

## THE CARILLON

Volume 67 Issue 4 April 2026  
St. Mark's United Church of Christ  
426 North Eighth Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
(717) 273-0151

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[www.saintmarksucc.com](http://www.saintmarksucc.com)

Office Hours – Tuesday through Friday – 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

### STAFF

Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor  
Cindy Klahr, Secretary  
Sam Brandt, Custodian  
Cynthia Johnson, Organist  
Jim Conzelmann, Music Director  
Todd Ryland, Consistory President  
Ron Follett, Church Treasurer  
Dawn Shultz, Consistory Secretary  
Pine Acres

(717) 272-5011

### A Prayer for Easter

Heavenly Father,

this Easter, I pray that you will renew a steadfast and faithful Spirit within me.

I pray that this Easter season will fill my heart with the peace that only Christ can give – a peace that calms my fears, renews my strength, and reminds me that I am deeply loved.

Draw me nearer to You.

Allow the scriptures to dwell richly in my mind and heart so that all I do glorifies Your name.

Allow me to share the Easter story with those who don't know You and help me to shine my light.

In Jesus name,

Amen.



**CHRIST IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!!**

**EASTER BLESSINGS**

## EASTER RENEWAL

Easter comes with new beginnings,  
As nature wakes from winter's slumber.  
The earth is reborn, once again,  
In a radiant burst of splendor.

Amidst the green of fields and trees,  
The colors of springtime come to life.  
A new day dawns with hope and peace,  
And all the world is free from strife.

The promise of a brighter day,  
Lies within the Easter story.  
As Christ was risen from the dead,  
We too can share in glory.

So let us lift our voices high,  
And sing a song of Easter praise.  
For Christ has risen, and we know,  
He'll guide us through life's maze.



### EASTER REFLECTIONS

Easter reminds us that hope must never be lost - for as dark as the road may seem, there is always light at the end of it.

God proved His love on the cross, when Christ hung, and bled, and died. It was God saying to the world, 'I Love You.'

The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter is a reminder that the silence of God doesn't equal the absence of God.

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.

### CHRIST HAS RISEN

C hrist lives within our  
H earts and he has  
R isen from the dead  
I n order to offer us  
S alvation and eternal life  
T oday and forever more.

H e's our Savior and  
A lmighty God, forgiving of  
S ins and cleanses our souls.

R emembering always that he  
I s our Father and  
S aves us for all  
E ternity and he will  
N ever turn his back.

### *Scriptures for the Easter Season*

*"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."* John 11:25-26

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17

*"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."* Romans 6:9

*"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:13



## *The Journey Continues...*

We are heading into my favorite season: springtime. I love the warm (but not too hot) temperatures this time of year, I love the activity of the birds and the critters, and I love how the grass, the trees, and the shrubs are blooming and turning green. For me, springtime is about God showing us what resurrection looks like and rewarding our hope after a long and cold winter.

Corresponding with my favorite season of the year, is my favorite theological season: Easter. Without a doubt in my mind, the original Holy Week – from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday – is the most impactful week in human history. We could spend our entire lives trying to understand the enormity of events of Holy Week and never wrap our heads around all that took place. Sometimes I try to imagine what Jesus felt as his lungs filled with air for the first time after the resurrection. I can picture his eyes blinking and trying to focus as the stone was rolled away. And I can see him walking out of the tomb on legs that were probably a little wobbly and maybe a little stiff. And I know he had to smile as he smelled the garden and heard the birds chirping. It's a wonderful scene to imagine, but it's also a scene that is based solely on my impression of the resurrection living north of the equator.

An interesting thought came to mind recently. I've been wondering what the seasons of Christmas and Easter are like for our brothers and sisters in Christ who live *south* of the equator. While we enjoy warmer weather and things turning green, the temperatures south of the equator are falling right now and folks are raking leaves and putting their lawnmowers away for the winter. Then as wintry weather settles in around Christmas time for us, those living south of the equator are cranking up their air conditioners and putting on a pair of shorts for their Christmas Eve services. I haven't confirmed this, but I'm pretty sure the Christmas decorations for those living south of the equator don't have snow, and I'm pretty sure their Easter decorations won't have springtime flowers like ours do. It would be interesting to see how people decorate for Christmas during summer months while decorating for Easter during the season of fall. And I would love to know the influence the different temperatures have on the pastors who are preparing to lead worship services for Christmas and Easter south of the equator.

While I'm curious (maybe a little too curious?), the reality of Jesus' birth and resurrection is just as important to celebrate no matter which side of the equator we are on. While I am excited about springtime, the warmer temperatures, and the earth showing signs of new life, I would be just as excited to have the hope of the resurrection on the horizon as the temperatures get colder and the earth seems to be dying off during fall. No matter how we experience God's presence on our journey of faith – whether life is on the upswing and we are full of hope, or life has been on the downswing as concerns and challenges come our way – so long as we seek the presence of God, the journey may not be what we want, but the journey will be worthwhile. I pray that as we enter this season of resurrection, that your faith and hope is renewed, and that you remember to give God thanks...no matter the season we are in.

The Journey Continues... *Pastor Dave*

Based on the congregational approval given at the meeting on March 15, we have contacted Gable Roofing and given them the OK to proceed with replacing the shingle roof over the Narthex and office area. They have committed to honor their quote and also committed to being able to start that job no later than mid-August.

We are expecting a report no later than the second week in April from the company that we hired to do an inspection of the bell tower. After that report is received and reviewed by Consistory it will be shared with the congregation.

Consistory has also approved adding 3 more handicap parking spaces to the lot that is next to the church. New signs and sign posts have been purchased and the mission team will be painting the spaces and installing the signs over the next few weeks. We expect those handicap spaces to be fully marked and posted by Sunday, April 19. Please note that the three new spaces will be designated as handicap parking on Sundays only.

Respectfully,

Todd Ryland

## **Report of Consistory - March 2026**

The financial status of the church will be shared each month with the congregation via the thermometer that appears on the monthly treasurer's report. It will basically show income versus expenses. An ad hoc committee has been formed to review changing the time of the consistory meetings as well as review the functions of the committees. The new committee listing was distributed. All activities proposed by the Fellowship and Hospitality committee for 2026 were approved. The April consistory meeting has been moved to April 16th due to the pastor's vacation. The CCLI license needed to be updated to streaming plus so the church can stream recorded music that may be used in the service. The number of parking spaces behind the building for those with disability placard or license plates will be increased from the two current spaces to six spaces. The Personnel committee is in need of another member.

## **Pine Acres News**

With the snow gone, we have been feverishly working at Pine Acres to get the wood picked up and split. Thanks to Seth Hummel and Todd Ryland for enduring 4 ½ hrs of splitting to make a huge dent in the wood pile to be split. There is still much to do. We are out at least once a week to work. Right now, we are picking the best weather day to go out, so if you're interested in helping with the many stick pickup or running the log splitter, let Kathy Follett or Doug Hummel know.

- We also would like to start replacing the poles that are holding up the pavilion roof with 6x6 posts. The old poles are deteriorating and the roof needs solid support for these heavy snows. Stay tuned to bulletin announcements for upcoming work day (s) in April and/or May.

# Mission Corner

## Hammer & Heart Mission Trip

Next meeting for this trip is April 19th after service in Fellowship Hall. This will be a short meeting to collect paperwork, deposits and discuss some changing details of the trip.

Formerly known as the Asheville trip, we'll refer to the spring mission trip as Hammer & Heart. The team agreed to return to work in the Black Mountain/Swannanoa NC area. We'll be working again with Hammer and Heart. We depart on Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, work Thursday-Saturday, returning home on Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>. This trip is for those 18 and above. April 19th, look for the donation slip board in the narthex.

## WARM Mission Trip

The WARM mission trip will be from August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>. If interested, but were not able to attend the meeting, please see Kathy.

## Non-Mission Trip Mission News

### **The Community dinners**

July 25<sup>th</sup> – community picnic is planned. Look for more information closer to the date.

### **Dinner at the Rescue Mission**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – our next time at the LRM

**September TBD** – a grill night with the men at the LRM

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** – our second Sunday at the LRM

### **Sno Cone**

The last several years, we have been celebrating the last day of school for the Lebanon School District with a sno cone day. The last day of school is Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for needs and times.

# Kid's Team/Youth/Young Adults Corner

## Kid's Team

April 4<sup>th</sup> is the annual Egg Hunt at South Hills. Time is 10:00. We'll be at our normal pavilion right off the entrance from Weiss Ave.

Save the date – Kid's Kamp 2026 – July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more information and registration forms.

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 winter/spring of 2026:

Prayer Vigil – April 4<sup>th</sup> 7PM – April 5<sup>th</sup> 6 AM

Spring Retreat – May 29-31 – Penn Lake in the Poconos

If you know of someone between 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 30 that is currently not receiving the Youth/Young Adults information, please contact Kathy Follett.

## ***Communications in the Congregation***

The key to a successful growing congregation is communication, and this has been accomplished at St. Mark's through several publications, beginning as early as 1893. In that year, with Rev. Fisher's guidance, ***St. Mark's Observer*** was first published as a monthly newsletter. This statement of its purpose appeared in the first issue: "The real aim and purpose of this paper is to give in a brief way the doings of St. Mark's Church in all its departments of church activities, make suggestions where improvements might be made, so that all may become more thoroughly interested in true, genuine Church Work." The first year it was sent free to each home with a request of 25 cents donation each year. The second year, issues were limited to paying subscribers only.

Each ***Observer*** carried one or more short literary articles which were aimed at making the publication instructional. One such article entitled "The Supremacy of Young Men", which appeared in the August 1893 edition began: "Young men rule the world. Young men have always ruled the world. Young men ought to rule the world. It is well for the world that it is ruled by young men. Old men are to be respected for what they have done, and are to be in reverence for what they are; but they cannot do the work of young men, nor can their fulness of years and richness of experience be a substitute for the aspirations and imaginings and enthusiasm of the young..." Would we publish this in our liberated world today?

After nine years the ***Observer*** gave way to the ***Weekly Bulletin*** which first appeared on November 3, 1901. With a growing congregation a way was needed to reduce the number of announcements made from the pulpit. The weekly messenger was the answer. "These leaflets have also been regularly distributed on Saturday evenings at a number of our hotels, boarding houses, and barbershops with the result that a large number of strangers have been brought to our services. The leaflets thus far have been furnished and paid for by a friend. The cost of issuing them is \$1.00 per Sunday...The Ushers' League has kindly consented to contribute toward the expense in issuing them..."

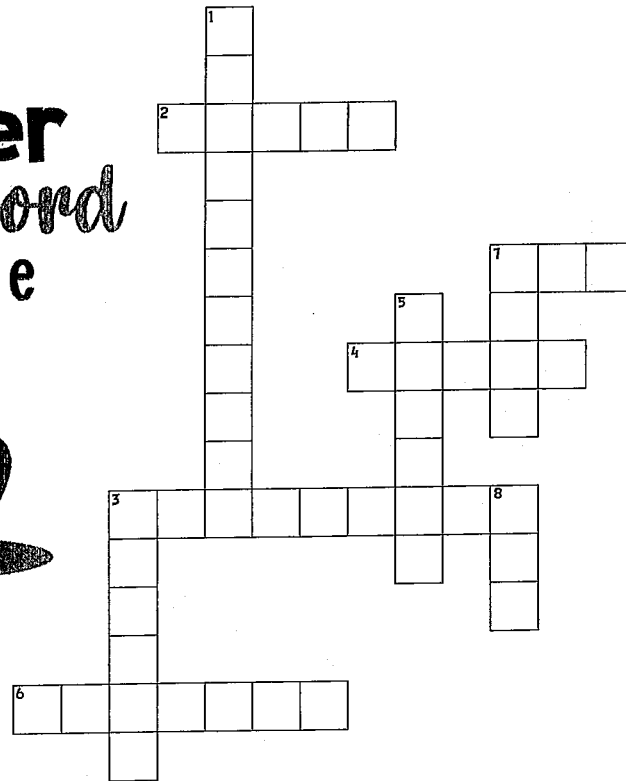
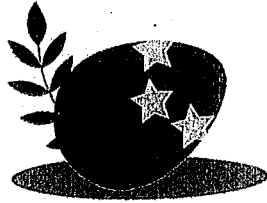
The first church ***Year Book*** was issued a year later covering 1902. One of its purposes was to "see where you may be of help to assist in the further development of our work."

The monthly newsletter reappeared again in 1959, this time as ***The Carillon***. And although not as broad in scope as the ***Observer***, it continues to serve as a vital link among our members today.

Jim Schucker

## KID'S KORNER

# Easter Crossword Puzzle



### Down

1. What sweet, fluffy treat is shaped like chicks or bunnies?
3. What do bunnies love to munch?
5. What day of the week is Easter celebrated?
7. What do kids do to find hidden Easter eggs?
8. What do you decorate for Easter?

### Across

2. What's another name for chocolate surprises inside eggs?
3. What sweet treat is shaped like a bunny or egg at Easter?
4. What animal brings Easter eggs?
6. What colorful things bloom in spring?
7. What do kids wear on their heads for Easter parades?



## COCONUT CAKE

### Ingredients:

2 c. sugar  
1 c. margarine  
4 eggs, separated  
1 c. milk

2 ½ c. flour  
3 tsp. baking powder  
1 c. shredded coconut

### Directions:

Cream sugar and margarine. Blend in egg yolks and beaten egg whites. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into 8x8 inch square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Yields 12 servings.

This recipe is in the St. Mark's U.C.C. Mothers Class Recipe Book and is from Ruth Yingst.

**Spring Women's Retreat**  
**Saturday, April 25th**  
**8:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

*The four leaders will each pick their favorite Psalm and discuss its significance to them. Perhaps one of them is your favorite, too! Bring your Bible so we can explore the different translations.*

**We will be serving breakfast at 8:30am for those who are interested in eating together**

**Retreat begins promptly at 9:00am**

**Cash donations will be accepted for the purchase of personal care items for the Lebanon Rescue Mission and the AGAPE House.**

**A donation is optional**

**Please plan to join us!**

**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 4/26/2026 to aid us in raising money to benefit Saint Mark's United Church of Christ.

Print this email and present it on **4/26/2026** 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 #133344

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Group #133344

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Everyone enjoys our coffee hour time that we have in the narthex. It is a great time to socialize and get a snack and coffee.

Do you like to bake or make snacks/sweet treats? We are looking for more people to help with our coffee hour before the worship service and afterwards to clean up. If you are interested in helping, please call the office or contact Diane Vogel.

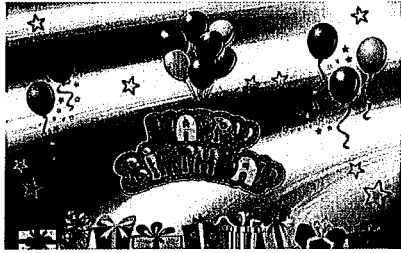
We look forward to getting some new faces on this team.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

It has been brought to our attention – that some people are asking questions about how to join St. Mark's. If you have any questions concerning this, you can talk to Pastor Dave or call the office. We will be very happy to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

One of our rentals, WB Music Therapy Group will be having a music recital on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary. The congregation is invited to come to the recital. Watch for more details next month.



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### Birthday

April 2 Edward Olden  
April 3 Micha Knight  
April 6 Chad Koehler  
April 8 Evan Lightner  
April 10 Theresa Wolf  
April 14 Colin Daub  
Thomas Manbeck  
April 16 Kathryn Dissinger  
April 18 Paul Peiffer  
April 19 Cora Jane Wise  
Doreen Wise  
April 20 Andrea Shearer  
April 21 Melissa Furman  
April 23 John Witter  
April 24 Susan Kline  
April 25 Ashley Gruber  
April 26 Zachary Bell  
April 30 Michael Smith

### Anniversary

April 27 Jay & Susan Fisher

## **SENIOR CORNER**

Jeanette Heim  
Lebanon Valley Home  
550 E. Main St.  
Annville, PA 17003  
717-867-7037

Jeanine Keefer  
Alpine Valley  
945 Duke St., Room 103  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
717-389-1331

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

# APRIL

## PRAYER AND EVENTS CALENDAR

# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mario Luciotti  <b>Bible Study - 10 AM</b>	2 Caroline Manbeck <b>Maundy Thursday Service - 7:30 PM - St. Mark's (Holy Communion)</b>	3 Joshua Manbeck  <b>Good Friday Service - Iona UMC - 7 PM</b>	4 Pamela & Thomas Manbeck <b>Easter Egg Hunt - 10 AM South Hills Park Prayer Vigil</b>
5 Eva Miller  <b>Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM</b> <b>Worship - 10 AM</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Easter Dinner - 4:30 PM</b>	6 Matthew, Alyssa & Kira Mills	7 David, Karen, Nathan, & Graham Musselman	8 Meredith, Sean, Charleigh & Ian Myers  <b>Bible Study - 10 AM</b>	9 Yvonne, Greg & Emery Myers	10 Heather Noll	11 John Null
12 Gayle & Ed Olden  <b>Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM</b> <b>Worship - 10 AM</b> <b>Kid's Kamp Mtg.</b>	13 Thomas Parry	14 Paul & Kay Peiffer  <b>Christian Ed Mtg. - 6:30 PM (Deb Follett's Home)</b>	15 Izayah Raiger  <b>Bible Study - 10 AM</b>	16 Jonathan & LeTonya Raiger <b>Spiritual Council Mtg. 6:30 PM</b> <b>Consistory Mtg. - 7 PM</b>	17 Malachi Raiger	18 Robert Raynes
19 Jay & Cynthia Reich <b>Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM</b> <b>Worship - 10 AM</b> <b>Ad Hoc Meeting</b> <b>Leb. Rescue Mission Dinner</b>	20 Marie Reich  <b>E &amp; M Meeting - 6:30 PM</b>	21 Michael Reich	22 Marilyn Reppert  <b>Bible Study - 10 AM</b>	23 Bonita & Robert Ressler	24 Jordan Reynolds	25 Lindsey & Jay Reynolds  <b>Women's Retreat - 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM</b>
26 John & Vickie Ristenbatt <b>Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM</b> <b>Worship - 10 AM</b> <b>Hoss's Day</b>	27 Carol Ruffner	28 J. Scot, Kristy, Riley & Addison Ruffner	29 Shirley Runkel  <b>Bible Study - 10 AM</b>	30 Chad Ryland		

**CORNWALL MANOR** – 1 Boyd Street, PO Box 125  
Cornwall, PA 17016

Ken & Charlotte Wengert – Cornwall Manor,  
1 Boyd Street,  
\* Ken – Jan. 11 PO Box 125,  
Health Center, N. View 2 Bradley Hall, Apt. 109  
\* Charlotte – June 28 Cornwall, PA 17016

Lowell Sherman \*January 20  
Health Center – Northview 2  
Room 213

**CEDAR HAVEN** – 590 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Sue Kline – Room #415 \* April 24  
Betty Showalter – #3C, Room #12 \* Sept. 11

**LONDONDERRY VILLAGE**

Nancy Basselgia \*July 2  
100 Cottage Drive, #202  
Palmyra, PA 17078

**KINDRED PLACE** – One Kindred Place  
Annville, PA 17003

Nancy Freed \* May 31  
38 Kindred Place, Annville, PA 17003  
717-867-8538

Karen Bennett \* October 10  
72 Kindred Place, Annville, PA 17003  
717-269-6166

**Stoneridge Retirement Living**

Janet Lehman \*Nov. 30  
440 East Lincoln Ave., #330  
Myerstown, PA 17067

Colette Aurentz \*Oct. 28  
440 East Lincoln Ave., #363  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-3446

**LEBANON VALLEY HOME** – 550 E. Main St.  
Annville, PA 17003

Betty Bartal \* Dec. 14  
Ruth Boyer  
Juanita Fuhrman – \*January 26 - 24B, F Wing  
Jeanette Heim \* Jan. 22

LuAnn Schneider \* January 3  
**St. Anne's Retirement Community**  
Room PC123L  
3952 Columbia Avenue  
West Hempfield Twp.,  
Columbia, PA 17512  
717-285-6141

**ALPINE VALLEY HEALTHCARE**–  
945 Duke Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Jeanine Keefer – Room 103 (No flowers)  
\* January 25 717-389-1331  
Paul & Kay Peiffer – Room 127  
\*Paul – April 18  
\*Kay – July 3 717-644-9279

**Tremont Health & Rehab.**

Gayle & Ed Olden  
44 Donaldson Road  
Tremont, PA 17981

\*Gayle – Dec. 8  
\*Ed – April 2

Please send notes or cards to our Shut-in and Homebound members of St. Marks. Let's show everyone that we haven't forgotten about them and brighten up their days. Thank you.

\* Birthday

**ST. MARK'S SHUT-IN/HOMEBOUND LIST**  
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Ginny Gruber \* July 18  
306 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
717-272-2020

Lois Shuey \* Sept. 18  
594 Doris Drive  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
717-273-5996

Eva Miller \* June 21  
845 Mt. Zion Rd.  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
717-272-4973

Gloria Simmers  
2000 Walnut Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042 \* Nov. 21  
717-272-3313

Shirley Runkel  
732 Soliday Court  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
717-272-8618

Linda Waldron \* October 24  
1725 Grace Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
717-865-7245

\* Birthday