

THE CARILLON

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St. Mark's United Church of Christ
426 North Eighth Street
Lebanon, PA 17046
(717) 273-0151

E-mail: st.marks426@verizon.net
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 Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Thank you for giving me the strength to go through this
Lenten season.

I pray that by the end of this season, I will be made
anew in you.

Renew my mind and my heart, Lord teach me your ways.

Help me understand your word.

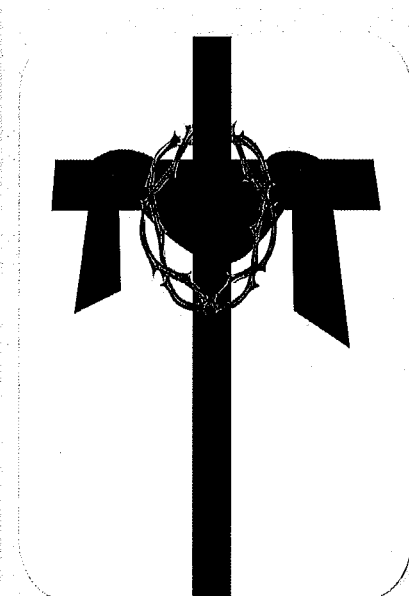
My soul yearns for you, dear Lord, fill me with your spirit
and draw me closer to you.

Strengthen me when I'm weak, fill me when I feel empty.

Renew my body and grant me the grace to do everything

I do.

Amen.



The Journey Continues...

Don't look now, but we're rolling into the month of March and we're in the middle of another season of Lent. Lent is a challenging season because it feels so countercultural. The world around us - and the culture we are living in - encourages us to add more, to do more, and to be more. But the season of Lent invites us to let go. During Lent, we tend to let go of our vices (like chocolate, sweets, caffeine, etc.), but the season of Lent calls us to go deeper. Lent is a call to let go of certain things, so the presence of God can speak, heal, and renew us.

If you're like me, when I look at my upcoming schedule each week, I wonder how it is going to get done. Do you feel that way, too? Life seems to be filled to overflowing with little time to rest. On top of busy schedules, we are constantly hearing about the violence in our country and around the world. When we add in the persistence of this year's winter weather, and the gloominess that never seems to go away, it feels overwhelming.

So, I think it's good we are in the season of Lent, because Lent asks us the question, "What can you set down so you can fully receive God's presence?" For some, that may mean letting go of a habit that consumes our attention. For others, it may mean letting go of something less visible: Like the resentment we carry that has lingered too long, or self-criticism that speaks too loudly, or fear that keeps us from trusting God's promises.

Letting go is not easy. We often hold tightly to what is familiar, even when it weighs us down. Yet the life of Jesus reminds us that God's work of renewal begins when we are willing to surrender. When we release unhealthy things from our lives, we discover how the amazing grace of God can fill those open spaces, and we learn how meaningful faithful practices can be. A few quiet minutes of prayer. Taking time to read the Bible in the morning when we get up, or just before we go to bed. Writing down daily moments of gratitude. Reaching out to encourage someone who may feel forgotten. These simple acts may seem small, but over time they reshape our hearts and draw us closer to God and to each other.

As we share this journey through Lent together, perhaps our goal should not be to become more religious or more impressive in our faith. Perhaps the invitation is simply to become more attentive — to notice God already at work in our lives and in our community. The good news of Lent is that we do not walk this path alone. Christ walks with us, leading us toward the promise of the resurrection. The season begins with reflection, but it ends with resurrection. Every act of letting go prepares us to receive the gift of new life.

So, this month, I invite you to consider two questions: #1...What might God be inviting you to release? And #2...what new grace might be waiting to fill that space? I pray that this Lenten season will be a time of gentle renewal — not through pressure or perfection, but through openness to the transforming love of God.

The Journey Continues...

Pastor Dave

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

"The season of Lent is a time for pruning and refocusing our lives on what truly matters: our relationship with God and our commitment to His will."

"Lent is a time to let go of the things that distract us from God and to focus on the things that draw us closer to Him."

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves...What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation."

"Remember that Lent and Ash Wednesday are not just about putting away the bad things. It is more about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy, being kind to people, and much more."

"Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday."

Scriptures for the Lenten Season

"Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping and mourning." Joel 2:12

"Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from, my guilt and of my sin cleanse me." Psalm 51:3-4

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

Lord, fix me, because sometimes I am the problem.

There are days when my pride builds walls, my words wound, or my impatience clouds my love.

Give me the strength to let go of my stubbornness, my fears, and my self-centered ways.

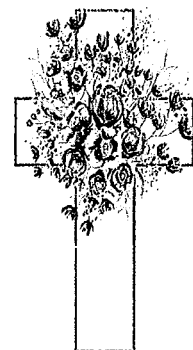
Fix me, Lord, because I can't fix myself. Shape me into the person You've called me to be – more loving, more forgiving, more like You. Teach me to take accountability, not to dwell on my failures but to grow through them.

Keep working in me, Lord.

Every sunrise gives witness
to the faithfulness of God.

Every sunset a beautiful
not to be missed reminder
that

the God who was with us
this day will be with us
tomorrow.



The temperatures are starting to rise, the snow is melting and we are starting to see grass again, and pitchers and catchers have reported for work in Arizona and Florida. That can only mean that spring is just around the corner.....despite what the groundhog may have predicted.

Spring approaching also means spring cleaning for some of us. A group at St. Marks did some cleaning in the later part of 2025 and we were able to take 3 trailer loads of St. Marks and St. John's "treasures" to a local auction where close to \$1,000 was raised and put back into the St. Marks general fund. Things that were taken to auction included old Sunday school tables and chairs, old furniture, candelabras, rolling coat racks, folding chairs, and other smaller items that had not been used in years and were very likely to never be used again. In essence, it was stuff that was just taking up space. We freed up space and "de-cluttered", kept the stuff out of the landfill, didn't pay to dispose of it, and added close to \$1,000 to the general fund of the church.

There is still spring cleaning and purging to be done at both the church and Pine Acres and when the snow subsides and the weather gets warmer we'll get the trailer from Pine Acres and take additional treasures to the auction.

We'd like to extend to the congregation that, if you are also doing spring cleaning and have things that you would like to get rid of and sent to auction with the proceeds going to the St. Marks general fund, we will be happy to pick up your "treasures" and take them along to the auction. If that interests you, we would need a picture of each item so we can show the auction what we would like to bring and get their agreement to take each item. A simple cell phone picture is perfect.

Please contact me (717-639-1466) or Kathy Follett if you have items that you would like us to take to the auction.

Respectfully,

Todd Ryland

Report of the Consistory - February 2026

The new members of the consistory were introduced to the group and assigned committees. The next phase for the organ repairs will begin in August and will cost \$31,400. A Hoss's fundraiser date is scheduled for April 26, 2026. Christian Education requested approval for the Prayer Vigil overnight Saturday, April 4, 2026, and for the youth and young adult retreat May 29-31, 2026. Deborah Follett volunteered to serve as librarian for the books and materials in the parlor. The nominating committee is currently forming an ad hoc group to review committees. The June service at Pine Acres will be held on June 28, 2026. The Fellowship and Hospitality committee will take responsibility for the luncheon. A special congregational meeting will be held on March 15, 2026, to discuss and prioritize various projects that need to be considered for the building. They include the shingled roof, the tower that is in need of repair and the building generator that needs to be replaced. An alternative time to conduct consistory meetings was mentioned and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Pine Acres News

- During the snowy January and February, we have not been able to get into Pine Acres. However, projects have been occurring offsite. The log splitter was repaired in hopes that it is up for the task to split the much wood we dropped. 4 new flower boxes were built to replace the ones along the walkway that have been deteriorating. And finally, a new nonsmoking sign at the entrance is being done by Brown Signs to match the décor of all other signs.

With the melting of the snow, we have hopes to get back to work in March. Once we have, we will begin splitting and stacking all the wood laying on the ground for future firewood. These may not be Thursdays as during March, we pick a day of the week that it isn't wind chill in the teens or raining, so if you're interested in helping with that project, 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 for future carillon articles on this project as we need warmer days to mix/pour the concrete.

Kid's Team/Youth/Young Adults Corner

Kid's Team

Kid's Team is heading to the Lancaster Science Factory Sunday March 1st.

Save the date, April 4th for 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 13th – July 16th. 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 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 winter/spring of 2026:

Palm Cross creation – March 28th – 6:00 PM

Prayer Vigil – April 4th 7PM – April 5th 6 AM

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

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

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 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 13th, work Thursday-Saturday, returning home on Sunday May 17th. This trip is for those 18 and above. In April, look for the donation slip board in the narthex.

WARM Mission Trip

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

Non-Mission Trip Mission News

The Community dinners

March 21st – community dinner planned. Look in the narthex for signup sheets of items that we need and help that is needed.

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

Dinner at the Rescue Mission

April 19th – our next time at the LRM

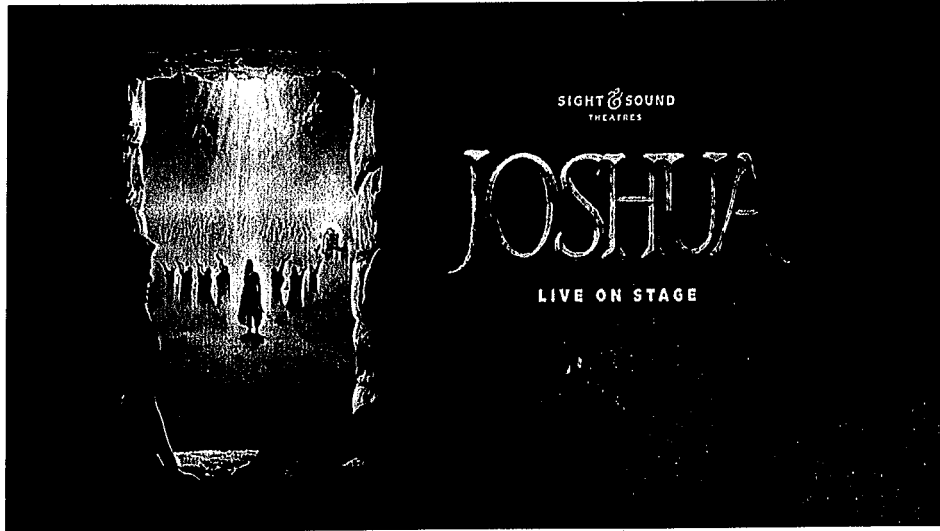
September TBD – a grill night with the men at the LRM

November 1st – our second Sunday at the LRM

Jigsaw Evangelism

In January and February, we have completed 2 1,000 piece and 1 500 piece puzzles. We have 2 final Saturdays for this event. Saturday March 7th and Saturday March 21st.

We meet any time after 9:00 with a short fellowship time (coffee and donuts) before we get started at 9:30. We end somewhere between 11:00-11:30. Enter through the Fellowship Hall door. If elevator access is needed, just let us know you're coming.



Back in September, 2025, we had signups for those interested in going to see Joshua at Sight and Sound on June 17th at 3 PM. On Sunday March 8th, those that signed up will receive additional details about payment and the day from Kathy. If Kathy doesn't catch up with you and you thought you signed up, please reach out.

Kid's Team Egg Hunt Need

The Kid's Team Egg hunt is in need of candy to fill the eggs. We are NOT in need of eggs as we have hundreds of eggs. When looking for candy, it must be individually wrapped and be small enough to go into an average size plastic egg. There will be a box in the narthex for candy drop off. Candy needs to be to church by Palm Sunday, March 29th. The kids thank you for your donations.

Calvary: A New Mission



In 1901 members of the Methodist Episcopal Church erected a small chapel at Reinoehlsville, north of Lebanon and St. Mark's. When their work ended there in 1908, Elder George H. Krall of Tabor held the mortgage on the property. He approached St. Mark's with the idea of purchasing the building and opening a mission Sunday School. Rev. Fisher along with Prof. Thomas H. Matterness surveyed the community and reported to the Consistory that the people of the area were interested in a Reformed School. With this information the congregation voted to purchase the property on March 22, 1908, for the sum of \$950.

Two weeks later, on April 5, the new school was constituted under the name of Calvary Reformed Sunday School of Reinoehlsville. Prof. Thomas Matterness served as the first superintendent with Henry Bressler as his assistant. Others officers included Thomas Donmoyer, secretary and organist, and Harry Boltz, treasurer and teacher.

By 1947 the building was no longer adequate to take care of the social and religious needs of the Reinoehlsville community. This congregation voted to renovate the structure. The cost of the undertaking rose to over \$8,200 but included almost every inch of the School, both inside and out.

The Pastors of St. Mark's preached at Calvary every other week except from 1921 till 1941 when only one sermon a month was given. In 1954 this St. Mark's voted to give Calvary full title to its property, and thus it became part of the Calvary-Hill Charge.

In later years Calvary withdrew from the United Church of Christ denomination and became a independent organization.

Jim Schucker

KID'S KORNER

Lent Word Search

E N S K F O R G I V E N E S S O O D F G
 R O A W L Y K E R U S L O R Y I M B A I
 P I S K R M E N O I X H E N A S H E S K
 E X O E A Y K A R S S O R C D W A T T R
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 H E S A C T M O W S U R H O L P A N K E
 A M B P E N R E I M E C N A T N E P E R

Word Bank

ASHES	DESERT	GOOD FRIDAY	PENANCE
ASH WEDNESDAY	DISCIPLES	HOLY THURSDAY	PRAYER
BETRAYAL	EASTER	HOLY WEEK	REPENTANCE
BLESS	FASTING	JERUSALEM	RESURRECTION
CROSS	FORGIVENESS	JESUS	RISEN
CRUCIFIXION	FORTY DAYS	PALM SUNDAY	SACRIFICE

WWW.ALWAYSTHEHOLIDAYS.COM

MANDARIN ORANGE CAKE

Beat 2 eggs.

Add:

2 (11 ½ oz.) cans mandarin oranges

2 c. granulated sugar

2 c. flour

2 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

Beat at low speed for 4 minutes. Pour into greased and floured 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

Bring to boil:

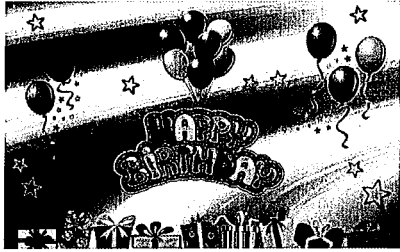
¾ c. brown sugar

3 Tbsp. milk

2 Tbsp. butter

Pour over hot cake as soon as it comes out of oven.

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

	Birthday	Anniversary
March 8	John Null Joshua Trovinger	None
March 16	Roxanne Carpenter	
March 18	Fred Brown Jennifer Knight	
March 26	Marilyn Reppert	
March 27	Lindsey Reynolds	
March 28	Patrick Knight	
March 29	Judith Blouch Seth Hummel	
March 31	Natalie Fox Sharon Weihrauch	

SENIOR CORNER

Juanita Fuhrman
Lebanon Valley Home
550 E. Main St.
24B, F Wing
Annville, PA 17003
717-273-6588

Ginny Gruber
306 S. 5th Street
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-272-2020

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

MARCH

PRAYER AND EVENTS CALENDAR

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sandra Hanley Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM Kid's Team - Lancaster Science Factory	2 George Heckard Evan. & Mission Mtg. - 6:30 PM	3 Debra Heilman Bell Rehearsal - 6:30 PM	4 Jeanette Heim Bible Study - 10 AM Lenten Service - St. Mark's UCC - 7 PM	5 John & Carole Hoffman	6 Robert Hoffman	7 Larry & Carol Houser Jigsaw Evangelism - 9 - 11:30 AM
8 Blaine Hummel Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg.	9 Brenda Hummel	10 Doug & Marj Hummel	11 Seth Hummel Bible Study - 10 AM Lenten Service - Cornwall UMC - 7 PM	12 Cindy Johnson Spiritual Council Mtg. 6:30 PM Consistory Mtg. - 7 PM	13 Rev. David & MJ Jones	14 Jeanine Keefer
15 Lucinda Klahr Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM Congregational Meeting	16 Austen Kline Evan. & Mission Mtg. - 6:30 PM	17 Beulah Kline	18 Morgan Kline Bible Study - 10 AM Lenten Service - Grace UCC - 7 PM	19 Nell & Glenn Kline	20 Richard & Susan Kline	21 Rebecca Klotz Wedding - 2 PM Community Dinner Jigsaw Evangelism - 9 - 11:30 AM
22 Jennifer, Patrick & Micha Knight Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM	23 Chad, Amy, Adam, Noah & Joel Koehler	24 Stephen Koehler	25 Carl & Julie Krause Bible Study - 10 AM Lenten Service - Mount Gretna UMC - 7 PM	26 Gary & Kim Lehman	27 Janet Lehman	28 Robert & Rose Leiby Make Palm Crosses - 6 PM
29 Holly, Austin & Evan Lightner Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM Palm Sunday	30 Addyson Lloyd	31 Madison Luciotti				