

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✧ Pastor's Message
- ✧ February Services
- ✧ Birthdays and Anniversaries
- ✧ Financial Report
- ✧ Shut-Ins & Military
- ✧ Cartridge Recycling
- ✧ Secret Pals
- ✧ ASAPH Ministry
- ✧ Rhythms of Life
- ✧ Soul Food
- ✧ Emmanuel's Closet News
- ✧ "Bly's" Report
- ✧ Just For Kids
- ✧ February Calendar

From the Pastor's Desk



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

"I truly do wish all a HAPPY NEW YEAR filled with love, peace and health!!!" That line was how I ended the January Pastor's Desk message, and I truly hope that has been what you experienced because, in some ways, I cannot say that. I have been in left shoulder blade pain and major pain and tingling down the left arm from late November, but it really has gotten unbearable this past month. I will soon have an injection to see if that helps. So, PLEASE, pray that it does help relieve the pain and tingling. If not, I guess another surgery is around the corner. Also, many of you know that Jeri had been in A-fib and two different times he was shocked back into sinus rhythm. Now, he is scheduled to have a Watchman inserted and we hope all goes well there! Fortunately, even with all this going on as I am getting older, I kiddingly say that I am really falling apart. It sure feels that way some days.

This month is termed the "Love Month" because of our observance of Valentine's Day. On February 14th most of us make an extra effort to assure our loved ones how much we love them. We give cards and maybe gifts. Some people will give breakfast in bed to their loved one. Others will take their loved one out for dinner and a movie, etc. We try to do special things on Valentine's Day to REINFORCE to our loved ones how much we love them.

Now, you probably know what is coming next because this can be termed an on-going focus for me... WE SHOULD NOT LIMIT SHOWING HOW MUCH WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER TO JUST ONE DAY!!! I often have said.. "Every day should be Christmas Day" because that is a day that we share our joy and excitement over our Lord's birth and how this event showed us how much God loves us! And I say.. "Every day should be Easter Day" for us because this is when Jesus showed us how much he loves us by dying on the cross and then rising from the dead. So, just like the sentiments for Christmas and Easter that I stated, I now add "Every day should be Valentine's Day!!!" We should do special things every day for all our loved ones!

It is important for us to convey to those we love how important they are to us. God did this by sending His Son. Jesus did this in healing the many who came to him; in the miracles he performed; in his affirming everyone's worthiness by including tax collectors, prostitutes, sinners of all sorts in his circle of friends... His loved ones!



Being followers of Jesus, we too should include in our circle ALL people, not just those who think like we do or who have the things we do, or whose skin color is the same as ours, or whose heritage is of a particular culture... We should LOVE EVERYBODY!!

So, maybe this Valentine's Day we have a very daunting task ahead of us which is to show everybody that we love them. It doesn't mean we have to give a card or candy or whatever to everybody. It simply means that we need to remove our blinders of race, creed, or political stance - those identifiers that lead us to shun others or think they are below us. We need to see everyone with the eyes of Jesus (which only sees worthiness), and love everyone with the heart of Jesus (who loves every individual no matter what). Let us TRULY LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

God Bless us ALL! God guide us all!!!

With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in FEBRUARY

Feb. 7- Epiphany 5

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: "Jesus Heals Mary"

Feb. 14 - Transfiguration Sunday

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: "It is Good to be Here"

Feb. 17- Ash Wednesday - 4:30 PM Service

Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

Sermon: "Where Are Our Hearts?"

Feb. 21 - Lent 1

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: "Beginning the Journey"

Feb. 28- Lent 2

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Sermon: "Take Up Your Cross"

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

CELEBRATING FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 7 - Bronley and Peggy Free - 51 years
Feb. 12 - Charles and Theresa Diehl - 10 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	\$14,597.12	\$13,351.53	\$1.68	\$274.10	\$1,142.27	\$0.00
March	\$8,721.22	\$11,240.07	\$3.39	\$435.00	\$101.14	\$211.30
April	\$11,764.11	\$8,301.79	\$1.32	\$191.93	\$0.44	\$0.00
May	\$13,058.86	\$10,042.83	\$0.80	\$160.11	\$100.25	\$1,930.00
June	\$12,515.15	\$19,338.81	\$0.85	\$314.46	\$200.18	\$2,326.30
July	\$9,101.78	\$10,003.38	\$125.76	\$98.76	\$7.22	\$2,595.00
August	\$9,954.50	\$9,408.12	\$0.81	\$109.26	\$0.37	\$1,535.00
September	\$9,302.80	\$12,765.74	\$0.81	\$346.94	\$100.30	\$2,286.30
October	\$9,060.00	\$9,237.58	\$0.80	\$227.35	\$1,700.20	\$2,500/00
November	\$10,283.39	\$9,592.58	\$0.87	\$94.31	\$1,100.15	\$965.00
December	\$10,939.35	\$15,257.15	\$550.67	\$342.00	\$1,000.17	\$251.45
Total	\$129,040.13	\$140,649.06	\$688.11	\$2,864.04	\$6,265.39	\$15,892.15

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @January 1, 2021

(includes \$6300 transferred from Discretionary Fund to meet expenses at year end)

\$90.57

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ January 1, 2021

(Includes \$60,284.28 Endowment)

\$78,892.09

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ January 1, 2021

(Includes \$892,559.49 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$887,951.52

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2020

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 437.45
January			\$ 69.87	\$ 507.32
February	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 86.47	\$ 568.79
March	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 563.79
April	3	\$ 175.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 478.79
May	2	\$ 1700.00	\$ 1900.00	\$ 678.79
June	2	\$ 310.75	\$ 725.00	\$ 1093.04
July	2	\$ 575.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 658.04
August			\$ 29.00	\$ 687.04
September	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.50	\$ 697.54
October	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 71.15	\$ 718.69
November	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 33.04	\$ 701.73
December	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 651.73
Total	18	\$ 3085.75	\$ 3300.03	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

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



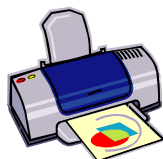
Linda Trone
Room 700
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Nancy Taylor
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

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



Cartridge Recycling

Since Emmanuel's Closet did not do a school supply project in 2020 and may not in 2021, we are no longer using the rewards from recycled cartridges to fill backpacks. However, we are still turning them in to use to purchase supplies for the church office. You may 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 save money for our church, but also help to keep our planet "green."

Because of COVID-19, we weren't able to get in the church to get the Secret Pal forms in December. If you participated last year and want to do it again this year, I have your forms from last year and can use them again. We will be exchanging names on February 21 and will be running the Secret Pal year from February 2021 thru February 2022. Any questions, call Diana Myers at (717) 741-1840.



ASAPH Teaching Ministry

Our church has been supporting Andy Stump's ASAPH Teaching Ministry in Haiti for quite a few years. We recently received a letter from Andy telling us that they are in dire need of funds. Donations have been down, partly because of COVID. Also, the Haitian government changed the currency exchange rate for US dollars, now making them worth only about half of what they had been.

Instead of an offering for our Hand of Hope Fund in February, we have decided to take a special offering for ASAPH on February 7. If you would like to help this ministry, but are unable to be here then, you may mail your donations to the church office. Make checks payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC, with a note that it is for ASAPH. We will then send all the donations in one check to ASAPH Ministry. Thank you.

RHYTHMS OF LIFE:

In lieu of Women' Sunday, I will be sharing 7 short articles about Rhythms of Life from the Fall 2020 Magnolia Magazine. The articles speak to the "unrhythmic" times we are facing now. Marti Leader gave me the "Rhythm" articles and asked if I could think of some way to share them with you. She said, "The articles seem so appropriate for us now. We need them." So...one article a week will appear in the church bulletin as an insert, as well as in the Newsletters. I hope you will read them during the quiet time in preparation for worship, or at home during your own quiet time. Thank you, Marti.

(Ginny Weber)

RHYTHM Article 3

How many times have we passed each other in our daily lives, murmured a quick, "How are you?" and then continued on, choosing not to pause to hear the response? So busy getting from one moment to the next that sometimes we can miss the one we're in. ...

The very definition of connection is the energy exchanged between people paying attention to each other. Energy given, energy gotten. No wonder deeply connecting makes us feel so good. It is one of our most fundamental human needs, yet this desire to bond, to relate, got buried and neglected as our world started spinning faster and our attention was stretched too thin.

Then the whole world finally did stop, but we were told we couldn't be there for each other—at least not in the physical sense. And, oh, how we kicked, screamed, and cried. They said to keep walking, stay away, and maintain our distance, but we craved the thing we could no longer have, so we showed up for each other in entirely new ways.

We asked more of our apps and technology, gathering on video screens and group text chains to check in and catch up. And we also returned to the old-fashioned communication that perhaps we had been too quick to leave behind—dropping off thank-yous on porches, chalking greetings in asphalt, singing, and clapping praise out of windows.

We learned you don't have to shake a hand to show how glad you are to see someone. You don't have to be near to touch someone's soul. Sometimes it's just a smile that gets us by. Seeing that joy in another person's eye or hearing it in their voice. One kind word might save a life.

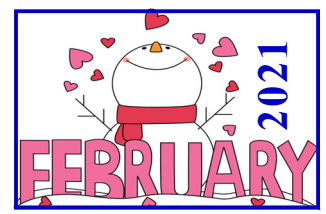
And we remembered the power of asking, "How are you?" Because the answer mattered. And it matters now: How you are. How I am. How we all are. What else are we doing here on this planet if not to find that out?

We are all going through something, even when it's not the same thing. We all have news, fears, passion, gratitude—sharing is what makes our moments and life markers bearable and real. If the answer to "How are you?" is that you are doing OK despite your circumstances, then there is hope that I can also make it through whatever is on my plate. What each of us faces becomes more manageable when we face it together—when we are connected.

from: Magnolia Magazine fall 2020



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



Everywhere are gifts of the heart, if only you will open your eyes wide enough to recognize them.

Soft evening hushes, the brilliant colors of the rainbow, the love of a good friend, the loyalty of your pets, the fierce devotion of family, a warm blanket on a cold night, a melody wafting through the air, the smell of something delicious ensuing from a kitchen, the bright friendly faces of flowers, the song of the birds. Live and love the gifts freely given!

LESSONS FROM 2020

The world can change quickly
Friends matter greatly
Alone and lonely are different
Home matters
Learn from the past
The small moments are beautiful
Kindness is a great gift
Optimism is priceless
Be grateful for family
Heroes do exist
Give back generously
Never stop trying
Reach out to those you love
Live bravely.
Rachel Marie Martin



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



WISDOM FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON

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

"It is impossible to reason without arriving at a Supreme Being."

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



WISDOM FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

"Common looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord made 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?"

May you grow still enough to hear the small noises earth makes in preparing for the long sleep of winter, so that you yourself may grow calm and grounded deep within.

May you grow still enough to hear the trickling of water seeping into the ground, so that your soul may be softened and healed, and guided in its flow.

May you grow still enough to hear the splintering of starlight in the winter sky and the roar at earth's fiery core.

May you grow still enough to hear the stir of a single snowflake in the air, so that your inner silence may turn into hushed expectation.

Brother David Steindl-Rast

The most beautiful things in life aren't things. They're people, memories and pictures. They're feelings, moments, smiles and laughter.

Praise God for beautiful things!

Unknown

IN 2021, I HOPE YOU LIVE LOUDER - I hope you laugh more. I hope you sing at the top of your lungs. I hope you drive with the windows down and let the wind rustle through your hair. I hope you hug. I hope you kiss. I hope you surround yourself with people who make you feel alive. I hope you become the type of person that brings good energy wherever you go, and the type of person people want to be around. I hope you speak what's on your mind, that you raise your voice for injustice, that you tell others that you love them, instead of waiting until it's too late. I hope you live louder, shine brighter. From this moment on.

Marisa Donnelly

Do you ever feel guilty about falling
asleep while praying?
Let me ask you this.
How do you feel when a
child falls asleep in your arms?
Glad we settled that.
Love, Your Heavenly Father



Remember, a small trouble is
like a pebble.
Hold it too close to your eye and it puts
everything out of focus.
Hold it at proper viewing distance and it
can be examined and classified.
Throw it at your feet and see it in its
true setting-- just one more tiny
bump on the pathway.

Barbara Johnson

THE PROMISE A TRULY AMAZING LOVE STORY

One evening I found myself at a conference in Washington D.C. And as fate would have it, Bucky Fuller happened to be making a presentation that evening at another conference in the same hotel. I got to the ballroom in time to hear the end of Bucky's lecture. I was in awe of this man in his 80's, with his clear mind, deep wisdom and boundless energy. At the end of the talk we walked together to his airport limousine.

"I've got to go to New York City tonight for another presentation," he said, looking at me with an anxiousness I had rarely seen in Bucky. "You know Annie's not doing well. I'm very concerned about her."

Bucky Fuller had once confided in me that he had promised his wife Annie to die before she did, so that he could be there to welcome her when it was her turn. I took the comment as a hope, not a commitment. Which shows how greatly I underestimated Buckminster Fuller.

Shortly after Bucky's presentation in New York, he learned that Annie had lapsed into a coma in a hospital in Los Angeles. Doctors felt that there was a good chance she would not regain consciousness. Bucky took the first flight he could get. Upon arriving in Los Angeles, he went immediately to Annie's bedside. Sitting beside her, he closed his eyes. And quietly died. The power to choose life fully was something that Bucky exemplified. So much so that he had the power to choose death when it was time, peacefully, with arms wide open to the universe that he served. It was simply another courageous step forward.

Hours later, Annie peacefully joined him in death. He had kept a promise. He was waiting for her.

Thomas F. Crum



Happy
Valentine's
Day

"When you go out into the woods, and you look at trees, you see all these different trees. And some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens, and some of them are whatever. And you look at the tree and you allow it. You see why it is the way it is. You sort of understand that it didn't get enough light, and so it turned that way. And you don't get all emotional about it. You just allow it. You appreciate the tree.

The minute you get near humans, you lose all that. And you are constantly saying 'You are too this, or I'm too this.' That judgment mind comes in. And so I practice turning people into trees. Which means appreciating them just the way they are."

Ram Dass

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

February 2021

Thank You

In addition to all the donations from church members in 2020, we received many from the community as well and would like to thank them.

Ore Valley Elementary School-socks
Dallastown Fire Company-food
Penn Waste-food
Knights of Columbus-food
St. Vincent de Paul-monetary
Gichner's-food and monetary
Dallastown Legion-monetary
Donnie Webb-food and monetary

These were the largest donations, but we also received many smaller ones from other businesses, individuals and churches in the area. Without this community support, we would have to close our doors, so **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

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

Hot cocoa/Tea/Coffee
Brownie/Cake mix
Tomato/Spaghetti sauce
Dinner kits (Taco, pizza, etc.)
Chicken helper/canned chicken
Canned chili w/meat
Spam
Beef stew
Sauerkraut
Beets
Carrots
Mixed veggies
Fruit
Pancake mix/Syrup

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

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Our clothing and household room remains closed until further notice. Hopefully, we will be able to re-open again later in 2021.



THANKS FOR CARING!



Revelations for FEBRUARY from “Bly Mire” Mouse

Is anyone else tired of hearing about COVID? Have any of you gotten your vaccine? I have looked at the schedule for vaccines, and I think I have a long wait ahead of me. But, “knock on wood,” so far my family and I have been COVID free! I will say that as we sit down for our evening meal, the little ones, Mire and myself always pray for anyone we know who has COVID.

I have been in the Sanctuary for the worship service the past few weeks and have heard that our Faith Family is hoping to return to indoor worship in February.....I hope we can do that! I miss seeing so many of you! I know Jeri and Pastor Lou Ann try to come around to the cars before worship to say “HI” to you, but if I would try to do that, I don’t think many of you would see me.

I do want to ask if any of you have special plans for Valentine’s Day? If you do, please give me some ideas!!!! For however many years now I have given Mire a box of Fitzkee’s candy and a card for Valentine’s Day. Also, I have the little ones make a card for her with their artwork and thoughts on it. She always says how much she loves these things. But, I would like to do something different, so I am open to suggestions.

There hasn’t been much happening around the church lately because of the pandemic, but I have heard some chatter about a roof over the Chicken Bar-b-q pit.... and I realized that the Bar-b-ques will soon resume. (I understand that will be in April). I CAN’T WAIT!!! OOOOO...my mouth is watering!!!!

My family and I hope that you and all your loved ones have a blessed Valentine’s Day and that the rest of your winter season is as mild as it has been up to now!!!

February’s humor:

The last year that Valentine’s Day was on a Sunday, I had decided to do a service for the reaffirmation of wedding vows. As I asked the men to repeat their vows to their wife I heard little Dakota say...A E I O U!

Q. Why do skunks love Valentine's Day? A. Because they're scent-imental creatures!

With our Love,

BLY and MIRE



!Loving' embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

PUZZLE



A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

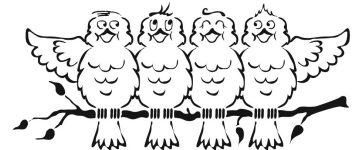
W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

W A T B U H D O G R L Y I N S P M

”

RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV