

Community  
CONNECTION

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

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# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Vol. 14, No. 2

February 2010

### Change Service Requested

**DATED MATERIAL: Please Expedite**

### Community Church

A United Methodist Congregation

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

*Director of Pastoral Care: Rev. James Decker - ajdecker@comcast.net*

*Director of Youth Ministries: Frank Audia - faudia@communityumc.info*

*Director of Music & Creative Arts: John Smialowski - jasmialowski@comcast.net*

*Director of Christian Education: Patsy Ciampa - deaconpatsy@yahoo.com*

*Director of Connectional Ministries: Elizabeth Somes - esomes@communityumc.info*

*Discipleship: John Toellner*

*Evangelism: Rodger Holsing*

*Fellowship: Pam French*

*Ministry: Jamie Greenier*

*Worship: Liz Wade*

*Communications: Katie Morgan*

*Church Secretaries: Carole Helsel and Wendy Johnson*

**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 10<sup>th</sup> of every month unless otherwise noted. Articles can be delivered to Pastor John or to the church office.*



## STAYING FOCUSED...

### “Brace for Impact”

How quickly life can change. There are countless examples of this reality but the earthquake in Haiti last week dramatizes again how, in a matter of a few seconds, everything can change. The large area devastated by the quake, the incalculable loss of life, the appalling extent of havoc leaves even those of us who view from a distance, numb and bewildered.

Last January 15<sup>th</sup> the world watched with wonder when U.S. Air Flight 1549, having lost both of its engines to bird strikes, was miraculously guided to a successful water landing on the frigid Hudson River in New York City by Capt. Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger. Only moments after a routine takeoff the lives of all those aboard the stricken jet were quickly and forever changed by the “Miracle on the Hudson”.

One of those on board was Dave Sanderson, a businessman and member of Providence United Methodist in Charlotte, N.C. Dave recalls; *“I knew we lost an engine ’cause I looked out the window and I saw the flames. I smelled a different smell, but I didn’t know the same thing happened on the other side of the plane ... so, when Captain Sullenberger said, ‘Brace for impact’ ... I felt I’ve got another maybe minute-and-a-half left of my life, and I better get squared pretty quick.”* How quickly life can change.

Dave quickly admits that his life is forever changed by that harrowing experience. Rev. Ken Carter, Dave’s pastor says *“the time spent on the wings of the plane and in the icy water itself was really a baptism for his friend. He went into the water and came out of the water a different person. Dave has always been a person searching for meaning and purpose in life ... and he’s been open to sharing that profound experience with others. ... I think he’s been a source of strength and renewal to a lot of other people.”*

Dave admits that his “second chance” in life has led him to live a life that appreciates each day, a rebirth of sorts, that has deepened his spirituality.

So, how do we brace for impact? Every day our world is filled with reports of accidents, killer storms, earthquakes, acts of violence and terror. For any of us a routine flight, a visit to the doctor, a drive to work, could suddenly change everything for us. How do we brace for impact?

*Continued on page 2*

*Staying Focused continued from page 1*

Dave may have given us a clue when he realized he likely had only a minute-and-a-half to live and he said; “I’d better get squared pretty quick”. In that moment Dave’s Christian faith took on new meaning and depth. Will it take such a dramatic event to motivate us to become more focused upon God and more committed to Christ?

How quickly life can change. But we need not live in fear of such change. God has made his love and purpose known to us. A reoccurring theme of the New Testament is to allow faith and love to replace fear in our lives. God loves us, God has come to us in Jesus Christ, and God invites us, through faith in Christ, to a new life which nothing in this world can destroy.

We are about to begin the journey of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> we start on a six weeks preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on April 4<sup>th</sup>, Easter 2010. What better way to “get squared pretty quick” than to be faithful to worship, accept some act of self-denial, to be more disciplined about personal study and devotion to the things of God, to be more willing to extend care and grace to the other people that God has placed in our lives. If we are intentional about these Christian disciplines during Lent, the next six weeks we see us as changed people. Like Dave coming out of the water differently than he went in, we can emerge from Lent as those who are braced for impact, of whatever may come, because we are living in the hope and the assurance of Easter, Christ’s victory over sin and death.

Come and join us on the journey of Lent, the journey from death to life!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor John

**Elected Officers and Budget for 2010**

If you would like a copy of the 2010 budget or Elected Officers for this year, they can be found at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or the Church Office.

**FEBRUARY**

|                   |            |                                     |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sundays           | 9:30 a.m.  | Disciple 3                          |
|                   | 9:30 a.m.  | KC <sup>3</sup> rehearsal           |
|                   | 10:00 a.m. | Women's Emmaus Group (Son Catchers) |
|                   | 2:00 p.m.  | Passion Play Rehearsal              |
|                   | 6:00 p.m.  | Stephen Ministry Training           |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Community Ringers rehearsal         |
|                   | 8:30 p.m.  | AA's Open meeting                   |
|                   | Mondays    | 1:00 p.m.                           |
| 7:00 p.m.         |            | Max Lucado's "Fearless" Bible Study |
| Tuesdays          | 6:30 p.m.  | ALPHA                               |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Women's Bible Study                 |
| Wednesdays        | 6:30 p.m.  | Disciple 2                          |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Disciple 1                          |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Men's Bible Study                   |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Financial Peace University          |
| Thursdays         | 9:00 a.m.  | Busy Hands Sewing Group             |
|                   | 11:00 a.m. | Stroke Support Group                |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | "A Life That Matters" Bible Study   |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Chancel choir rehearsal             |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.  | Youth Worship (grades 7-12)         |
| Fridays           |            | Lenten Dinners begin February 19th  |
| Saturdays         | 7:30 a.m.  | Men's Emmaus Reunion Group          |
| 1st & 3rd Sundays | 6:00 p.m.  | UMKids & Faithweavers               |
| 1st & 3rd Mondays | 7:00 p.m.  | Soaring Eagles                      |
| 2nd & 4th Mondays | 9:30 a.m.  | Mom's Circle                        |



*Thank You*

A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the THANKSGIVING and CHRISTMAS FAMILY OUTREACH. You donated food and money. You sorted, packed and moved food. You shopped and delivered this food to 44 families at Thanksgiving and 51 families at Christmas. Your generosity and time taken from very busy schedules has been truly appreciated. May God continue to bless this ministry and all of YOU! Jim & Sybil Kunkelmann THANK YOU!

**It's a New Year and We Need Your Updated Information!**

In order for us to keep our database up-to-date, we would like to know if there has been any new address, phone or email changes in your household. Could you please help us by calling the church office at 724-744-3413 with any changes.

*Thank You!*

**Walk to Emmaus**

The spring Walk to Emmaus weekends are rapidly approaching. This is a Christian retreat designed to empower people to further their walk with Jesus Christ. Many people in our CUMC congregation have attended these retreats. If you would like to attend there are some practical details to consider. The men's retreat is April 8-11 and the women's retreat is April 22-25. Retreats run from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. There are limited spots available. If you are prayerfully considering attending this retreat and would like more information or to be placed with a sponsor, please contact Marlene Grasha @ 412-373-1494 or Jay or Judy Newport @ 724-744-4995 or Sherry Mains @ 724-331-4806.

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|           |         |           |                                  |
|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Monday    | Feb. 1  | 7:00 p.m. | Finance Committee                |
|           |         |           | Camp Allegheny follow-up meeting |
| Wednesday | Feb. 3  | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees                         |
| Monday    | Feb. 8  | 7:00 p.m. | United Methodist Women           |
| Saturday  | Feb. 13 | 8:00 a.m. | Worship Seminar                  |
| Monday    | Feb. 15 | 6:30 p.m. | Ark Council                      |
|           |         | 7:00 p.m. | Dartball                         |
| Tuesday   | Feb. 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Pastoral Care Team               |
| Wednesday | Feb. 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Church Council                   |

## **FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**

### **SUNDAY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE - Contact Michelle Yakubisin 724-744-3312**

|         |      |  |       |                               |
|---------|------|--|-------|-------------------------------|
| Feb. 7  | 8:30 | Shanna Ciongoli & Stephanie Hilderhoff | 11:00 | Nick Pasek & Michael Pasek    |
| Feb. 14 | 8:30 | Adam Power and Michael Yakubisin       | 11:00 | Jared Wright & Trent Somes    |
| Feb. 21 | 8:30 | Jessica Beal & Darrian Sepe            | 11:00 | Kacy Williams & Lauren Myers  |
| Feb. 28 | 8:30 | Luke Fabac & Nathaniel Mischen         | 11:00 | Aria Markijohn & Sydney Smith |

### **LITURGISTS - Contact Judy Newport - 724-744-4995**

|         |      |              |       |                  |
|---------|------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Feb. 7  | 8:30 | Mark Stakor  | 11:00 | Sherry Mains     |
| Feb. 14 | 8:30 | Jim McMahon  | 11:00 | Allison Reynolds |
| Feb. 21 | 8:30 | Karin Coiner | 11:00 | Tracey Sepe      |
| Feb. 28 | 8:30 | Nancy Moser  | 11:00 | Ken Lorenz       |

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

|         |      |  |       |   |
|---------|------|--|-------|---|
| Feb. 7  | 8:30 | Boy Scouts                                       | 11:00 | Boy Scouts                                    |
| Feb. 14 | 8:30 | Lavon & Ray Vargo and Virginia & George Rubright | 11:00 | Tricia & Lee Thomas and Pat Stawicki          |
| Feb. 21 | 8:30 | Martha & Hilary Schramm and Carlie & Jim Rudick  | 11:00 | Odeana & Jim Peters and Lori & Jeff Begg      |
| Feb. 28 | 8:30 | Carolyn & Bob Bezak and Diane & Larry Simmons    | 11:00 | Larry & Jane Brammell and Diane & David Roote |

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

|         |      |                                       |       |                                     |
|---------|------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Feb. 7  | 8:30 | Michelle Watson and Christy Keenan    | 11:00 | Melinda Gilmore                     |
| Feb. 14 | 8:30 | Jackie or Harry Hoover & Kara Forsyth | 11:00 | Rich Hollerman                      |
| Feb. 21 | 8:30 | Donna Blasi and Brian Coiner          | 11:00 | Lisa Rager & Amy Pleins             |
| Feb. 28 | 8:30 | Janine Glunt                          | 11:00 | Tiffanie Rupp & Jennifer Burmeister |

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

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 6  | Rose Coffman and Paul Coffman                  |
| Feb. 13 | Erin & Daniel Wilkes and Georgann & Jim Reagan |
| Feb. 20 | Nancy & Robert Smith and Betty & Bill Prinkey  |
| Feb. 27 | Jamie Greenier and Kathy Yorio                 |

### **SATURDAY KIDS WORSHIP**

|         |                   |         |                 |
|---------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Feb. 6  | Sue Keller        | Feb. 20 | Michelle Devlin |
| Feb. 13 | Janice Vandenberg | Feb. 27 | Jessica Yates   |



### **ARK Preschool and Playgroup Plus** **Now Enrolling for 2010/2011 School Year**

The Ark Preschool offers the following classes to meet the needs of children ranging in age from 2 1/2 to 5 years of age.

1. **Playgroup Plus** is designed to meet the needs of children two and a half, three and four years of age. This experience will provide an adjustment stage between a child's early years at home with parents and the beginning of preschool education. Please note: Playgroup Plus students must be 2 years old as of March 1, 2010 to qualify for the 2010/2011 school year.
2. The **Ark's Preschool** program will foster your child's development by providing an environment where children are encouraged to express themselves, be creative, make choices and develop a sense of independence and personal worth. It is designed to meet the needs of children who are three and a half, four and five years of age. Please note: Preschool students must be at least 3 as of March 1, 2010 to qualify for the 2010/2011 school year.
3. The **Ark's 5-Year Old Preschool** program is intended for children who are not yet ready for the structure of a five day per week kindergarten program. It follows the same curriculum as the preschool program, however, additional activities and earlier exposure to writing letters and numbers is provided.

Closed registration for **CUMC members, previously and currently enrolled students** will be held on Thursday, February 4th and Friday, February 5th from 11:30AM-1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Open registrations for all **new students** will be held on Monday, February 8th and Tuesday, February 9th from 11:30AM-1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. A \$30 fee is due at registration to reserve a spot for your child on the roster.

If you have questions, or are unable to attend the registration periods, please leave a voicemail for the registrar, Lori Begg, at 724-744-3413 x 150 or contact her at [arkregistrar@windstream.net](mailto:arkregistrar@windstream.net). Additional information can be found on our website: [www.ShareChristWithOthers.org](http://www.ShareChristWithOthers.org)

### Births

Congratulations to Tammy and Jason Sartori on the birth of their daughter Savannah May. Proud grandparents are Deborah and Ray Lubinski.

### Deaths

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the following families that have lost loved ones:

- ◇ Flo Laffoon and family on the death of Flo's brother Elton Kunkle
- ◇ Richard and Sunny Nickle and family on the death of their daughter-in-law Amy Nickle
- ◇ Friends and family of Twila Veahmann



### Change of Address

Donald & Cheryl Temsick  
4315 Jackson Court  
Murrysville, PA 15668-1427

Doyle Carney  
526 Sunnyfield  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
412-352-6873

Melissa A. Frederick  
8792 Cloudleap Ct.  
Apt. 13  
Columbia, MD 21045

## NEWS FROM THE ARK



### **PLAYGROUP**

We will be decorating hearts at Playgroup as we prepare for Valentine's Day. Our Valentine party will be held on Thursday, February 11th. The children will be exchanging Valentines and given a chance to have their face or hand painted. We are also hoping to have a dental hygienist visit us this month and show us how to take care of our cute smiles. The classes will continue to be exposed to shapes, colors, numbers and letters through different activities at circle time, art time, story time and free play.

### **PRESCHOOL**

Units for the month of February include Dr. Seuss stories, senses, feelings, friends, Olympics and our bodies. We will have a Valentine exchange on Friday, February 12th. Also this month we will have a dental hygienist visit with us.

### **NOAH'S KIDS**

February is my favorite month of the year! At Noah's Kids it's affectionately referred to as the "Love" month. We will be celebrating Valentines Day with special treats for breakfast and after school snacks! Red of course is the themed color of choice. Because we "Love" our kids we will also be celebrating the December, January and February Birthdays with cake and ice cream. Crafts will be "Love" themed as well. We would "Love" to have your kids join us at Noah's Kids - for registration information please call 724-744-3413 ext. 104 Love You!!!

Our motto is NO KIDS LEFT OUT OF THE BOAT and our Mission statement is TO MAKE TIME SPENT AT NOAH'S KIDS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THEIR DAY. So far its working!!!

## **THE CONFIDENCE IN STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Submitted by Becky Brammell

You may have seen the announcements in the bulletin or heard Pastor John refer to the program but you may not know much about the Stephen Ministry program. In essence, it is a team of dedicated individuals who have been trained to provide one-on-one Christian caring for persons who are struggling with life issues.

We have a class of eleven with two dedicated leaders, Jamie Caruso and Elizabeth Somes and we have been attending classes for several months. We are looking forward to our “commissioning” in February so we can begin our journeys with people in need.

One of the key elements of the program is the confidential relationship that we will provide and maintain with our care-receivers. It is very much like the confidentiality that lawyers maintain with their clients: none of the information that is provided by the individual will be revealed by the Stephen Minister. It is essential that the care-receiver always feel secure in the fact that the very personal issues they are sharing are not going to be discussed with other members of the church family. In fact, the Stephen Minister will not even disclose that they are working with an individual. That may seem a bit excessive but is reflective of the level of commitment to confidentiality the program requires.

Perhaps you may have a friend who is in need of care and your friend has shared with you the name of the Stephen Minister with whom they are working. In an effort to help your friend, you may ask the Stephen Minister about your friend’s progress in dealing with a particular issue. You may be greeted with a blank stare. Well, I think we are all a little more eloquent than that but the Stephen Minister will not be able to “confirm or deny” (very legal sounding) the very fact that they are working with your friend. While acknowledging your mutual concern for a friend, the Stephen Ministers are very serious about maintaining the confidentiality of every bit of information that has been entrusted to them, including the very fact that a person is participating in the program.

We are looking forward to this very important new ministry in our church. If you have been struggling with some life issues, you may want to contact Pastor John or other members of the church staff about participation in the program. If you feel the tug at your heart, it may be God calling you to join us in the Stephen Ministry.

## **How would you describe yourself?**

*By Elizabeth Somes*

During my quiet time this morning, I was struck by several verses in Exodus 34. Moses is on Mount Sinai and has asked God to appear to him. God grants Moses request and when he passes by offers a description of himself. This is how God describes himself to Moses: “Yahweh – Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.” (verses 6b-7)

Part of the reason this struck me was that a Facebook friend recently asked her internet friends to describe her in one word. I reflected on it a little while and then came up with “fun.” Albeit a simple word, it was a heartwarming thought of a good friend. If we asked the same question, how would others describe us? How would you describe yourself? As Lent approaches, it is a natural time to reflect on ourself and our relationship with God and others. This season, as you ask yourself about where you are spiritually I hope that some of the descriptions of yourself will reflect the image of God described in Exodus.

If you want to look more like Christ during Lent, there are three simple ways. First, be in worship each week. Second, spend quiet time daily with God. Third, join a small group. During Lent, worship services are held on Saturdays at 6:00 and Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00. Taizé prayer services are each Wednesday evening. Quiet times with God can be as short as 15 or 20 minutes. Daily reading guides are available in the Welcome Center and on the church website, [www.sharechristwithothers.org](http://www.sharechristwithothers.org). Small groups come in a variety of forms including groups such as the choir, those doing a ministry project such as cooking and those in study together. Two new study groups are being formed during Lent this year (information is below).

When Moses came down from the mountain after seeing God, the Israelites were afraid of him because his face shone so brightly (verse 30). Although I would hate for our zealous faith to scare others away from Christ, I pray that we do shine reflecting His image of compassion, being slow to anger, being loving and truthful, forgiving others and seeking justice. Looking forward to seeing you shining brightly on the journey!

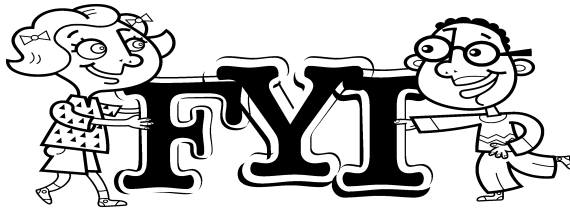
### **Lenten Studies**

#### **Bible Basics**

Led by Rev. Jim Decker (724-515-7252)  
Monday evening at 7:00pm --  
February 22-March 29

#### **Strengths In Ministry (CLASS 301)**

Led by Liz Wade (615-483-4494)  
Sunday evening at 6:00pm -- February 21-March 21

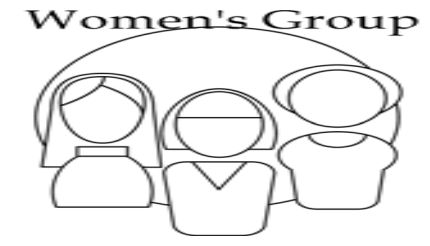


**FAITH WEAVER FRIENDS AND UMKIDS** - FaithWeaver Friends (1st and 2nd grades) and UMKids (3rd-6th graders) are youth groups where we spend time in Bible Study, share fellowship and have fun! If you have any questions about our programs, please contact Carla Fabac (FaithWeaver Friends) @ 724-744-1897 or Nancy Moser (UMKids) @ 724-327-4522. Please join us on any or all of the following Sundays from 6:00-7:15: February 21st, March 7th, March 21st (Bowling Outing - watch for special time), April 18th, May 2nd and May 16th.

**GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY** - CUMC will once again recognize Girl Scouts on March 14th - Girl Scout Sunday. Girl Scouts will serve as greeters, liturgists, ushers, and will lead the congregation in a flag ceremony. Any girl that wishes to participate, please contact Bev Yakubisin at 724-744-3312 by February 28th with the following information: Scout Name and 8:30 or 11:00 worship participant.

**DRUG IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM OFFERED** - The Lions Club of Claridge will present a Drug Identification Program on February 18th 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lions Club building in Claridge. A drug specialist will be present to explain how to identify many of the illegal drugs that are found in our communities today. This presentation should be of special interest to parents, grandparents, guardians, and anyone who works with young people in any capacity. Information about behavior, what to watch for, and how to engage in dialogue with young people who may be using drugs or at risk to be exposed to illegal drugs will be shared. The public is invited to come and be informed. Arrangements for this Community Program are being handled by The Claridge Lion's Club and the Penn Township Police Department.

**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. Tax payers are asked to bring a copy of 2008's Federal and State returns along with all of their 2009 tax records, their property tax receipts, and if they bought a new automobile after February 16th 2009, a document showing their state sales tax paid. This service will be offered at the North Huntingdon Townhouse every Tuesday and Thursday from February 2nd to April 15th, 2010. We are also at the St. Regis RC Church in Trafford on alternating Mondays beginning February 1st. The hours at each facility will be from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



**UMW NEWS**

**LADIES:** Are you looking for a new way of fellowship and a way to join a group of women who challenge the world they live in to support, create and expand the concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church? Are you looking for a way to connect with other women in the community or to connect with old friends you haven't seen for a while? If so please plan on attending a meeting of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW). Each month from January to May and from September to December meetings are held at the church to do just this. **Among the many projects and missions the ladies of UMW support or are in involved with are:** Lenten Lunches and Dinners, World Day of Prayer, This- N- That Sales, Holiday Helping Hands, World Thank Offering, and the Free Clothing Giveaway to name a few. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except for June, July, August) in Fellowship Hall starting at 7 p.m. All women are welcome to come and share this very special type of ministry.

**RADA**  
The holidays are over, but there are many special occasions coming up that we need just a small "thank you" or just a "thinking about you" for. The United Methodist Women sell the Rada knives all year. We now have on hand a few knives and serving pieces that are just great for these occasions. If you need any item or would like to see a book on all the items available, please call Carolyn Evans at 724-744-2548.

**LENTEN LUNCHEAS AND DINNERS**

**Lenten fish lunches and dinners** will be served starting **February 19th** and continue **every Friday** through **March 26th** at the **Community United Methodist Church: 3487 Route 130, Irwin (Penn Township)**. For more information please contact the church at 724-744-3413.

**See menu on page 21**



### Haiti Relief

The weekend following the earthquake in Haiti saw special offerings received at all three worship services in our church. That initial offering totaled \$3,700. If you were not able to share an offering at that time it is not too late. For the foreseeable future we will welcome contributions for this great need. You may use your regular church offering envelopes and indicate what amount you want to designate for "Haiti Relief". The green envelopes found in the pew racks also provide a way to share in this offering. If you wish to have these gifts added to your giving record (for tax purposes) be sure to include your name or envelope number.

Remember, we send our contributions through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and every dollar you give goes to the need, nothing is taken out for administrative costs. Our United Methodist denomination is "connectional" and through the Mission Share we pay each year the structure and administrative costs for such ministries as UMCOR are always in place, ready to respond to such urgent needs as we have seen in Haiti.

### Health Kits Needed

Another way to support the relief efforts in Haiti are to assemble "Health Kits" and bring them to the church where they will be collected and sent on. The instructions for what to buy and place in the kits are available at the church office or at the "Welcome Center" in the entryway of the sanctuary.

## **LENTEN LUNCHEAS AND DINNERS**

It's that time again! Lunch and Dinner served every Friday during Lent beginning February 19th through March 26th.

The menus are as follows:

### LUNCH

\*\*\*TAKE OUT ONLY\*\*\*

Fish 'n Chips  
(Fish sandwich & Fresh Cut French Fries)

Place your order by calling:  
724-744-7072

Beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Order pick-up from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### DINNER

Fried Fish  
Baked Fish  
Baked Chicken  
Crab Cakes  
Fresh-Cut French Fries  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Haluska  
Green Beans  
Tossed Salad  
Coleslaw  
Applesauce

All Meals include:

Entrée, 1 Hot Side, 1 Cold Side, Dessert and Drink

Dinners served from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Good Grief Corner

### **“HOW TO BE HAPPY ALL THROUGH THE YEAR”**

Keep your heart free from hate,  
Your mind free from worry.  
Live simply, expect little,  
Give much, sing often, pray always.  
Fill your life with love, scatter sunshine  
Forget self, think of others,  
Do as you would be done by.  
These are the tried links  
In contentment's golden chain.

“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”  
~ John 6:63 ~

## God's Devotional

GOD HAS A HISTORY OF USING THE INSIGNIFICANT TO ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE.

*“And Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God: For with God all things are possible.”*  
- Mark 10:27 -

In order to communicate among themselves, Serbian shepherd boys developed an ingenious system. They would stick the blades of their long knives into the ground of a pasture, and when one of the boys sensed an approaching cattle thief, he would strike the handle of his knife sharply. The vibration created a signal that could be picked up by other shepherd boys, their ears pressed tightly against the ground. It was by this unique system that they outwitted thieves who tried to creep up on their flocks and herds under the cover of darkness and tall corn.

Most of the shepherd boys grew up and forgot about their ground signals, but one boy remembered. Twenty five years after he left the pastures, he made one of the greatest inventions of the modern era. Michael Pupin changed the telephone from a device used only to speak across a city, to a long-distance instrument that could be heard across a continent.

Something you take for granted today - something others may consider to be insignificant or ordinary - may actually become your key to greatness. Look around you. What is it that God has put at your disposal?

## God's Daily Answer

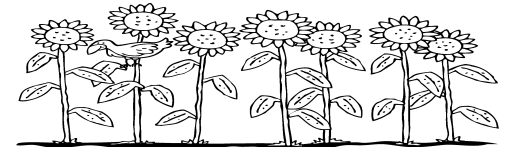
“Grow in the grace and knowledge  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”  
2 Peter 3:18 NCV

When you plant a seed, you don't expect it to blossom into a beautiful flower by dawn the next morning. Growth takes time and nourishment. The same is true for the seed God has planted in you.

You have everything you need to bloom - the light of God's presence, the water of His words and the soil of His grace. Together these create the perfect garden environment for a thriving plant like you. But you also need time.

Don't despair when you find yourself caught in winter's chilly grip, growth is still taking place. It's just harder to see. So be patient with yourself. Promise of a fruitful spring is right around the corner.

“Be not afraid of growing slowly;  
Be afraid only of standing still.”  
- Chinese Proverb -



# Worship Corner

## The Eleven Truths About a Worship Lifestyle

**Truth #1** – In its purest sense, *worship* is simply assigning worth or value to someone or something. Did you know the word *worship* actually comes from the Old English term “worthship” – that is, the state of having worth or value?

**Truth #2** – Worship always involves the glad and lavish giving of our devotion. Did you ever notice that when a person views someone or something as valuable, he or she eagerly devotes time, allegiance, affection, emotional energy, material resources, and even praise to that person or object?

**Truth #3** – Everyone in the world is a worshiper. That is to say, we each have relationships or objects in our lives that we consider valuable, and usually *one* person or object we view as having supreme worth. The question is never “*Will* a person worship?” but rather, “*Who* or *what* will he or she worship?”

**Truth #4** – Not everyone in the world worships GOD. This statement needs – or *should* need – no explanation! Just look around today at the countless things people focus their lives on.

**Truth #5** – What a person truly worships can be easily discovered. Want to know what a person values above all else? Look at his calendar or schedule book, listen to her conversation, observe how he spends his money, and you will have a good indication of what that person considers as having the highest worth in life.

**Truth #6** – The Bible declares God, our Creator and Redeemer, to *the* One who deserves our worship. He alone is truly worthy. (See Revelation 4:6, 8-11 and 7:9-12.)

**Truth #7** – God doesn’t *need* our worship. He is complete, independent, and self-sufficient. It has been this way from eternity past and will ever remain so. Perfect and lacking nothing, the Lord is in no way diminished if human creatures refuse or fail to worship. The heavens themselves shout the glory of God (Psalm 19:1), and he is surrounded by angelic beings who forever praise him (Revelation 4:8). But God was complete even before the heavens were made or the angels existed!

**Truth #8** – Worshiping God leads to ultimate fulfillment; worshiping anything other than God is idolatry. The psalm writer boldly declared; “You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasure of living with you forever” (Psalm 16:11). The theologian St. Augustine wisely observed; “You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.”

**Truth #9** – Worship involves a sense of the presence of God. Whether it’s bowing down *before* God (Psalm 95:6), searching *for* the Lord (Psalm 105:3-4), trusting *in* his holy name (Psalm 33:20-21), dwelling *in* his house (Psalm 84), lifting hands (Psalm 134:2) or shouting *to* him (Psalm 47:1), worship always involves a recognition that God is near.

*Continued on page 19*

*Worship Corner continued from page 6*

**Truth #10** – Worship should be active, emotional, and enjoyable. The picture painted in Scripture is *not* of passive, sit-on-your-hands, dry, drab, going-through-the-motions worship. It is enthusiastic celebration. The mood is one of gratitude and reverence, yet the worshipers seem genuinely excited (see 2 Samuel 6:1-16).

**Truth #11** – Worship isn’t merely something we do for sixty to ninety minutes in church on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings. Worship is something we are. Worship isn’t an activity. It is a lifestyle. Worship isn’t just about singing or praying. Or reading the Bible. Or doing some other “religious” act. Worship is about life. And vice versa. When we finally understand that we have been created through God and for God (Colossians 1:16), when we truly grasp that God wants to receive glory in everything we do (1 Corinthians 10:31), then it begins to dawn on us that every place on earth can be a sanctuary and every act in life a sacrifice of praise. Name any responsibility, list every imaginable hobby, and that activity – no matter how mundane it may seem – can become a high and holy act. Even work. Even scrubbing the bathroom and walking the dog.

**Community Church is hosting a Worship Seminar on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-4PM. The cost for members of Community Church is \$25 with an additional \$5 charge if you’d like to have a delicious Kendra-prepared-lunch at the church. We will be taking registrations before and after each service from now until the seminar. The \$25 reduced rate deadline is Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Registrations received after the 7<sup>th</sup> are \$35. For more information on the seminar, please visit Tom Krauter and Training Resources’ website at <http://www.training-resources.org/index.html> or contact John Smialowski at 724-309-0513 or [jasmialowski@comcast.net](mailto:jasmialowski@comcast.net).**

We may KNOW that we need to live a worship lifestyle, but how do we do this? Tom will give us a fun-filled and inspiring day learning HOW to begin and/or continue living a lifestyle of worship. Don’t wait...register TODAY to attend this spiritual life-enhancing seminar. REMEMBER: First, God created you to worship him; if you ask him to help you do it, he will. And second, you haven’t any choice in the matter; he *commands* you to worship him. Philippians 4:4 says, “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice!!” First Thessalonians 5:16-18 underscores this idea: “Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” You see? A worship-filled life is not an option. You were made to praise God, and you’re commanded to bring glory to him.

SEE ALL OF YOU THERE!!!!!! Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 9AM-4PM. Our evening worship will begin at 6PM.

Godspeed,

*John*

# Music & Creative Arts News

## Community Church Chancel Choir

Our Winter/Spring semester rehearsals have begun. There is ALWAYS an open invitation to those who wish to sing to Jesus during our 11AM worship service. Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7PM in the Sanctuary. Sunday gathering: 10:30AM in John's office.

## KC<sup>3</sup>

### (Kids' Community Church Choir)

We've begun our rehearsals for the Winter/Spring semester!! Come one, come all...children in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to join us. We meet after the Offering during the 8:30AM worship service until 9:45AM.

## Community Ringers

### (Our beloved Handbell Choir)

Rehearsals continue in 2010 every Sunday at 7:00PM. If anyone is interested in learning this musically artistic craft to ring praises to Christ Jesus, contact Director Lois Jackson at 724-744-3398.

## Testament Players

### (Community Church's Drama Ministry Team)

Rehearsals have begun for *More Than Just a Man*. We need more choir members and extras. IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US.

## Training Resources Worship Seminar

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 9AM-4PM with a break for lunch at Noon!! More details are in the article under "Worship Corner."

## PRAYER SERVICES using TAIZÉ Chants

Every Wednesday in Lent!!!!

In addition to your Lenten sacrifice (if you do that), add a time of worship to your

Lenten journey to the Cross with Jesus.

February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>!

7:30PM



## EASTER FLOWERS – 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ *Easter Lilies*    \_\_\_\_\_ *Hyacinths*    \_\_\_\_\_ *Tulips*    \_\_\_\_\_ *Daffodils*    \_\_\_\_\_ *Mums*  
\$6.50 ea.            \$5.50 ea.            \$5.50 ea.            \$5.50 ea.            \$5.75 ea.

*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 MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>***

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\*A JAR OF\*  
**Love and  
 Appreciation**



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

**What you need:**

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

**What you do:**

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

**Just for KIDS**

*Our first love*

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

Words and phrases on puzzle pieces: walk in, LORD ..., his ways, to, love him, the, with, all, to, serve, the, LORD, your God, all, "... fear, to

*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ..., to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

**100th Anniversary of the Boy Scout movement**

Lord Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was lieutenant-general in the British Army who loved camping in the wilderness. He wrote a small handbook for soldiers called Aids to Scouting. It became so popular among teachers and youth leaders that he rewrote it with young people in mind. Scouting for Boys was immediately a best seller and led to the establishment of many Boy Scout groups in England.

Soon afterward, scouting groups began popping up across America. Churches were so supportive of the movement's values that many churches sponsored Scout troops - and still do.

The official beginning of Scouting in America was February 8, 1910. Each year, many churches recognize their Scouts on the Sunday before February 8.

The leaders of Boy Scouts of America have designated September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 as "A Year of Celebration". The year's highlight will be Jamboree 2010 (July 26-August 4, 2010), which promises to be the largest celebration of Scouting in America. More than 43,000 scouts and leaders are expected to attend the event at Fort A.P. Hill, a 76,000-acre camp outside Washington, D.C.

