

Community
CONNECTION

Community Church
A United Methodist Congregation
3487 Route 130, Irwin, PA 15642

Non Profit Organization

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Vol. 15, No. 4

April 2011

Change Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL: Please Expedite

Community Church

A United Methodist Congregation

Pastor: Rev. John E. Ciampa - jciampa@communityumc.info

Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rich Phipps - rhipps@communityumc.info

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Discipleship: John Toellner

Evangelism:

Fellowship: Pam French

Ministry: Jamie Greenier

Worship: Liz Wade

Communications: Katie Morgan

Church Secretaries: Carole Helsel - chelsel@communityumc.info

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Phone: (724) 744-3413 FAX: (724) 744-4758

E-mail Address: info@communityumc.info

Church Web Page Address: www.ShareChristWithOthers.org

Worship Services

- **Saturday Evenings – 6:00 p.m.- Contemporary Worship Service**
- **Sunday Mornings – 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**



Community Connection is published monthly for members and friends of Community United Methodist Church. Deadline for submission of articles is the 10th of every month unless otherwise noted.

Articles can be delivered to Pastor John or to the church office.

STAYING FOCUSED...

SPRING! EASTER! CURRENT!

It's finally SPRING! The news reporters told me that at exactly 7:21pm on Sunday March 20th the tilt of the earth's axis back toward the sun was equal at the Equator; hence, SPRING! I recall from science courses that it is more complicated than that, but simple or complicated, what I have noticed is that it is warmer, there is more daylight in the day and the earth is greening up. It should come as no surprise as it is a cycle we see repeated every year. God has created an orderly cosmos.

I must admit I have been looking forward to SPRING. I love living where there are distinct seasons but it seems that the older I get the more I find myself, in the dark days of snow and cold wind, longing for SPRING!

When spring arrives I marvel at the renewal of the earth. Even while there is still snow on the ground, brave little flowers begin to poke up through the warming soil. Tree branches show the tint of red as buds prepare to burst open with new life and leaf. In a matter of a few days a sudden transformation takes place. A world that was bereft of any sign of life or vitality just a few weeks ago gives way to a full blown surrender to the power of new life and creative force.

SPRING is also the season that we Christians celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This event is no doubt the greatest celebration of a lifeless world being transformed, death surrendering to the power of new life, everlasting life! The resurrection of Jesus is the singular event in all human history that invites us to live in a way that is vibrant and growing without fear of darkness or death. We are EASTER PEOPLE!

This SPRING, this EASTER, brings a new sign of life, of growth to Community United Methodist Church. Just as the flowers and buds of this season are signs of the force of new life, a Christian Community that is faithful in discipleship to Christ will manifest signs of new life. In the history of our church there have been many signs of growth and new life. These have taken many forms over the years. From the formation of this body of believers 50 years ago there has been a steady progression of growth, of new life.

The sign we see coming to life this SPRING is the addition of a new worship service. On EASTER weekend we will mark a new season in our church life. You have likely heard by now that the new service will meet each Saturday at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:45am in our Multi-Ministry Room (MMR) . The worship style is modern, with a worship team leading in music, and Pastor Rich Phipps preaching. A number of changes are being made to the MMR to make it a worship-friendly space. These changes will enhance many of the activities which take place there.

Continued on page 2

Staying Focused continued from page 1

The new service is called “Current” and it is designed to provide yet another way to reach our community with the saving grace of God. This service is in addition to the traditional services we offer on Sunday in the sanctuary at 8:30am & 11:00am. Those services will remain as they are, Current is a new service in a new style in a new place. We hope to reach new people. This SPRING we have a new sign of life and growth springing up in our midst.

As we approach Easter this year we hope that everyone in our church family will consider inviting friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors, school friends to come worship with us at Easter. In particular we hope you will invite people to come and join the Current. It will provide a fresh way of hearing the Gospel in a setting that we believe will be a great fit for people who are not now connected with a church family. Of course many of our members may wish to join Current and that will be great, but we know there are many in our neighborhoods who do not have a faith connection and your invitation to try Current on Easter may be the catalyst that will see new life and growth spring forth!

I love SPRING...it seems to have been a long time coming...but at last it is here and new life is bursting forth all around us.

I love Easter, and soon we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, death giving way to new life, abundant life, everlasting life!

This SPRING, this EASTER, another sign of new life will emerge at Community UMC, Current is about to bubble up, bringing new life to all who come to faith in Jesus in its flow.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor John

BY THE WAY...

The **EASTER WORSHIP** schedule is a little different this year, please note.

Easter Saturday:

6:00 P.M., *Current* in the Multi-Ministry Room (no change from last year)

Easter Sunday:

8:00 A.M., Traditional in the Sanctuary, ½ hour earlier than usual (no change from last year)

9:00 A.M., Traditional in the MMR, ½ hour earlier than last year (a change from last year)

10:45 A.M., *Current* in the MMR, a new, modern service (new this year)

11:00 A.M., Traditional in the Sanctuary, the usual time (no change from last year)

APRIL CALENDAR

Sundays	9:30 a.m.	Disciple 4
	2:00 p.m.	Lay Ministry School
	7:00 p.m.	Community Ringers
	8:30 p.m.	AA's Open meeting
Mondays	*1:00 p.m.	If You Want To Walk On Water
Tuesdays	*7:00 p.m.	If You Want To Walk On Water
	*7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace University
Wednesdays	9:15 a.m.	Disciple I
	7:00 p.m.	Taizé Worship Services during Lent
	7:00 p.m.	Disciple I, II and III
	*7:00 p.m.	Experiencing God; Knowing and Doing the Will of God
Thursdays	9:00 a.m.	Busy Hands Sewing Group
	11:00 a.m.	Stroke Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Worship (grades 7-12)
Fridays	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinners (last one April 15)
1st & 3rd Sundays	6:00 p.m.	Faith Weavers & UMKids
*1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagles
*1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministers Supervision
*2nd & 4th Mondays	9:30 a.m.	Mom's Circle

* denotes small groups

Sunday	April 3	3:30 p.m.	C.L.A.S.S. 101 (membership class)
Tuesday	April 5	12:00 p.m.	Super Seniors
		7:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Chorus rehearsal
Wednesday	April 6	6:00 p.m.	Hospitality Team meeting
Monday	April 11	9:00 a.m.	Uganda sewing
		7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Women
Wednesday	April 13	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Saturday	April 16	10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
Monday	April 18	6:30 p.m.	Ark Council
Thursday	April 21	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship
Friday	April 22	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday service
		7:30 p.m.	Community Worship service - Zion's Lutheran Church
Saturday	April 23	6:00 p.m.	Current Worship service - Multi-Ministry room
Sunday	April 24	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship service - Sanctuary
		9:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship service - Multi-Ministry room
		10:45 a.m.	Current Worship service - Multi-Ministry room
		11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship service - Sanctuary
Monday	April 25	7:00 p.m.	Staff Parish Relations Committee
Wednesday	April 27	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Saturday	April 30	9:00 a.m.	This N That sale

APRIL SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES - Contact Vicki Monaco - 724-744-0283

Apr. 3	8:30	Adam Power & Jared Wright	11:00	Michael Yakubisin & Luke Fleming
Apr. 10	8:30	Luke Fabac & Alyssa Higgins	11:00	Justin Moser & Kacy Willaims
Apr. 17	8:30	Darrian Sepe & Trent Somes	11:00	Shanna Ciongoli & Vivian Somes
Apr. 24	8:30	Zoe Moser & Sydney Smith	11:00	Justin Moser & Sydney Fleming

LITURGISTS - Contact Judy Newport - 724-744-4995

Apr. 3	8:30	Joanne Parson	11:00	Jay Newport
Apr. 10	8:30	Larry Brammell	11:00	Judy Newport
Apr. 17	8:30	John Toellner	11:00	Jamie Caruso
Apr. 24	8:30	Allison Florio	11:00	Madelyn Rainey

SUNDAY GREETERS - Contact Sandy Wessel - 724-744-3754

Apr. 3	8:30	Bill Beal Family and Sandra Beal
	11:00	Sandy & John Steele and Nancy & Robert Smith
Apr. 10	8:30	Virginia Rubright & Agnes Leonard and Mary Jane & John Gressman
	11:00	Donna & Raymond Blasi and Nancy & Andrew Husak
Apr. 17	8:30	Charlotte Lipanovich & Betty Keim and Pat Barkell
	11:00	Carrie & Brian Botkin and Lois Jackson
Apr. 21	7:00pm	Penny King & Nancy Whalen and Linda Loughner & Daughters
Apr. 22	12:00pm	Jane & Larry Brammell and Linda & Bill Blank
Apr. 24	8:00am	Zach & Julie Kessler and Donna Auckerman
Apr. 24	9:00am	Judy & John Ryaby and Kerri & Mark Thomas (MMR)
Apr. 24	10:45am	Jim Patterson Family and Tracey & Ralph Powell (MMR)
Apr. 24	11:00am	Brittany Grubbs & Greg Hultberg and Ruth Ritter & Kathy Thurston

SUNDAY KIDS KINGDOM - Contact Bettina DiMatteo - 724-861-9387

Apr. 3	8:30	Michelle Watson & Christy Keenan	11:00	Julie Kessler
Apr. 10	8:30	Jackie/Harry Hoover & Kara Forsyth	11:00	Rich Hollerman & Glenn/Jill Huffman
Apr. 17	8:30	Jamie Grace & Brian Coiner	11:00	Lisa Rager & Amy Pleins
Apr. 24	8:30	Marnie Kaminski & Erin Kerstetter	11:00	Tiffanie Rupp & Jennifer Salvi

SATURDAY GREETERS - Contact Sandy Wessel - 724-744-3754

Apr. 2	Donna & Earl Anger and David Tessler	(Sanctuary)
Apr. 9	Elaine & Ron Anthony and Zach & Julie Kessler	(Sanctuary)
Apr. 16	Violet & John Hynes and Arlene & Gomer Ralph	(MMR)
Apr. 23	Joyce Wright and Arlene & Gomer Ralph	(MMR)
Apr. 30	Lisa Rager & James Wagner and Niki Ratcliff	(MMR)



Lucy Garrighan
4000 Stonegate Drive
Harrison City, PA 15636

Remove

Dick Hauser - transfer

Ruby Hague - death

Peg Kauffman - death

William & Ruth Gibson - withdrew



Altar flowers are available on the following dates: May 8, June 12 and 26th. If you would like to reserve one of these dates in honor, in memory or in celebration of someone, please call the church office at 724-744-3413



Playgroup

One of our projects this month will be growing "grass people". The children enjoy this project as they watch the grass seed sprout into hair. We will be preparing for Easter by learning new finger plays and songs. We will also be making bunnies and chicks at the art table. Our Easter party will be on April 21st which is one of our snow make-up days. Another snow make-up day is April 26th. Another activity we hope to do is visit the playground.

Preschool

Preschool will begin this month with a unit on Ecology including Recycling, Air and Water Pollution and "Where Does the Garbage Go". We will also have days on Easter Symbols, Eggs and Chicks, Baskets and Jellybeans and Rabbits. Our Easter party will be on April 20th. Preschool will be closed on April 22nd and April 26th for the Easter break.

Noah's Kids

April Showers bring many new students to Noah's! Registration for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year will be Thursday, April 28th and Friday April 29th from 4:30p.m.-6:00p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A \$25.00 registration fee will reserve your child's space. Noah's Kids provides Before and After school care for kids grades Kindergarten through 5th grade who attend Harrison Park, McCullough or Sunrise elementary schools. For details please call 724-744-3413 ext. 104

Lenten Dinners
Community Church
A United Methodist Congregation
3487 Route 130 in Harrison City
 Friday's

March 11th through April 15
 Dinner served 4:00 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Includes:

Entrée
 1 Hot Side
 1 Cold Side
 Dessert

Drink (coffee, ice tea or lemonade ~ pop & bottled water sold separately)

Entrées:

Battered Fried Fish
 Baked Cod Fillet
 Crab Cakes
 Chicken Breast
 Pierogies (6)
 Hot Dog

Hot Sides:

Fresh-cut Fries
 Haluski
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Pierogies (3)

Cold Sides:

Coleslaw
 Applesauce
 Tossed Salad

Ala Carte Items:

Sandwich
 Crab Cake
 Fries, with or without cheese
 Haluski / Macaroni & Cheese
 Coleslaw / Applesauce
 Tossed Salad

Lenten Lunches

Lunch served 11:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.
 (Fish Sandwich and Fresh-cut Fries)
 Eat in or Take out

Call 724-744-7072 ~ for take out
 Phone lines open at 10 am

Stephen Ministry: Questions Every Member Should be able to Answer

One **major key** to the success of Stephen Ministry is that EVERY CHURCH member is able to answer the following seven questions about Stephen Ministry. Please read through them. Familiarize yourself with the answers. Be prepared to refer a friend or family member in need. Use the ministry as a care giver, receiver or both. The Holy Spirit is at work.

1. **What do Stephen Ministers do?** Stephen Ministers journey with people who are hurting. They listen, pray with, support and encourage people facing tough or unsettling times. Stephen Ministers “show up.”
2. **What’s it like to receive care from a Stephen Minister?** A Stephen Minister and Care receiver meet confidentially together usually once a week for about an hour.
3. **How do you know if a person would benefit from having a Stephen Minister?** Any person who is dealing with the loss of a loved one, hospitalization, divorce, loneliness, unemployment, relocation, terminal illness, birth of a child, empty nest or any other life challenge or change would benefit from meeting confidentially with a Stephen Minister.
4. **If someone would like to receive Stephen Ministry, whom should he or she tell and what will happen?** The most convenient way to connect with a Stephen Minister is contact Pastor John, Pastor Decker or Elizabeth Somes at the church; 724-744-3413. Elizabeth will contact the care receiver for a brief introductory interview. After this, a match will be made with a trained Stephen Minister and the care receiver. The Stephen Minister will contact the care receiver within a few days and the meetings will begin.
5. **Do Stephen Ministers maintain confidentiality?** ABSOLUTELY! The integrity of the program and ministry hinges on the need for confidentiality. Christian caring would only protect and not harm the needs of the care receiver and care giver.
5. **What’s involved in becoming a Stephen Minister?** Stephen Ministers receive over 50 hours of training. Stephen Ministers receive training in such topics as: listening, confidentiality, care giving, assertiveness, setting boundaries and crisis care. After the initial training, Stephen Ministers meet twice a month for on-going group support and training. Stephen Ministers are asked to be willing to make a two year commitment to the program.
6. **How does Stephen Ministry benefit our congregation?** Stephen Ministry equips lay people to better care for each other. Our pastors and staff are few, but the congregation is many. Stephen ministry is a practical tool to help congregations care for those who are hurting and more ably obey the commandment of “Bearing one another’s burdens, and in this way fulfilling the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

Everyone wants to be a “caring” and “kind” person. Knowing, understanding and supporting this ministry through your prayer, referral of those in need and becoming a minister is a practical way to show Christian care and kindness.



It is that time again, for all the little boys and girls (ages 1-8) to find Easter Eggs at our annual CUMC Easter Egg Hunt. This year's Easter Egg Hunt will take place Saturday, April 16, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. This Easter Egg Hunt is going to be extra special, not only will we have a visit from the Easter Bunny, but we will have "No Strings Attached" presented by Creative Ministries of the Delmont Presbyterian Church.

Please join us for fellowship and fun!



Women of the Church

The UMW will be assembling health kits for UMCOR at the April meeting. If you could donate any of the following items, it would be greatly appreciated. Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. All items included in kits must be NEW items. Place items in the narthex and designate "health kits".

- ✦ hand towels (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- ✦ washcloths
- ✦ combs (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- ✦ nail files or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- ✦ bath-size bars of soap (3 oz. and up)
- ✦ large tubes of toothpaste (expiration date must be 6 months or longer)
- ✦ adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages



Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
 Penn-Trafford High School Cafeteria
 2:00-7:00 p.m.

If you are 16* or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health you meet the requirements to donate blood.

***All 16 year-olds must have their parent sign the Red Cross permission form.**

Please share your blessing of good health with others this Easter Season.



Deaths

We extend our condolences to the following persons who recently lost loved ones:

- ◆ Courtney & Wilma Kuhn and Taryn & Ken Kline & family on the death of Courtney's sister and Taryn's aunt, Joy Vargo.
- ◆ Mark & Bettina DiMatteo and family on the death of Mark's mother, Ruth DiMatteo
- ◆ Linda & Bill Blank on the death of Linda's father, Kenneth Forman
- ◆ Family and friends on the death of Ruby Hague
- ◆ Family and friends on the death of Peg Kauffman



Baptisms

- We extend our congratulations to Cory & Kara Delsignore on the baptism of their son Nathan James.

Births

Congratulations to the following families who have welcomed new bundles of joy:

- ◇ Gerry & Kristen and Liam O'Donnell - son and brother Declan Micah
- ◇ John & Jenna Johnston - son Cohen Patrick. Proud grandparents are Larry & Shirleen Johnston, Proud great-grandmother is Shirley Nixon
- ◇ Chris & Amber Watson - daughter Hannah Marie
- ◇ Madeline Rainey - great-granddaughter Aryanna Skye
- ◇ Jason & Nicola McCabe - son Liam Phillip. Proud grandparents are Tom & Susan McCabe



We're cooking up something GREAT at Vacation Bible School!

June 13th-17th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This year's VBS is Shake It Up Café, "Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe"! In this kid-friendly café full of chef's hats and aprons, pots and pans, checkered tablecloths, and chalkboard menus, kids explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's word. Through interactive lessons, that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, boys and girls will celebrate biblical festivals that reveal ingredients for being a follower of God. We'll have exciting stations such as Kitchen a la King, Tangy & Tart Arts, Wok & Roll Hits, Spork Sports, Foodology Factory & Takeout Treatery! We will begin and end each day in the Shake It Up Café, with Chef Basil and Sous Chef Scraps! Let's get cooking!!

Registration for VBS will take place from April 1st-May 27th. All servers (volunteers!) and cooks (kids!) are welcome to join us! Pick up a registration form in the Welcome Center or church office.

**If you have any questions, please contact Erin Kerstetter
412-373-2637 or erin_kerstetter@yahoo.com**

How Would You Like to Make a Difference???

Are you successful? Well-connected? Experienced? Proven? Entrepreneurial?

Do you genuinely care about people?

Do you want to express your faith in a tangible way?

If so, this information may be for you

A local United Methodist Church, Pitcairn Center Avenue, is engaged in a revolutionary movement to help eliminate poverty in our region. Circles® is proving to be a life-changing process, transformational for those who engage in it with others, like yourself, who become allies in this re-formation of life.

Circles® does more than provide emergency food, shelter, clothing, or funding. The Circles® Campaign partners volunteers and community leaders, like those in our congregations, like you, with families in need.

With Circles®, we can:

- ◆ Uplift low-income families as they move themselves permanently out of poverty.
- ◆ Empower people from every economic class to solve poverty in their communities.
- ◆ Provide families with the training, networking, and social capital essential to escape poverty.
- ◆ Change the systemic barriers and policies that lock people into poverty.

Past attempts to alleviate poverty in our society have been less than successful and have in many instances created expensive programs which only serve to deepen dependency.

This movement is quite different. Already operating in communities around the country, each Circles® initiative consists of a family working to get out of poverty and several middle and upper income “allies”, like you, who befriend them and lend support. With the help and friendship of their allies, each family sets and achieves goals unique to their own needs. These allies, people like you, are in a unique position to show the love of Jesus to someone who desperately needs to know that love.

“Bridges out of Poverty” is a training program that provides Allies with training and community planning tools to address poverty, and teaches the hidden rules of class. After completion of this training, participants may choose to be one of several Allies matched with a family that is motivated to move out of poverty. Through this relationship, you have the opportunity to make a material, spiritual and kingdom difference in the life of someone in need.

We are planning an informational meeting here at Community UMC, in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about Circles®, please contact Jamie Greenier, Ministry Team leader, at 412-856-0717 and she will contact you when a meeting date has been set. For more detailed information you may also contact Pastor Cyndi Bloise, Pitcairn Center Ave. UMC at 412-372-8680, where the program is currently in place.

SPIRITUAL LIFE WEEKEND

“TRAINING CAMP FOR THE SPIRIT”

Monroeville United Methodist Church

April 29, 30 and May 1, 2011

Friday, April 29th - 6:30-9:00 p.m.

A well known Pittsburgh Pirate “Killer B” will lead the program. Want to know who it is? More will come later...but his program is one you will be sorry you missed if you don't hear it! Beverages will be served prior to the beginning of the program which will start around 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 30th - 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Next up - The Pittsburgh Steelers will be represented by this 4 super bowl rings star. He will lead us through a most memorable program, complete with his presentation, break out sessions and more. Coffee, tea and juice will be available throughout the morning. And just who is this presenter? Again, look for more details, but don't miss it.

Sunday, May 1st - 9:30 and 11:00 services

Rounding out the weekend is a dynamic guest lay speaker who also has a background in sports.

Please either email huntpennyl@gmail.com or call 412-373-2383. Leave your name and number attending, what day(s) you will attend and a phone number. If you need childcare, please include name and ages.

Good Grief Corner

“Holding on to Hope”

Holding on to hope is the challenge of all grief and loss experience. Finding the courage or energy to go on day after day requires hope of healing, hope for future. Holding on to hope is not always easy. Somedays it requires all of our energy just to maintain our own lives. On other days, we at least want to believe that for everything there is a purpose, as we try to find the purpose in our own experience. That requires finding ways to make meaning even out of situations that may seem so meaningless. Those are the days we really struggle to find belief in the unseen.

Many people say those days of struggle are when they lean most heavily on their faith, in order to find the inspiration and comfort they need to be able to go on. After all, scripture says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” - Hebrews 11:1 NIV

There are many days, walking through the maze of healing, that requires belief in God, hope and future without seeing any proof of them. Time in prayer, reading His word, and fellowship with believers can all help in the struggle of holding on.

Holding on to hope requires active participation. It is not a passive process. It requires holding onto faith in future, at a time when we can barely survive the present. It means clinging to the belief that God is good and will help us when all that we can see seems to say that is not true.

Hope comes in small steps and we must celebrate each one of them. Hope is the first time you laugh. It is when there are enough good memories, in the course of a day, to balance the painful ones. One lady shared it was the first day she paid off all her bills in one sitting without having the task broken up by tears. One lady said it was the first time she walked through a men’s clothing area without breaking down.

Some people find hope by starting a support group or working with an organization like The Compassionate Friends. Maybe a teacher to someone else in their time of need.

The path is seldom clear. But somehow, someway, someday we will know that the wound is healing. We will even reach the point of offering comfort to others in need. Our faith and determination will pay off. We will find a new definition of self, a new depth of character. We will find as we stand in the sunshine of a new day, that there really is a reason to hold on to that hope.

Healing will continue as long as we are alive. Life does go on, not without its setbacks or its reminders, but, it does go on.

Thanks be to God!!!

God’s Devotional

IF YOU WERE GIVEN A NICKNAME DESCRIPTIVE OF YOUR CHARACTER, WOULD YOU BE PROUD OF IT?

*“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.”
~ Proverbs 22:1 ~*

In 1955 the city buses in Montgomery, Alabama were segregated by law. White people and black people were not allowed to sit together.

On December 1 of that year, Mrs. Rosa Parks was riding the bus home from her job at a tailor shop. As the section for whites filled up, the black people were ordered to move to the back to make room for the white passengers who were boarding. Three blacks in Mrs. Park’s row moved, but Mrs. Parks remained in her seat. Later she said, “our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it. I knew someone had to take the first step. So I made up my mind not to move.

The bus driver asked her if she was going to stand up. “No, I am not,” she answered him. Mrs. Parks was arrested and taken to jail. Four days later black people and white sympathizers organized a boycott of the city bus line that lasted until a year later, when the supreme court declared the segregated bus ordinance unconstitutional.

Mrs. Parks is known today as the “mother of the modern-day civil rights movement.” Her name inspires others to be courageous and do what is right, despite the circumstances.



God’s Daily Answer

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
- Romans 12:2 NLT -*

Optimists and pessimists can look at the same circumstances and see two totally different scenarios. The only real difference is in their minds. The way people think helps determine the way they act. The way people act reflects what they believe to be true.

God wants to change your mind, literally. He wants to change worry to prayer, fear to trust, and doubt to faith. To do that, you need to choose which thoughts you’re going to focus on. Reflect on what God says is true about you and the world. Reject what you see on TV or read in a magazine that conflicts with that truth. Filling your mind with good, positive things will result in a good, positive outlook on life.

*“Change your thoughts
and you change your world.”*

~ Norman Vincent Peale ~

HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

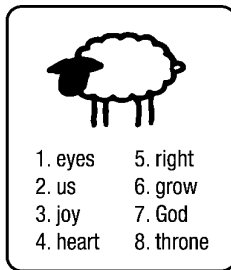
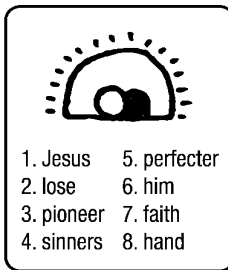
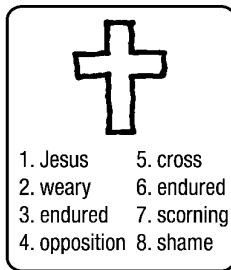
1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



"... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____ he _____ the _____, its _____, and sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____.

Consider _____ who _____ such _____ from _____, so that you will not _____ and _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV



Easter Family Outreach - During this Lenten season, instead of GIVING UP something, would you be willing TO DO something for someone else? The outreach program is again preparing to supply food to families in our community. We would like you to become involved. All we ask is a little of your time to do additional shopping, then deliver the groceries to one family. To volunteer, sign up on the sheet located on the table at the church entrance or on the bulletin board by the lower entrance. The distribution of the names and groceries will be Thursday, April 14th between 6 and 7 p.m. If you personally know of a family that could use some help, or have any questions, please contact the church office (724-744-3413) or Jim & Sybil Kunkelmann (724-515-5499). THANK YOU!

Free Income Tax Service will again be offered for taxpayers in this area who have low and moderate incomes. This assistance will come from IRS trained volunteer tax councilors who will help in the preparation of Federal and State income tax returns, and for those who qualify, PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Forms. Taxpayers are asked to bring a copy of 2009's Federal and State returns along with all of their 2010 tax records and property tax receipts. This service will be offered at the North Huntingdon Townhouse every Tuesday and Thursday from February 1 to April 14, 2011. We are also at the St. Regis RC Church in Trafford on alternating Mondays beginning February 7, Jeannette Senior Center (by appointment 724-527-3200) every Wednesday February 2 to April 13 and Penn Twp. Library (by appointment 724-744-4414 ext. 0) every other Friday beginning February 4. The hours at each facility will be from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Consider Electronic Giving!

Retired Methodist pastor Brian Bauknight recently shared his thoughts regarding electronic giving where he noted, "I have always understood the offering to be a personal faith response - usually expressed in worship - to the goodness of God. My giving is a faith response to God's astounding grace and love. Some physical act (putting an envelope in the plate) visibly demonstrates that response". He goes on to note that although he initially resisted this form of giving, he has shifted his position in part because electronic giving is one way "to keep pace with what is happening in the financial sectors of our society and bring a faithful and meaningful interpretation to the offering in a new day."



Saturday - May 7
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Benefits CUMC's Youth Program

“Vendors and crafters” are needed for the Community United Methodist Church’s Craft Show to benefit the Youth Program. The craft show will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Registration information can be found at the CUMC Welcome Center. Questions can be emailed to cumccraftshows@gmail.com or you can call Jane Coughenour at 724-515-7121

We need your help to make this Craft Show a success!! First, and most importantly, please come to the craft show and support the vendors and crafters, but we also need donations. There is a donation board at the CUMC Welcome Center, please take a minute and look at the board. If you are able take a donation slip, please bring that donation to the kitchen with Craft Show marked on it sometime the week of May 1st. We also want to have a Bake Sale, and we need bake good donations to make the sale a success. You can drop off your bake good donations in the kitchen on May 5th or 6th. Thank you and if you have any questions please call Jane Coughenour,



MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 21
 7:00p.m. Worship and Communion Service – Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES – April 22
 12:00p.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
 7:30p.m. Community Worship Service – Zion Lutheran Church
 - Our own Pastor Rich preaching -

EASTER SERVICES – April 23 & 24
 Saturday 6:00 p.m. - *Current* Contemporary Worship - Multi-Ministry Room
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. (½ hour earlier) Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. (note time change) Traditional Worship - Multi-Ministry Room
 10:45 a.m. *Current* Contemporary Worship - Multi-Ministry Room
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Sanctuary



Community United Methodist Church
Summer Camp Registration Form

Name of Camper: _____

Address of Camper: _____

Phone Number of Camper: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Camp Event Name: _____

Date of Camp: _____ Camp Event #: _____

Price of Camp: _____

Father’s Name: _____ Mother’s Name: _____

 Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

 Date

When this form is completed, please give to your Sunday School teacher or turn in to the Church Office by **Sunday, April 17**. The Community United Methodist Church will provide half of your camp fee or up to \$200 per camp event. This funding will be sent directly to the WPA Conference by May 1. If there is a financial need, please contact Pastor John at (724) 744-3413.

You must also register for camp as follows:

1. Register online for events at www.wpaumc.org and select “camping” or
2. Fill out the Camper’s Registration Form that is located in the camp brochure and mail it in to WPA Conference-UMC along with your deposit of at least \$50.

If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Miller, Camp Steward, at (724) 263-4013

Why I Love My Small Group

By Elizabeth Somes

I have been a part of a small group for most of my life. As a child I was a part of Sunday School and Girls in Action (a mission group). As a teen, I was active in our youth group and part of a girls Discipleship group. As an adult, I have been a part of various groups throughout the years; couples groups, women's groups, weight loss groups, study groups and the list goes on. At the moment, I am a part of a Disciple group meeting on Wednesday mornings. I love my group.

The other day I left class thinking how much I loved my group. I love the fact that we laugh a lot and we've cried together. I love that we can tease each other and speak openly about what we are studying or things going on around us. I love that when I had a parenting question, the others in my group were quick not to judge or tell me what to do but, instead to support and nurture me in my dilemma. I love that when I am anxious about something, they will pray for me or if I am excited about something they are happy for me. I love that today we even clapped for each others accomplishments. I love my group.

I do not have to be in a group to hold me accountable for reading the Bible and studying (although that is a great reason to join a group). But, I recognize that God created me for relationships and being in a group is also a key ingredient in my personal walk. As I reflect on my own life journey, my groups along the way have been my friends. They are the people that I most often credit with shaping me or I recognize the content we studied together changed my life. The people of my groups have carried me through crisis and celebrated with me through conquest. I love my group.

Small groups are nothing new. In my Bible study now we have been studying the book of Acts and I am reminded again that the church started with people meeting in homes in small groups and caring for one another's needs. And in our own United Methodist tradition, people met in accountability groups long before the denomination was ever established. Today, small groups come in a variety of forms but are usually about a dozen individuals who meet regularly with a common interest to study and or serve and in that context find a way to care for one another's needs while growing closer to Jesus Christ. I love my group.

It is my hope that every person attending CUMC would find a group. We have on-going groups but, we also try to offer regular times throughout the year that individuals can easily join a new group.

summer being our next opportunity, then again in the fall, winter and spring (Lent). If you have ques-



EASTER FLOWERS – 2011

<u> </u> <i>Easter Lilies</i>	<u> </u> <i>Hyacinths</i>	<u> </u> <i>Tulips</i>	<u> </u> <i>Daffodils</i>	<u> </u> <i>Mums</i>
<i>\$6.50 ea.</i>	<i>\$5.50 ea.</i>	<i>\$5.50 ea.</i>	<i>\$5.50 ea.</i>	<i>\$6.00 ea.</i>

Please indicate the number wanted of each plant.

Please make checks payable to: CUMC FLOWER FUND. No orders accepted without payment. Place payment with order form in the offering plate or leave in the church office.

NO orders taken after April 12th

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

