is not what
is engraved in stone monuments,
but what is woven into
the lives of others.

Pericles

Let your hands be
so busy catching
blessings that
you don't have the
capacity to hold on
to grudges.



Revelations for MARCH from “Bly Mire” Mouse

HELLO from my Mouse House (I was almost tempted to say “sunny Florida” !) We really had a great time in Florida and enjoyed the beautiful weather, but unfortunately we had to come back north after a week there. I do have to keep my job as a fitness trainer for the cats in the neighborhood you know! We went to Universal Studios the first few days and the kiddies really loved seeing the Minions! Then we also spent a couple of days at Disney World and believe me, it was great to see my cousin Mickey and Minnie! We always enjoy Disney World because there is always something new to see.

Since I have returned from my venture, I had been wondering why I haven’t seen Pastor Lou Ann in the office. I kept an open ear and did hear someone say she had neck surgery. Well, I am happy to report that she has been in to the office a couple of times. I heard her say today that she is planning to put in her normal office hours because driving is going fairly well. She is doing therapy to build up the movement in her neck, so that should help a lot. She said she will not drive any days they are calling for snow or other winter weather because she doesn’t want to chance an accident or slipping when she is walking. And, I can say, I don’t blame her.

I also wanted to catch up on how others in the congregation are doing. I hear people asking for continued prayers for STEPH FREY (and, if all went well, as you read this she may be in the Keys!); FRED KERCHNER; IDA MICHAEL; and BERNIE NOLL. Steph, Fred, and Bernie are all going through a battle with cancer. I will share with you that I really loved the story book that Pastor Lou Ann shared in a children’s message, and I see she talked about it in the Pastor’s Desk message. How powerful the message is that: “the illness (or anything else we may be going through) will never define us. WE ARE WHO WE CHOOSE TO BE!” I know I choose to be like Jesus. How about you?

O.K. -- time for our humor for the month.

Q: Why are leprechauns so concerned about global warming?

A: **They’re really into green living.**

Q: Why did the boy lock himself in his house on St. Patrick’s Day?

A: **He heard there might be leper cons.**

Q: What did the leprechaun referee say when the soccer match ended?

A: **Game clover.**

Q: What was the leprechaun’s favorite cereal?

A: **Lucky charms.**

With our love,

Your faith-friends,

BLY and MIRE and family!



DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____

Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2