

THE CARILLON

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Dawn Shultz, Consistory Secretary

PRAYER FOR SPRING

*Thank you God for this month of April,
filled with many wonderful possibilities and blessings.*

*Thank you for the change of seasons. As I leave behind a winter that wore
out its welcome, I step into spring with a fresh heart, ready for nature to take
its course.*

*May this season bring joy and light, peace and prosperity, and a spirit in full
bloom.*

May I spread kindness and love to others.

I pray to give you thanks and keep you in my heart every single day.

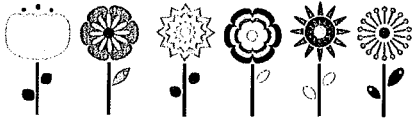
Amen



SPRING

Spring is the time for new beginnings. Spring is the time to change whatever it is about your life that is holding you back.

Spring is the time to try something you've never tried before. Spring is the time to take a risk.



LET GOD BE IN YOUR MIND
so that you do the right thing.

LET GOD BE IN YOUR EYES
so that you see the beauty and good in this world.

LET GOD BE IN YOUR MOUTH
so that you speak kind words.

LET GOD BE IN YOUR HANDS
so that you help others.

LET GOD BE IN YOUR HEART
so that you spread
LOVE
to others.

GIVE UP

worrying about the future;
FOCUS ON MAKING THE BEST OF THE PRESENT MOMENT.

GIVE UP

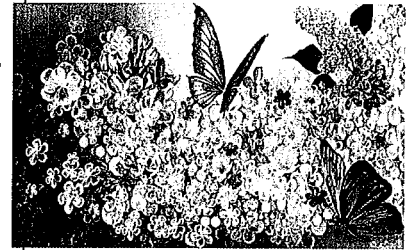
complaining;
LIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART.

GIVE UP

comparing yourself to others;
EMBRACE YOUR YOU-NIQUE SELF.

GIVE UP

harsh judgments and hatred;
SPREAD KINDNESS AND LOVE.



Scriptures for the Spring Season

"Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."
Ephesians 4:29

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Romans 12:2

"Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy." *Ephesians 4:23-24*

"Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new."

2 Corinthians 5:17

WE ARE NOT ULTIMATELY IN CONTROL OF OUR LITTLE DESTINIES, ANY MORE THAN THE TINY ROBIN SINGING OUTSIDE OUR WINDOW.

GOD HOLDS US ALL IN THE PALM OF HIS TREMENDOUSLY CAPABLE HANDS.



The Journey Continues...

It's time to put your thinking caps on as I talk you through something that may be hard to imagine. What we are going to do is imagine we are passengers on an airplane, and we are wearing jumpsuits, helmets, goggles, and backpacks containing expertly loaded parachutes. Joining us on the plane are other nervous people wearing the same outfits and gear. As we sit there, we take deep breaths in an effort to remain calm because we know what is coming. Eventually, the Jump Master moves to the door of the plane and declares "OK folks, we are over the drop zone. Remember what I taught you." The Jump Master then opens the door of the plane, and we get in line with the other passengers. The first person jumps through the open door. Then the second person. Now, it is your turn. I'm standing right behind you as you make your way to the open door and take a look at the earth 10,000 feet below. You are surprised by how strong the wind is blowing. Everything that could go wrong is racing through your head, and as you start to panic, the Jump Master interrupts your thoughts and tells you it is time to go. So you take a deep breath, grit your teeth, and leap out of the plane.

Kind of scary, huh? I think so. I've never been parachuting before, and I have NO plans of doing so because I have a paralyzing fear of heights. But I can imagine the adrenaline rush the moment you jump out of the plane. I like activities that bring an adrenaline rush – like riding roller coasters or being a passenger in a stock car going 150 mph at the Pocono Raceway. But the adrenaline rush of jumping out of an airplane is something I never want to experience because my fear of heights makes that activity too much to handle.

Back in 2013, an unremarkable movie called "After Earth" was released. I watched the movie because the previews looked good, but I was disappointed. The movie was really bad. There was, however, one thought-provoking quote from the movie that I remembered. I'll share the quote so you can save your popcorn for a movie that is worth watching. The quote is as follows:

"You must realize, that fear is not real. Fear is a product of thoughts you create. Do not misunderstand me, the danger is very real, but the fear you feel is a choice."

Isn't that an amazing thought? It makes a lot of sense, too. As real as fears may seem, the fears we feel exist only in our minds. What causes one person to experience paralyzing fear (like spiders, heights, water, etc.) may have little effect on someone else. The danger is still real, but the fears we have are based on how we *think* something might happen.

I don't believe we can turn off our fears like a light switch. Truth is, we need to admit our fears so that we can face dangerous situations as people of faith. Even Jesus admitted he needed help with his fears as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane the night he was arrested. He knew he was going to be humiliated, tortured, and left to die a painful death. For Jesus, the danger was very real, and he was understandably apprehensive about what he was facing. If you're like me and you think jumping out of a perfectly good airplane is too much to handle, just imagine what Jesus was going through as he prayed before his arrest.

No matter how real a danger may be, or how much fear we feel about a danger we are facing, the power of God's presence is with us every step on our journey through life. And through God's presence, God's transforming love changes the outcome of our lives. Nothing can ever take that away. Fear may be a choice, but so is faith in the love of God.

Fear and faith will always battle within us; the one who wins is the one we feed the most. If we feed our faith more than we feed our fear, that doesn't mean we'll start jumping out of airplanes or doing other dangerous things. It just means we avoid dangerous activities for reasons that are so much better than fear. Besides, who wants to carry around the burden of fear when there is a better path to follow? So may we feed our faith, and not our fear, and let us see where this adrenaline rush called life might take us. Not to mention how much more enjoyable this ride can be when we leave the fear behind and share this journey with the hope of our Risen Savior with us.

The Journey Continues...*Pastor Dave*

Beware of Garbage Trucks by David J. Pollay

How often do you let other people's nonsense change your mood? Do you let a bad driver, rude waiter, curt boss, or an insensitive employee ruin your day? Unless you're the Terminator, for an instant you're probably set back on your heels. However, the mark of a successful person is how quickly she can get back her focus on what's important.

Sixteen years ago I learned this lesson. I learned it in the back of a New York City taxi cab. Here's what happened. I hopped in a taxi, and we took off for Grand Central Station. We were driving in the right lane when, all of a sudden, a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us.

My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car's back end by just inches! The driver of the other car, the guy who almost caused a big accident, whipped his head around and he started yelling bad words at us.

My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was friendly. So, I said, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!" And this is when my taxi driver told me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck."

Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it. And if you let them, they'll dump it on you.

When someone wants to dump on you, don't take it personally. You just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. You'll be happy you did. So this was it: The "Law of the Garbage Truck." I started thinking, how often do I let Garbage Trucks run right over me? And how often do I take their garbage and spread it to other people: at work, at home, on the streets?

It was that day I said, "I'm not going to do it anymore." I began to see garbage trucks. Like in the movie "The Sixth Sense," the little boy said, "I see Dead People." Well, now "I see Garbage Trucks." I see the load they're carrying. I see them coming to drop it off.

And like my Taxi Driver, I don't make it a personal thing; I just smile, wave, wish them well, and I move on. One of my favorite football players of all time, Walter Payton, did this every day on the football field. He would jump up as quickly as he hit the ground after being tackled. He never dwelled on a hit. Payton was ready to make the next play his best.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let Garbage Trucks take over their day. What about you? What would happen in your life, starting today, if you let more garbage trucks pass you by? Here's my bet. You'll be happier. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so..

Love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't. Believe that everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, TAKE IT! If it changes your life, LET IT! Nobody said it would be easy...They just promised it would be worth it!

Report of the Consistory March 2024

The consistory approved three dates to host community dinners during the year – April 20, 2024; July 27, 2024; and November 2, 2024. Three dates for summer services at Pine Acres were announced - June 23, 2024; July 14, 2024; and August 18, 2024. The services at Pine Acres will include a lunch and social time after worship. The Fellowship Hall project is complete except for completing the electrical work in the kitchen. The floors will be professionally cleaned after Easter. The consistory will hold a workshop on Saturday, March 23, 2024, to discuss both short-term and long-term plans and projects. Pastor Jones and his wife will host a dinner on Easter Sunday.



Jeffrey Clouser would like to thank the congregation for the Happy Birthday wishes and cards. It was very much appreciated.

Members – please remember to let the office know if there has been any change in your address, phone numbers or emails. We want to be able to stay in touch with all of our members.

Save the date: The Christian Ed Committee will host a luncheon, catered by Angelo's on May 19th. This luncheon is for the entire congregation as a celebration for the newest members of our church after the Pentecost and confirmation service. It will be held in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for this celebration.

Kid's Team/Youth/Young Adults Corner

Kid's Team

Then we'll be heading to the links for a round of mini golf at Game Time Fun Center (old Yogeys). Stay tuned for the date, but this will be in early June when the weather is a little warmer. It will be a Sunday right after church.

Kid's Kamp is right around the corner. Reserve the week of July 15th – July 18th. Registration forms will be coming out early May.

If you aren't sure the age for Kid's Team and have a child or grandchild that might be looking to join, most Kid's Team activities are planned for ages K-4 through 6th grade. If you aren't already receiving Kid's Team announcements, please check in with Kathy Follett or Meredith Myers.

Youth/Young Adults

Here are the upcoming activities for the Youth/Young Adults for the next few months of 2024:

April – assisting at Pine Acres to build roofs on play areas

May – date TBD – mini golf for chores for the spring retreat

May 31 – June 2 – Spring Retreat in Cassville

June 30th – Living Room Chat as part of the morning service

If you know of someone between 7th grade and 30 that is currently not receiving the Youth/Young Adults information, please contact Kathy Follett or Peg Scholl

Mission Corner

The first community dinner of 2024 will be held Saturday April 20th. We'll be serving from 4:45 – 6:00pm. This meal will be an in-person meal, not a drive through meal. In addition to assistance on that day, we'll be asking the congregation for food donations. One item that is being requested is the single serving applesauce cups. They typically come in packs of 4 or packs of 6. If you're a baker, we're also looking for donations of cookies and brownies. Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex.

This year's mission trip will be returning to Wilmington NC to work for WARM. The week that has been chosen is August 3rd to August 10th. We currently have 9 signed up for the trip with interest from a couple more. If you are interested in the mission trip in August, please reach out to Kathy Follett ASAP.

A **huge thank you** to all of those that participated in the Fellowship Hall Reno project. The team put in 265 sweat equity hours over 8 workdays. While the congregation will notice the painted walls, the trim around the doors and the plexiglass at the kitchen counter, there were many additional things taken on by the team to improve the overall appearance and safety of the room. Stay tuned for our next project later in 2024.

Future dates to reserve are:

July 27 – Community Picnic

September – date TBD – Grill night at American House

Oct 6th – Sunday night meal at the Lebanon Rescue Mission

November 2nd – Community Dinner

The Demise of the Branch Canal

by Jim Schucker

The Branch of the Union Canal was first conceived as a canal feeder to supply additional water to the Water Works reservoir. Large quantities of water were needed to operate the water wheels which pumped additional water to a ninety-foot hill allowing it to flow by gravity back to the vicinity of Lock 1 west of the tunnel. Water from the Water Works/Swatara was needed for the boats to begin their descent to the Susquehanna River. It was estimated to take seven times the amount of water to turn the water wheels than the actual water being lifted to the receiver to be returned to the canal. Later this inefficiency was improved when steam engines provided the power to lift the water rather than the water wheels.

To ensure that there was plenty of water available to keep the system operating, Chief Engineer Canvas White designed the canal feeder or branch canal. It first went from the Water Works to the area of Jonestown but was later extended to Pine Grove when coal was discovered north of there. The Branch Canal as a water feeder worked well and kept the canal operating except when an occasional sink hole would open and suck great quantities of water from the canal leaving the boats to stand in the mud until the "sink" was repaired.

Improvements to the water system were always being tried. One such experiment was the use of a steamboat on the reservoir of the Big Dam (in the vicinity of where Rt. 81 crosses the Swatara in Swatara Gap). Prior to 1850 ferries were used to tow a string of canal boats up this reservoir to the Port Mifflin Dam near Suedberg. In the early 1850's, however, the Union Canal Company replaced the ferries with "Little Jim", a steamboat which was shipped up the Branch Canal on a canal boat and reassembled on its new operating location. The steamboat, operated by a two-man crew, could tow 3 or 4 loaded boats. How many sightseers do you suppose made the trip to the Big Dam reservoir to see this new wonder? Few records have been found to tell of its operation, but it is known that the boat was only in use but a few years. The Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Union Canal Company notes in 1855 that \$1,393.35 was realized from the sale of a steamboat and old materials. Was this "Little Jim"? Was its operation too expensive to continue? Perhaps someday more information will be found on the subject.

As the water passed over the breast of the Big Dam and through the sluice gates, it took its toll on the structure. Expensive repairs were needed to keep the spillway sound and operational. In 1861 the engineers decided to replace the 12 sluice gates which controlled the release of excess water, with a tunnel cut into the rock on the west side of the dam. This would be the rock layer upon which Rt. 72/Rt. 433 is constructed. Using the same procedures of drilling as was used for the Union Canal Tunnel, a star drill and gun powder, a hole 8 feet in diameter was cut perpendicular into the rock surface. This opening was then to turn south for 200 feet running parallel to the creek and rock face (in other words, under the present roadway). A contract for the project was let for a cost of \$3.00 per cubic yard, but that effort was soon abandoned. The canal company continued the project employing men to work in 3 shifts of 4 men each. In other words, drilling continued round the clock. The actual cost of construction was closer to \$60 a cubic yard. This explains why the first contractor suspended his work.

The cavity in the rock reached 120 feet in length when tragedy occurred. June 4, 1862: A violent storm formed in the Susquehanna Valley where the river cuts through the mountains and slowly drifted east along the mountain ridge stalling over Schuylkill County and Pine Grove. The three northern dams were soon filled to capacity and began to feel the strain of the torrents moving down the creek. Which happened first, no one could observe. What is known is Berger Dam above Pine Grove lost 300 of its 535 feet sending its contents rumbling south. Port Mifflin Dam and the Big Dam met the same fate. The flood gates of the Big Dam were partially open, but the fury of the storm and the disaster prevented the canal men from opening them further. Along with the wall of water came saw mills and grist mills, their dams giving way as well. Bridges, fences, houses, sheds, pig pens, trees, sheep, cows, boats - everything in its way came rushing down the Swatara. Included with "everything" were 9 individuals who could not escape the rushing waters and were swept to their death.

Nothing could stop the destruction. Since Finnegan's Dam, the southern most dam, was not as tall as the rest, it survived the major impact, but Blue Rock Aqueduct below Jonestown was overturned by the water and debris. When the water hit the Mainline at the Water Works, it moved west taking with it most of the man-made structures on its journey to Middletown. The Summit and the Eastern Division escaped the fury. Estimated damages stood at \$150,000, a sum the canal company could not absorb. \$35,000 was spent to

repair the Water Works and the Western Division, but the Branch Canal was a loss for transportation save for the lower 4 miles. About 6 1/2 miles was returned to the role of being a feeder.



The Big Dam in Swatara Gap after the flood



Finnegan's Dam today in the Swatara

The land along the destroyed canal to Pine Grove was eventually sold to the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad for the sum of \$200,000. These funds were used to enlarge Stoever's Dam and Reservoir and build the last of the bodies to supply water to the canal. Originally known as Cattail Run Reservoir, then Light's Dam, today it is known as Lions Lake. It continues to collect water and feed the canal west of the tunnel on the north side of the Union Canal Tunnel Park.

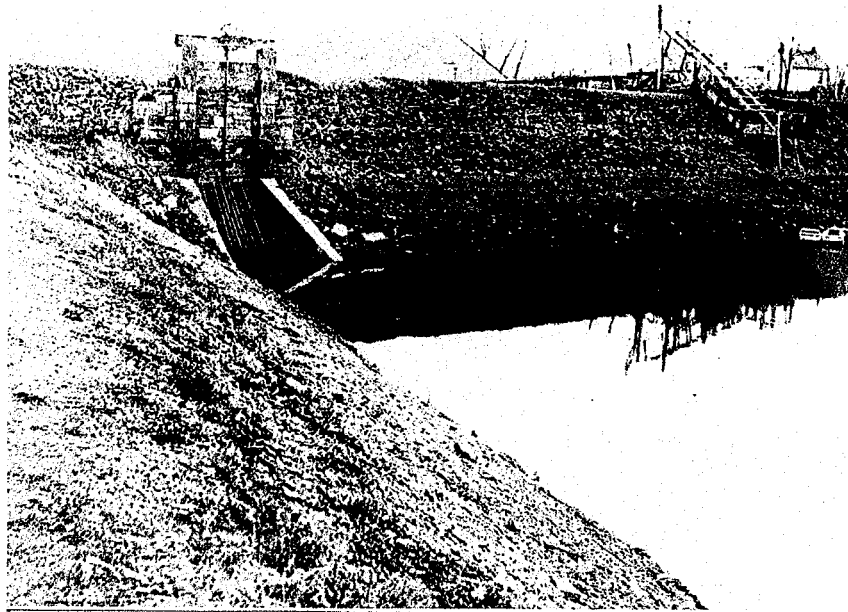
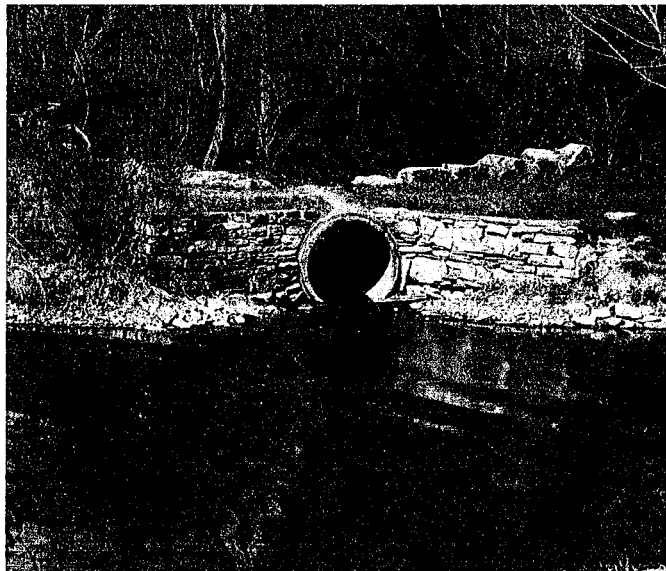
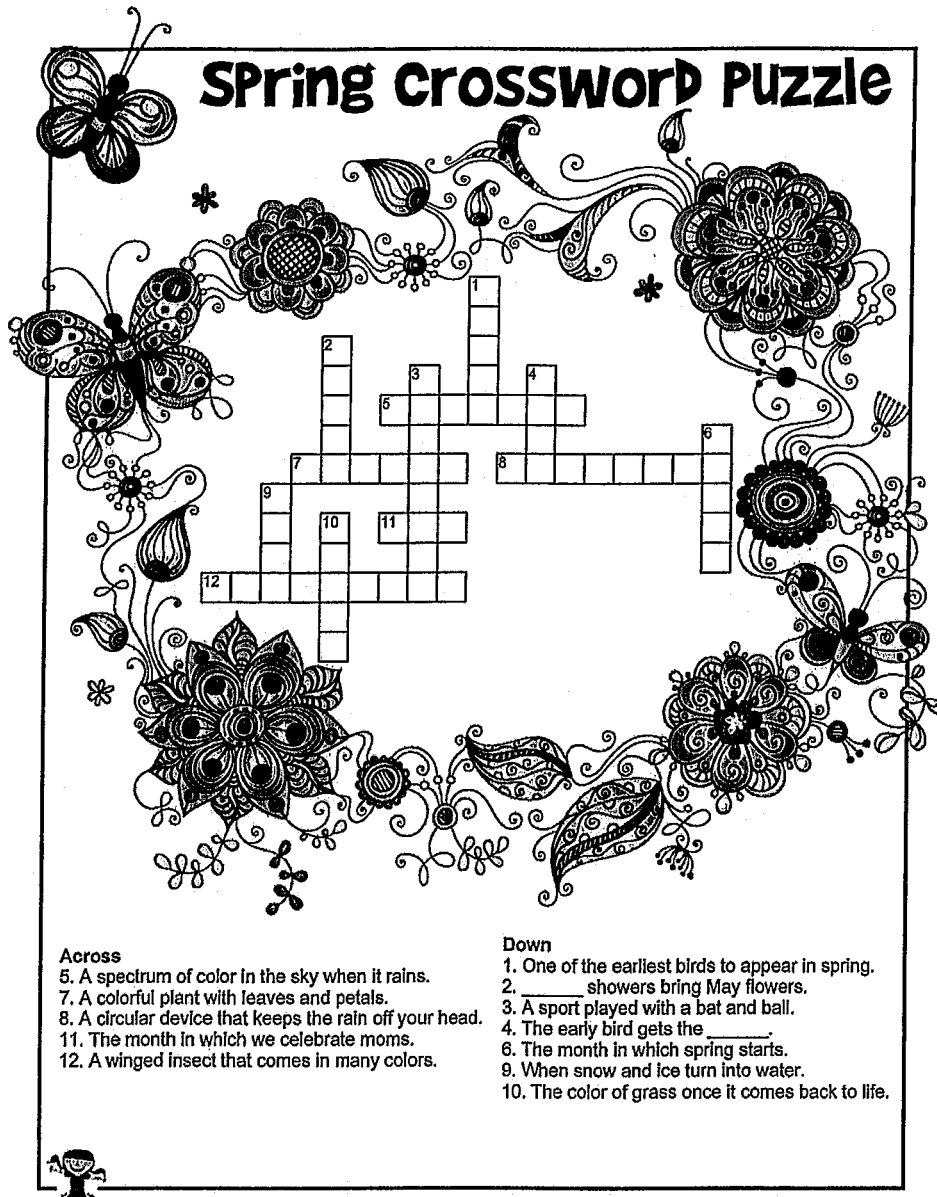


Photo of Light's Dam taken years ago

The problem of flooding and the Union Canal continue to this day. When Cattail Run Reservoir was completed in 1866, the stream exiting the reservoir, known today as Clark's Run, was turned to empty directly into the canal. Originally the canal ran parallel to the stream. When Lion's Lake is drawn down quickly with the threat of an oncoming storm, more water is dumped into the canal than it can handle. Just to the west of the park stands a farm lane, Minnich Lane, with only one 36 inch culvert through its bed. On the other side of the farm lane stands a farm pond slowing the water's progress westward. The result is the storm water entering the canal cannot move westward as quickly as it should and thus backs up through the Union Canal Tunnel. If the quantity is moderate, pipes have been placed under the tow path on the south side of the park to relieve the excess water which runs down through the park and enters the quarry or exits under the railroad bed. If, however, an event such as Tropical Storm Lee or the heavy rains which were received in July of 2013, rush into the canal, the southern bank of the canal overflows eroding the outer slope of the tow path. This is another challenge which needs to be addressed by the Friends or the Historical Society in the near future.



Clark's Run entering canal, north side of the park



Yum Yum Dessert

65 Ritz crackers, crushed (rolled)
1 stick butter, melted

Mix and press into 9x13 inch pan, reserving 1/2 cup crumbs.

1/2 gal vanilla ice cream
2 pkg coconut cream instant pudding

1 1/2 cup milk

Mix until smooth. Pour into pan and sprinkle 1/2 cup crumbs over top.
Refrigerate.

This recipe is in the St. Mark's 1985 Mothers Class Recipe Book and is from Dolly Iannicelli, Kathy Andrew's mother.



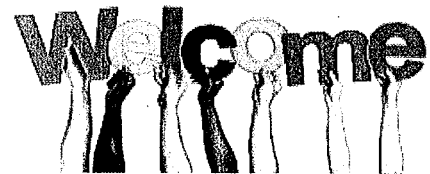
April 2024 Make A Note of It...

Thank you to all those who participate in the music ministry and assist in enhancing worship at St. Mark's through special music. Your efforts are welcomed and appreciated. A special thank you to our church family for your continued encouragement and support of the church's musical endeavors. **Thank you also to Ken Shultz, Peg Scholl, Heidi Fox, Kathy Follett, Cindy Johnson and others for helping to keep the music ministry operating during the music ministry coordinator's continued health issues.**



Prayers for our organist/accompanist Cindy as she undergoes procedures in February and March to relieve her carpal tunnel. May relief come to her successfully, completely, and comfortably without complications. **Thank you to Pastor Dave, Kathy, and Tim** who will be assisting with worship/music as Cindy takes the time needed to heal and recover.

Additional voices and ringers are always welcomed in our musical ensembles especially altos for the adult choir. Take a look at a recent recruitment article in LebTown: <https://lebtown.com/2023/01/04/st-marks-invites-vocalists-church-affiliation-not-required/> If you or someone you know is interested please see Jeff or email him at uccmusicministrycoordinator@gmail.com



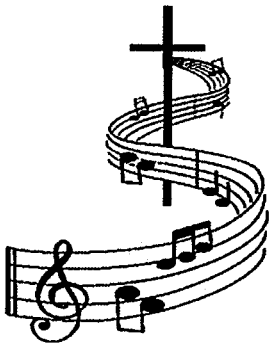


Seeking volunteers to provide special music Apr. 7, and May 26. Look for the sign-up sheet on the music bulletin board in the narthex and please sign up. Please remember to contact the office with the title of your song, the composer and/or arranger, the date it was published and who published the song. This is needed for the bulletin and for license reporting purposes. Only one musical selection relating to worship theme is necessary. Thank you.

Seeking volunteers to provide special music this summer June through September. Look for the sign-up sheet on the music bulletin board in the narthex and please sign up. Please remember to contact the office with the title of your song, the composer and/or arranger, the date it was published and who published the song. This is needed for the bulletin and for license reporting purposes. Only one musical selection relating to worship theme is necessary. Thank you.



Attention All Music Ensembles (choirs/bells): Here is the *Spring 2024* rehearsal/musical offering schedule for choirs and bells (subject to changes):



Adult Choir:

As of now, we rehearse every Sunday morning before church starting at 8:30am with assistance from Ken Shultz as needed. See musical offering schedule below.

Mar. 24 – (Palm Sun.) - *He Comes In The Name of the Lord (with Children's choir)*

Mar. 28 – (Maundy Thurs.) - *Wash Their Feet*

Mar. 31 – (Easter) - *Celebrate With Singing (Easter Text)* or perhaps have the adult choir do The Lord Has Risen worship sequence #364-365-366 in the green hymnal and then congregation comes in on #367 in the hymnal.

April 28 - *Eternal Life*

May 5 - *We Have Seen the Risen Lord*

May 12 - *If You Love Me*

May 19 – (Music Appre. Sun.) - *Wonderful Words of Life*

June 2 - *Be The Church*



Children's Choir:

We rehearse at children's church Sunday mornings during worship with assistance from Peg Scholl, Heidi Fox, and Kathy Follett. See musical offering schedule below.

Mar. 24 – (Palm Sun.) - *He Comes In The Name of the Lord* (with adult choir)

Apr. 14 - *Holy Places*

May 19 – (Music Appre. Sun.) - *This Little Light of Mine*



Bell Choir/Quartet:

As of now, we rehearse on select Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm with assistance from Ken Shultz as needed. See musical offering schedule below.

Mar. 31 – (Easter) - *Morning Joy* – Bell Choir

Apr. 21 - *While on the Sea* w/piano – Bell Quartet

May 19 - (Music Appre. Sun.) - *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* – Bell Choir

St. Mark's UCC Spring 2024 Music Ensemble Anthems with Listening Links Including Music Performing Schedule:

Mar. 24th (Palm Sun.) – **Adult & Children's Choir** – *He Comes In The Name of the Lord* – by Mary Kay Beall - at 57:10 into video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLKTPXSC43U>

Mar. 28th (Maundy Thurs.) – **Adult Choir** - *Wash Their Feet* w/oboe? - by Pepper Choplin- <https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&productID=10425064&type=audio>

Mar. 29th (Good Fri.) – **Special Music** - *May need substitute if Cindy is still healing**

Mar. 31st (Easter) – **Adult Choir** – *Celebrate With Singing* (Easter Text) on organ w/trumpet and 3 bell ringers? – by Anna Laura Page - <https://www.alfred.com/celebrate-with-singing/p/00-19977/> (If the Easter Anthem for adult choir is too challenging there may be a different one in the music library or perhaps have the adult choir do The Lord Has Risen worship sequence #364-365-366 in the green hymnal and then congregation comes in on #367 in the hymnal.)

Mar. 31st (Easter) – **Bell Choir** - *Morning Joy* - by Linda Scholes
<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&productID=11338737&type=video>

Apr. 7th – **Special Music** - *Volunteer Requested Please**

Apr. 14th – **Children’s Choir** – *Holy Places* - by Sherrie Boren –
[http://sacredsheetsmusic.org/music/inline_download_file?download_id=212995&name=Holy Places - voice accomp.mp3](http://sacredsheetsmusic.org/music/inline_download_file?download_id=212995&name=Holy_Places_voice_accomp.mp3).

Apr. 21st – **Bell Quartet** – *While on the Sea* w/piano - arr. by Larry Sue
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7A3U17EmHc> (Remembering Ukraine)

Apr. 28th – **Adult Choir** – *Eternal Life* - by Craig Courtney
- <https://beckenhorstpress.com/eternal-life-sab/>

May 5th – **Adult Choir** – *We Have Seen the Risen Lord* - by Stan Pethel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yhq5r2omNc4>

May 12th – **Adult Choir** – *If You Love Me* - by Joel Raney
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A72SJftFgSY>

May 19th (Music Apprec. Sun.) – **Adult Choir** – *Wonderful Words of Life* - by Philip Bliss and Greg Gilpin - <https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&productID=11416805&type=audio>

May 19th (Music Apprec. Sun.) – **Bell Choir** – *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* – arr. by Larry Sue - <https://vimeo.com/682519196>

May 19th (Music Apprec. Sun.) – **Children’s Choir** – *This Little Light of Mine* – African-American Spiritual

May 26th (Memorial Day Wknd.) – **Special Music** - *Volunteer Requested Please**

June 2nd – **Adult Choir** – *Be The Church* - by Scott Siciliano
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKU2IQGUic0>

*Volunteer Requested Please** - Please sign up on music bulletin board in the narthex.

Spring 2024 Music Ensemble Offering Schedule



Mar. 24th (Palm Sun.) – Adult Choir w/children
Mar. 28th (Maundy Thurs.) - Adult Choir
Mar. 29th (Good Fri.) – Special Music
Mar. 31st – (Easter) – Adult & Bell Choir



Apr. 7th – Special Music
Apr. 14th – Children’s Choir
Apr. 21st – Bell Quartet
Apr. 28th - Adult Choir

May 5th – Adult Choir
May 12th – Adult Choir
May 19th (Music Apprec./Pentecost Sun.) – All Choirs
May 26th - Special Music
June 2nd – Adult Choir



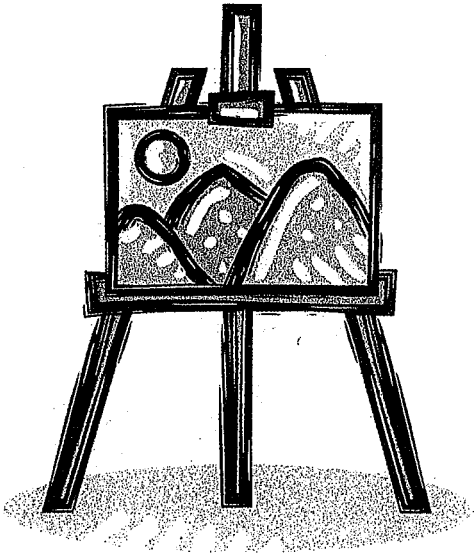
An Update from your Music Ministry Coordinator:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, cards, and emails as I continue my leave of absence to recoup and recover from my illness. The recent poem received from parishioners encouraging me not to quit the fight was a welcome reminder as I continue to work hard to heal. I appreciate the continued kindness, grace, and support shown by the church, congregation, Personnel Committee and Consistory and thank Ken, Peg, Heidi, Kathy, and Cindy for stepping in as needed. I’m also thankful for the accommodations that have been made so I can continue to contribute to the music ministry. Medication side effects are a challenge as we continue to figure out what medication combinations will help control the anxiety and panic disorder as well as the agoraphobia and ocd caused by the covid virus. I was hopeful that I was getting closer to finding the correct medicine, however, side effects such as high blood pressure, high pulse rate, and heart palpitations continue to impact my daily living and consistent good days. Trying to control with blood pressure medication but I may need to change medications yet again which means weaning off one med and then trying a new med which takes a long time. Besides medication management from my psychiatrist, my therapists are helping me to work on facing fears/pushing boundaries that are sustainable through exposure therapy, continue to help me address safety behaviors, and work on processing thoughts before they turn into a panic situation. There are signs that pushing myself through these exposure therapies is helping to overcome this anxiety somewhat but it is hard work to put myself in uncomfortable situations that create anxiety. Unfortunately this part of the treatment is a marathon and not a sprint as retraining the brain and nervous system takes time. Your continued prayers for good days and complete healing are appreciated.



With every best wish,

Jeffrey Clouser,
Music Ministry Coordinator



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 5th

Kid's Painting Party

11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Deb Ryland will lead the children in a simple painting project on a small canvas

No cost but a sign up is required - sheet will be in the Narthex beginning April 7th

Please provide an old shirt that can be worn over your child's clothing - just in case there is a spill or an oops!

Dear Friend of Saint Mark's United Church of Christ:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location(s) listed below on 4/28/2024 to aid us in raising money to benefit Saint Mark's United Church of Christ.

Print this email and present it on **4/28/2024** at Hoss's in **Annville**

Hoss's will then donate 20%* or 25%** of your total check paid to **Saint Mark's United Church of Christ**

*To qualify for the 20% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$300.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

**To qualify for the 25% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$1,200.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

This applies to a one-day, single location, pre-scheduled event. The purchase of gift cards is not included as part of your organization's community fundraising totals.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION! Thank you for your cooperation!

Group #130251



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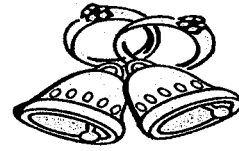
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APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday		Anniversary	
April 2	Kathryn Ceresini Edward Olden	April 27	Jay & Susan Fisher
April 3	Jake Brewer Micha Knight		
April 6	Chad Koehler		
April 8	Gregory Gruber Evan Lightner		
April 11	Patrick Sullivan		
April 14	Colin Daub Tom Manbeck		
April 18	Paul Peiffer		
April 19	Doreen Wise		
April 20	Andrea Shearer Joann Sullivan		
April 21	Melissa Furman		
April 23	Robert Trautman John Witter		
April 25	Ashley Gruber Peter Pyles		
April 26	Zachary Bell		
April 28	Cameron Sidella		
April 30	Michael Smith		

SENIOR CORNER

Nancy Basselgia
100 Cottage Drive, #202
Palmyra, PA 17078
717-641-4105

Jake Brewer
913 Tulpehocken Rd.
Richland, PA 17087
717-866-2825

Please send notes, cards or give them a phone call. Let Nancy and Jake know that St. Mark's has not forgotten about them. Thank you.

APRIL

PRAYER AND EVENTS CALENDAR

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bonita & Robert Ressler	2 Jordan Reynolds Bell Rehearsal - 7:30 PM	3 Lindsey & Jay Reynolds Bible Study - 10 AM	4 Vickie & John Ristenbatt	5 Carol Ruffner	6 J. Scot, Kristy, Riley & Addison Ruffner Women's Spring Retreat 8:30 AM-12:30 PM
7 Shirley Runkel Worship-10 AM	8 Chad Ryland Evan. & Mission Meeting - 6:30 PM	9 Debra & Todd Ryland Women's Study Group - 6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal - 7:30 PM	10 Arianna Sando Bible Study - 10 AM & 1:30 PM	11 Lillian Schieber Spiritual Council - 6:30 PM Consistory Mtg. 7:00 PM	12 LuAnn Schneider	13 Allen & Peg Scholl
14 Andrew & Penny Scholl Choir Practice - 8:30 AM Worship-10 AM	15 Jonathan Scholl OCS Meeting - 6:30 PM	16 Matthew Scholl	17 Russell Scholl Bible Study - 10 AM & 1:30 PM	18 Samuel Scholl	19 Timothy Scholl CIA Meeting - 10 AM	20 Jim Schucker Community Dinner - 4:45 to 6 PM
21 June Seik Choir Practice - 8:30 AM Worship-10 AM Fellowship/ Hospitality Mtg. 11:15 AM	22 Shirley Shaak Christian Ed Meeting - 6:30 PM (Deb Follett)	23 Andrea Shearer Women's Study Group - 6:30 PM Property Meeting - 2 PM	24 Andrew & Kim Shearer Bible Study - 10 AM & 1:30 PM	25 Kristina Shearer	26 Lowell Sherman	27 Michael Shott
28 Betty Showalter Choir Practice - 8:30 AM Worship-10 AM Hoss's Day	29 Lois Shuey	30 Ken & Dawn Shultz				