

from the pastor's pen . . .

Welcome to March! Hopefully soon, we will see the bitter grip of Winter ease and our thoughts turning toward happier sights of crocuses and daffodils. I don't know about you, but I am plenty ready for Spring to come. There is something in our DNA that yearns for the greening of the pastures and the appearance of wee buds on the trees. Our desire for newness isn't monopolized by the natural world though. Our souls begin to stir and come to life, not unlike a bear coming forth from hibernation. We awaken to the Son and embrace his warming and healing grace. This is how I picture Lent.

Some folks see Lent as a church-created time focused only on the doom and gloom stuff like introspection, sin, judgement, ashes, and death. It is the time for "giving up" beloved things like soda, chips, chocolate, gaming, or television. For some, Lent is an unpleasant time of sacrifice and self-denial. And they are right, to a point. The challenge of Lent however, is to prepare our hearts both for Calvary AND Easter.

Perhaps if we modify our thinking a bit, we could envision Lent as a joyful opportunity for the greening of our souls. To continue with the bear metaphor, we get a chance to awaken from the slumber of shame, guilt, and apathy, to living the life of freedom, fruitfulness, and commitment. We all get second chances through Lent to be better people...to be better disciples. Will you join me in this wonderful endeavor we call Lent and be thankful for the possibilities that await us on Easter? I pray so.

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6th. We will be worshipping at 7pm with our Cito UMC friends as well as

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Contact Information

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Youth Director: Kelli Miller
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Facility Coordinator: Reta Chamberlain
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Sunday Services

Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am
(for all ages)

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our UCC neighbors here at our church. We will hear the invitation to return to God and to ponder what our Lenten journey might look like. We will confess as a Body of Christ and receive the ashen reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Hope to see you all there!

In Christ's embrace,
Pastor Robin



Church Council Meeting Minutes

To keep the congregation updated on happenings at the Church Council Meetings the following information was taken from their meeting minutes.

February - The regular meeting of the Church Council was held on February 19, 2019 with nine people in attendance.

Finance: Pastor Robin gave report with the first quarter of the year being very active. Youth ministry item has been corrected. The Power Up shirts have been graciously donated.

SPRC: Pastor Robin gave report that evaluation for Deb McGarvey has been completed.

Trustee's Report: Greg Gordon reported boiler inspection went well, repairs at the rental properties have been completed and the corner of two steps by the Life Center were damaged with snow plowing; which will be repaired in the spring. Pastor Robin asked if the garbage disposal and some of the flooring in the basement of the parsonage could be checked by the Trustees.

Youth: Kelli Miller reported that the Bedford Candies Fund Raiser went very well and the concession stand at "Power Up" is also going well. All of these fundraisers are to help defray the cost of the "Breakaway" Retreat in Ocean City, Maryland in March, 2019. The youth meeting on Monday evenings also doing well.

Missions: Kelli Miller reported that the Hand and Feet of Hope will be meeting on Friday, February 22, 2019. We may have to move the date of HFOH due to school closings because of weather. The "Power Up" is going very well with closing banquet for participants and families on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

Outreach: Reta Chamberlain gave report of starting the Secret Sister with 10 people participating. May possibly have a women's retreat in the spring.

Old Business: Nancy Cordell gave the report for plans of church directory and awaiting the cost with Mercersburg Printing.

New Business: Nancy Cordell reported any items for March Newsreel are due. Discussion with continuing worship services in the Faith & Life Center on the fifth Sunday of the month which is March, June, September and December this year. Pastor Robin reported that the kitchen ice maker is not working and discussion with gift cards. Reta Chamberlain gave the report for the Faith & Life Center activities from 2018.



Finance Team Meeting

(no minutes were available at time of publication)

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	1 First Friday Lunch 11a-1p	2 Love's Closet-12-2p
3 A Choir	4 K Choir-5:30p Youth Group-6p SPRC Mtg-6p	5 A Choir-6p	6 Lent Begins Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service-7p	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Begins K Choir	11 Youth Group-6p	12 A Choir-6p	13 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	14 Finance Mtg-6:30p	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day A Choir	18 Youth Group-6p	19 Council Mtg-7p	20 1st Day of Spring Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	21	22	23
24 H.I.S.	25 Youth Group-6p	26 A Choir-6p Trustee Mtg-7p	27 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	28	29 Breakaway Youth Conference	30 Breakaway Youth Conference
31 Potluck Lunch (following worship) Breakaway Youth Conference	1	NOTES A Choir - Adult Choir; K Choir - Kids Choir Reminder - Love's Closet sorting & set-up happens every Monday evening 6-8 pm				

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

01 – Shaun Stambaugh
 04 – Leanne Pollock
 07 – Judy Shade

10 – Jeron Fletcher
 11 – Ellen Harbold
 11 – Nancy Richards

19 – Ruth Reeder
 22 – Eugene Horton

REMINDER – For additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list use the Newsreel
 Suggestion Box at the back of the sanctuary or email the church office (address on page 1)

MARCH SCREEN SCHEDULE		
DATE	03.03	Kelli Miller
	03.10	Dave Gourley
	03.17	Dave Keaton
	03.24	Jeron Fletcher
	03.31	Dave Gourley

CHILDREN'S CHURCH			
DATE	03.03	Tracey Fletcher Brandon Fletcher	
	03.10	Yvonne & Dave Garland Cindy Glessner	
	03.17	Nicole Fletcher Dixie Heacock	
	03.24	Nicole Wilson Kelli Miller	
	03.31	NO Children's Church	

NURSERY		
DATE	03.03	Deb & Bryan Fletcher
	03.10	NEEDED
	03.17	Leanne Pollock
	03.24	NEEDED
	03.31	NO Nursery

Please see **Kelli Miller** if you can fill any of the vacancies shown for this month or if you have questions about what is required to be a helper, teacher, or nursery volunteer.

~ Servant of the Month ~
by Reta Chamberlain

Servant of the Month for March is James Deshong. Jim is retired from JLG management and he has served in the Army National Guard. He has been a member of the church for 15 years. He teaches the Adult Sunday School Class and is a Sound Technician for the church. The committees he is on are the SPRC team, Worship team, Small Group Coordinator and Church Council.

When asked what his favorite Bible verse is, it's Psalm 138:3 "In the day I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul" (KJV). God did not remove David's troubles even though he cried out for God to do so. We are not to treat God as a genie in a lamp who grants all our whims and wishes. Sometimes God takes us out of our trouble, but more often he stands with us and walks with us through it.

When asked what he likes to do in his spare time Jim likes to spend most of his time with his wife Sharon, his children, and grandchildren having cookouts and swimming. He also enjoys and is very active with boating, fishing, camping, hunting. He loves to travel and make home videos of their trips and doing editing by adding music and narration. He also does his own taxidermy.

Thank you Jim for all you do for the church. It is greatly appreciated. God's blessings!

An invitation from the Adult Sunday School Class

The adult Sunday school class is starting a new study beginning March 3rd, titled ***The End: What Happens Next*** by Pastor Robert Morris Ministries. Have you thought what heaven will be like? Do you have questions about what happens when we draw our final breath? Well thankfully God's Word is filled with amazing and exciting glimpses into the realities of heaven. We will explore questions like, "Will we have bodies in heaven?". This five-message series covers an amazing array of "end time" things, including insights into the second coming of Christ and how we should live until that day. This class meets Sunday mornings at 9 am in the lower level of the church.

Trust

God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Listen

for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;
he's the one who will keep you on track.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (The Message)

This & That



We will begin the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service to be held in the sanctuary, March 6, at 7:00 pm. Pastor Robin will be sharing the pulpit with Pastor Faith Anderson, Cito UMC, for this service. Please “come as you are” and reflect on your relationship with Jesus. This is a great way to get the most out of this wonderful season and participation in the imposition of ashes. All are welcome to attend this special service.

MARCH 10, 2019

Spring forward

Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.



Power-Up

Faith & Sports Rec League

As this league is about to wind up another very successful season, it will hold it's final games on March 3. These games will have the parents playing against the students and will be followed by a banquet for players and their families. May God continue to bless these athletes, organizers, and coaches.



Special Discussion

On Sunday, March 31, 3:00 to 5:30 pm, there will be a Post Special General Conference Discussion held at the Hollidaysburg First United Methodist Church. For more information see Pastor Robin and/or watch for announcement in future bulletins.

5th Sunday

March 31st will be the first 5th-Sunday for 2019. As was done last year, we will continue the practice of having the 5th-Sunday worship service in the Faith and Life Center in lieu of the sanctuary. The service will be followed by a potluck lunch. Plan to spend some time in fellowship with your congregation and enjoy some good food.



when *life* gets
too hard to stand,
kneel



CROCK POT PIZZA

1-1/2 lbs. ground beef
onion
1 small jar spaghetti sauce
1 small jar pizza sauce

1 pkg. rigatoni noodles
8 oz. pkg. cheddar cheese
8 oz. pkg. mozzarella cheese
pepperoni

Brown ground beef and onion. Mix in spaghetti and pizza sauce. Cook and drain noodles according to package directions. Layer in crock pot: noodles, ground beef sauce, cheese, pepperoni. Cook in crock pot on low for at least one hour to melt cheese.

Susan Keebaugh, 2009 McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook

STUFFED CABBAGE SOUP

1 lb. ground beef
1 onion chopped
1 – 16 oz. pkg. coleslaw mix w/carrots
2 – 14 oz. cans beef broth
1 – 28 oz. can crushed tomatoes

1-1/2 cup water
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 T lemon juice
salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup long grain rice (uncooked)

Brown beef for 8 to 10 minutes. Add onion, coleslaw mix and cook for five minutes. Add broth and tomatoes. Rinse tomato can with water and add to soup. Add sugar, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Bring to boil for about three to five minutes. Add rice. Cover and cook for one hour, stirring every ten minutes.

Miriam Johnston, 2009 McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook

BEST BANANA BREAD

1-3/4 cup flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
1-1/2 sticks of butter
1-1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs

1/4 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup nuts, chopped
1 cup overripe bananas, mashed

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 8-1/2" x 4-1/2" loaf pans. Combine flour, salt and baking soda, set aside. Cream butter and sugar until light. Add eggs, one at a time, beat well. Add flour mixture and buttermilk alternately. Beat batter for three minutes. Stir in vanilla, nuts and bananas. Spoon into loaf pans. Bake 50 minutes or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Agnes Snyder, 2009 McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out excitedly.



"What is it, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered,

"I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Bible Reading Plan for the 40 Days of Lent

You will read through each of the four Gospels during the Lent season.
What better way to prepare for Easter than to read the complete story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Today's Reading</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Today's Reading</u>
03/06	Matthew 1-3	03/22	Mark 7-Mark 9
03/07	Matthew 4-6	03/23	Mark 10-Mark 12
03/08	Matthew 7-9	03/24	Take a Break
03/09	Matthew 10-Matthew 12	03/25	Mark 13-Mark 14
03/10	Take a Break	03/26	Mark 15-Mark 16
03/11	Matthew 13-Matthew 14	03/27	Luke 1-Luke 3
03/12	Matthew 15-Matthew 16	03/28	Luke 4-Luke 6
03/13	Matthew 17-Matthew 18	03/29	Luke 7-Luke 9
03/14	Matthew 19-Matthew 20	03/30	Luke 10-Luke 12
03/15	Matthew 21-Matthew 22	03/31	Take a Break
03/16	Matthew 23-Matthew 24	04/01	Luke 13-Luke 14
03/17	Take a Break	04/02	Luke 15-Luke 16
03/18	Matthew 25-Matthew 26	04/03	Luke 17-Luke 18
03/19	Matthew 27-Matthew 28	04/04	Luke 19-Luke 20
03/20	Mark 1-Mark 3	04/05	Luke 21-Luke 22
03/21	Mark 4-Mark 6	04/06	Luke 23-Luke 24
		04/07	Take a Break

(the remainder of this plan, taking you up to Easter Day, 4/21, will be published in the April issue of the Newsreel)

BREAKAWAY
YOUTH CONFERENCE

Reminder that our God's Creations Youth Group will be attending the Breakaway Youth Conference in Ocean City, MD, March 29-31. Speakers for the conference will be Kechi Okwuchi, a plane crash victim that became a finalist on NBC's America's Got Talent and Eric Samuel Timm, author and artist who uses art to help his audience see what they can not hear. Please pray for the students, leaders, and presenters that will be participating in this event.

