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Community Church

A United Methodist Congregation

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

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

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Evangelism:

Fellowship: Kristen O'Donnell

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Church Secretaries: Carole Hesel - chesel@communityumc.info

Wendy Johnson - wjohnson@communityumc.info

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.- Current Contemporary Worship**
- **Sunday Mornings – 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship**
- **Sunday Morning - 10:45 a.m. - Current Contemporary Worship**
- **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, Pastor Rich or to the church office.



STAYING FOCUSED...

Jubilee!

When was the last time you blew a shofar? Unless your name is Johnny Smialowski, your response is probably, "There wasn't a *first* time!" In Jewish history, the shofar, or ram's horn, was blown to begin important ceremonies, celebrate the new year, or even to signal the start of war. But for many of the ancient Israelites, one shofar blast stood out from all the others: the signal of Jubilee!

Every fiftieth year, beginning after the Israelites divided the Promised Land among the clans, the shofar was sounded and a celebration would begin. Everyone returned to their home town. Land reverted back to its original owner. God instructed His people to release any of their Jewish brothers and sisters from any positions as their servants or any obligations financially. It was a time to redeem persons to freedom and celebrate with them a fresh start in life. Leviticus 25:12 reads, "*For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you...*"

Every fiftieth year...holy...jubilee. This past Christmas Eve we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of worshiping in our current location. Without pews, on a bare floor, filled with excitement, a group of dedicated Christians sang songs, lit candles, and worshipped the One who was born the King of kings. It was for them a sort of Jubilee, a time to look forward to what new things God was going to do through their church. Some still worship with us today!

Today we stand fifty years after them. Can we re-awaken a sense of Jubilee? God has built this church in the middle of people enslaved by sin and imprisoned by the enemy. These are people who need to hear the blast of the shofar sounding from God's people again. These are people who need to be set free to new life in Jesus Christ. They are people who need to know that this time and this place are holy in the Name of the one who is King. Can we sound the shofar *here* and proclaim a year of celebration?



Continued on page 2

Staying Focused continued from page 1

One of the neat things about the Jewish Jubilee was that it was communal. The sound of the shofar could only be heard for a certain distance, but the reach of individual lives being radically affected and transformed was immeasurable. My guess is that as people heard the sound of the good news, they spread it to others. And the result was a newer, stronger, more passionate people of God.

My hope is we will do the same. What can God do through a people willing to proclaim freedom in the One who came to set people free? What will happen to a church that says, "Here we are, Lord, sound the shofar through us!" I believe we live in a time when ears are ready to hear and lives are ready to be transformed. With great expectation let's proclaim this a year of Jubilee!

Sounding the Good News,

Pastor Rich 

Casting Crowns Concert:

You love the music, and here is your chance to see this award-winning band with your Community Church friends! Casting Crowns is coming to the Consol Energy Center March 31st at 7 pm. We'd like to purchase a block of tickets to receive a reduced group rate. If you are interested in going, please contact Kristen O'Donnell at gpodonnell@comcast.net or 724-863-7404 by February 10.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sundays	8:30 & 11 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service
	10:45 a.m.	Current Worship Service
		Improving Communication
	7:00 p.m.	Community Ringers rehearsal
	8:30 p.m.	AA's Open meeting
Mondays	1:00 p.m.	Praying God's Word
Tuesdays	6:00 p.m.	Grief Share
	7:00 p.m.	Divorce Care
	7:15 p.m.	Walking and Praying
Wednesdays	4:30 p.m.	F.E.A.S.T.
	7:00 p.m.	Disciple 2, Disciple 3 & Disciple 4
	7:00 p.m.	Taize Prayer service (begins Feb. 29th)
Thursdays	9:00 a.m.	Busy Hands Sewing Group
	9:30 a.m.	Disciple 2
	11:00 a.m.	Stroke Support Group
	6:00 p.m.	Disciple 1
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Worship (grades 7-12)
Fridays	4:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinners (begin Feb. 24th)
Saturdays	6:00 p.m.	Current Worship Service
1st & 3rd Sundays	6:00 p.m.	UMKids, FaithWeavers & CLUB 56
1st & 3rd Mondays	9:15 a.m.	Sewing for Uganda
1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagles Bible study
2nd & 4th Mondays	9:30 a.m.	Mom's Circle

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES - Contact Vicki Monaco - 724-744-0283

Feb. 5	8:30	Adam Power & Michael Yakubisin	11:00	Luke Fleming & Sydney Fleming
Feb. 12	8:30	Zoe Moser & Marissa Fabac	11:00	Zach Tusay & Jared Wright
Feb. 19	8:30	Stephanie Hilderhoff & Natasha Popovich	11:00	AnnMarie Miller & Vivian Somes
Feb. 26	8:30	Justin Moser & Billy Hilderhoff	11:00	Jared Wright & Jonathan French

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

Feb. 5	8:30	Lee and Rob Liermann & Deb MacAllister Family
	11:00	Jeff Wimer Family
Feb. 12	8:30	Nancy Whalen and Penny King & Gerri and Vince Zigarovich
	11:00	Madeline Rainey and Jim Veitch & Ed Washburn
Feb. 19	8:30	Chris and Amber Watson & Georgann and Jim Reagan
	11:00	Pat Stawicki and Nancy Gombos & Kathy Thurston
Feb. 26	8:30	Virginia Rubright & Bonnie and Jim Ramus
	11:00	Open

LITURGISTS - Judy Newport - 724-744-4995

Feb. 5	8:30	Nancy Moser
	11:00	Kristin O'Donnell
Feb. 12	8:30	John Toellner
	11:00	Mark Coconcelli
Feb. 19	8:30	Dave Myers
	11:00	Sandy Wessel
Feb. 26	8:30	Jay Newport
	11:00	Madeline Rainey

Wednesday	February 8	7:00 p.m.	Taize Prayer service
		7:00 p.m.	Trustees meeting
Friday	February 10	6:30 p.m.	Art of Marriage
Saturday	February 11	9:30 a.m.	Art of Marriage
Sunday	February 12	9:00 a.m.	Second Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	February 19	3:30 p.m.	CLASS 101
Monday	February 20	6:30 p.m.	Ark Council
Wednesday	February 22	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday worship
Monday	February 27	7:00 p.m.	Dartball



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 40 families at Thanksgiving and 50 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! THANK YOU!

Jim & Sybil Kunkelmann, Cindy Hawranko, Joyce Skena and Jill Eisenhuth.

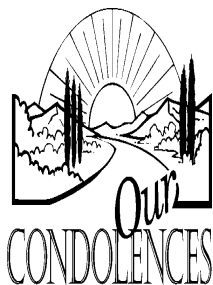


Kayla Mains
19923 Weeping Water Run
Cornelius, NC 28031

Fred Beers
1413 Bethel Church Road
Latrobe, PA 15650

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the following persons who have lost loved ones:

- ~ Pastor Rich, Marsha, McKenna, Abby and Matthew Phipps on the death of Pastor Rich's father, James Phipps
- ~ Rich and Diane Mishler & family on the death of Diane's mother, Jimmie Evans
- ~ Diane Kramer, Sherri and Edward Pecora on the death of husband and father Bill Kramer



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

- ~ Tyler Mains and Raynea McKnight - daughter Raylee Faith Mains. Proud grandparents are Paul and Irene Mains
- ~ Dana and Robbie Jacobs - daughter Kallie Noelle Jacobs. Proud grandparents are John and Judy Ryaby



Best Wishes for a long blessed life together to Andrea (Geiger) and Chris Muti who were married on January 20, 2012.



Thank you to Pastor John and Our Church Family for all the prayers and kindness offered to us after the passing of Diane's mother, Jimmie G. Evans. ~ Rich and Diane Mishler



Wednesday Feast Menu

February 1

Ham, Pierogies and Cabbage

February 8

Soup and Salad Bar

February 15

Pasta

February 22 (Ash Wednesday)

Lunch - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fried Fish Sandwich (\$7.00) or

Soup and Salad (\$5.00)

Dinner - 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Fried Fish, French Fries, Hush Puppies, Coleslaw or Applesauce (\$7.00)

No Wednesday FEAST during Lent



Playgroup

We will be decorating hearts at Playgroup as we prepare for Valentine's Day. The children will be exchanging Valentines and given a chance to have their face or hand painted at our Valentine's party. 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. Suess, Feelings, Valentine's Day, Dental Hygiene and Our Bodies. We will have a Valentine exchange on Monday, February 13th.

Noah's Kids

LOVE will be the theme for our crafts and snacks this month in Noah's Kids. Speaking of love - we LOVE telling you that our SUMMER DAYCAMP registration will be on Tuesday February 6, 11am-1pm and 5pm-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Noah's SUMMER DAYCAMP is an all day Monday-Friday program for all kids grade K-5. Some highlights include games, food, Bible lessons, field trips and more. As a bonus all registration fees will be waived when you register your child on either of these dates! For more information or details please call Carole @ 724-744-3413 ext. 104.

The ARK Playgroup & Preschool 2nd Semester Registrations - We are now enrolling for our 2nd Semester for the 2011/2012 school year. Availabilities are limited to afternoon (12:30pm-3:00pm) only in all classes. Please contact the Registrar for more information by calling 724-744-3413 ext. 150.

The ARK Playgroup & Preschool 2012/2013 School Year Registrations - For all current or previously enrolled students registration will be held on February 2nd & 3rd from 11:00am to 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Open registration for new students will be held February 6th from 11:00am to 1:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:00pm, and February 7th 11:00am to 1:00pm. Any questions regarding registration please contact the Registrar by calling 724-744-3413 ext. 150. For more information about our programs please visit our website at www.ShareChristWithOthers.org.

Noah's Kids and Kindergarten Kare Registration - Noah's Kids is our before and afterschool program for children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade. You may register your child at any time for this program. Please contact Carole Baker at 724-744-3413 ext. 104 with questions or to enroll. You can also visit our website at www.ShareChristWithOthers.org.



Book Discussion - Ladies, please join us for our next meeting on February 13th at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will begin our discussion on the book Dare to Dream by Paula White. Contact Donna Auckerman @ mis_red@yahoo.com for more information and how to purchase the book. Simply start reading and join us for fun, fellowship and discussion on the 13th! Let Paula help you to see yourself as God sees you.

UMCOR School Kits - United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has a need for School Kits. In some areas, school kits may be these children's only educational resources. The following items will be collected in the Narthex the month of February:

- ◇ **blunt scissors** - rounded tip only, no plastic scissors please
- ◇ **paper** - 8½ x 11 spiral notebooks or top-bound pads or 150 sheets of loose-leaf can be as 1 unit - no composition books
- ◇ **hand held pencil sharpener** - must be at least one inch long
- ◇ **30 centimeter ruler**
- ◇ **unsharpened pencils**
- ◇ **2 ½ inch eraser**
- ◇ **24 count box of crayons** - only 24 count boxes please
- ◇ **14"x16" cloth bag** - home made or purchased bags are both acceptable - heavy duty fabric only - denim, corduroy, drapery fabric etc. Closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps or Velcro sewn in middle of opening if used

Please no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols on items; cartoon characters are acceptable.

Worship Corner

Lent Approacheth...

Take a moment and read Psalm 51:1-17...mind you, it's intense.

I heard a sermon years ago entitled "The Bible is an Adult Book." The homilist suggested that churches ought to put a neon sign outside the entrance to their buildings, shaped like an arrow, pointing inside, and reading, "ADULT BOOKS." When curious "adults" walked in the door, they would find inside a stack of Bibles. In the truest sense of the word, the Bible IS an adult book. To teach it to children we must often delete some portions and dilute others. Portions of the Bible, if made into a film, might get an R-rating even. The story of sin that lies behind this great psalm of David is one such portion. It is a story of adultery and murder as lurid as anything Hollywood has ever filmed. You can read the story in 2 Samuel 11 & 12.

Uriah, were he able, might have argued with David's confession that it was against God and God alone that he had sinned (Psalm 51:4). David had, after all, murdered Uriah to cover up his adultery and Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. But this psalm of confession is a radical prayer. The word *radical* comes from the Latin *radix*, which means root. David has thought long and hard about the roots of this sin against Uriah and sees that it began with his disregard of God. In this, he predates Paul's searching analysis in Romans 1:21: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." From the fundamental futility and darkness comes every other transgression and iniquity against others. Uriah would never have been killed if David had attended to his relationship with God. Right?

David's radical approach extends deep into his own heart, as he acknowledges that God isn't interested in superficial obedience, but inward purity: "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place" (Psalm 51:6). So David prays for a radical cure for a radical sin: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (v. 10-12).

Growing up in the Roman tradition, we were taught that Lent was a time where we are to walk with Jesus in his ministry on earth very closely...an examination of conscience to then compare to God's Will and Purpose for each of our lives. How closely does *your* will measure up to His Will? Are we living according to that Perfect Will and Purpose? Psalm 51 is a perfect daily song to God that we might sing/pray each and every day, especially during the season of repentance...Lent.

Examine your conscience and confess your sins as David did. Your sin may not have the consequences his did, but it is no less radical in its origin and requires no less radical a cure. Repentance leads to Reconciliation; Reconciliation leads to Resurrection!!!

Godspeed,

Johnny

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and love is in the air at Community Church!

Join us February 10 & 11 at Community Church for this special event that includes expert teaching, engaging stories and real-life testimonies to help strengthen your relationship. No matter what shape your marriage is in, this honest look at the challenges every marriage faces will offer the hope that your marriage can be a work of art.

The cost of the event is just \$50 per couple, which includes event manuals as well as lunch and a romantic dinner on Saturday. Scholarships are available as needed.

February 10, 2012 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
February 11, 2012 9:30 am - 5:45 pm

Questions? Contact:

Erin Yunn (erinyunn918@yahoo.com or 412-559-8328)

Amber Audia (mrs.audia@gmail.com or 612-280-7780)

Katie Morgan (katiebmorgan@hotmail.com or 412-443-6320)

Registration Form (please return with payment to the church office)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

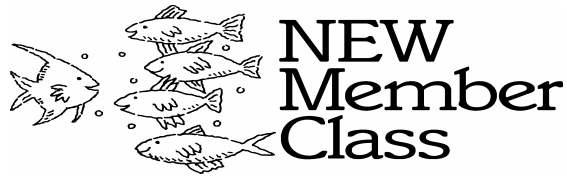
Spouse's First Name: _____ Spouse's Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Visit www.FamilyLife.com/TheArtofMarriage for more information!



C.L.A.S.S. 101

*Christian Life and Service Seminar
New Members Class*

Want to know more about Community Church? Interested in church membership?
Then make plans to attend CLASS101.

Sunday, February 19
3:30-7:30 pm
Dinner provided.

This class is a requirement to become a member of Community Church. We try to offer it at least quarterly. If you are decided on membership, please make every effort to attend. If you are still considering, please come as well so that when you make the decision, you'll be ready.

Tear off and put in Offering Plate or Return to Church Office

REGISTER ME FOR C.L.A.S.S. 101

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address _____

To help new members become more acquainted with CUMC and feel more at home, we would like to offer a sponsor. Would you like to have a sponsor assigned to you?

Please circle: yes no

If you have questions about CLASS 101, please contact Elizabeth Somes at 724-744-3413 ext. 204 or esomes@communityumc.info



Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, 2012 and is the beginning of our Lenten journey!

Ash Wednesday Services
6:30-7:30 AM (informal)
12:15-12:45 PM (informal)
7:00 PM Communion & Imposition of Ashes
All in the Sanctuary

Lenten Taizé
Every Wednesday in Lent at 7:00PM
February 29th
March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
In the Sanctuary



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 2010's Federal and State returns along with all of their 2011 tax records and property tax receipts. This service will be offered at the North Huntingdon Townhouse every Tuesday and Thursday from February 2 to April 17, 2012. We are also at the St. Regis RC Church in Trafford on alternating Mondays beginning February 6, Jeannette Senior Center (by appointment 724-527-3200) every Wednesday, February 1 to April 11 and Penn Twp. Library (by appointment 724-744-4414 ext 0) every other Friday beginning February 3. The hours at each facility will be from 9:00 am until 1 pm.

It is winter with snow, ice and little ones cooped up indoors with lots of energy. Come and join our playgroup to give your child a chance to play and burn off some of that energy with other kids their age. Mothers Circle is a nondenominational cooperative playgroup for mothers or caregivers and their small children (0-5 years). Meetings are Thursday mornings in the St. Barbara Church social hall in Harrison City from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact Cherie (724-392-4205) or mother.circle@yahoo.com for more information.

2012 Lay Speaker School is Coming! - The Greensburg District School for Lay Ministry Development is scheduled to begin on Sunday, February 26 and last for 5 Sundays at the Community United Methodist Church in Harrison City. Each session runs from 2 until 5 p.m. Brochures are available in the Welcome Center or you can also register online at: <http://www.wpaumc.org/registrations/register/163>. Registration deadline is February 15, 2012. Any questions, please contact Pastor John or Elizabeth Somes.

New CUMC Annual Guide Book & Directory - We are working on a new guide book and directory for our congregation that will be updated and delivered directly to your home annually. This book will be the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of our Church. The book will be provided at **no cost** to you or our Church. Local business will be solicited to advertise in the book. If you own or manage a local business and would like to advertise in our book, please call or email the Church Office with your information.

Is Your Family Information Up-to-Date? - It is time to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in your family over the past year. Have you changed your phone number? Cell phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? New email address? If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, we will need your updated information for our new Guide Book & Directory. You may call or email the Church Office or submit your information on the "Tear-Off" section of the bulletin. Finally, if you do not wish to have your information published, please note it on the "Tear-Off" and include it in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your help!

Walking

“Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (HCSB)

This has always been one of my favorite scriptures. Maybe it's the inner teacher in me that relates well to the nicely written lesson plan of objective, procedure and evaluation (yet to come). Maybe it's the mother in me that appreciates the very specific parenting tips straight from the heart of God. Perhaps, it could just be the walker in me. I've been a walker for years and have come to refer to walking as my "therapy." If I walk alone, I talk to God, if I walk with friends we talk – either way, it's therapeutic to my body and soul.

Despite the cold weather, the other night, I had a great walk. On Tuesday evening I walked in the MMR for the open walking time. Two other ladies were there and we walked and talked. We didn't walk too long or talk about anything too important but, when I got home I felt so good in mind and body. When I woke up the next morning I still felt good.

Where do you walk? I walk for exercise around my neighborhood when I can and now in the MMR on Tuesday nights. But, I also walk in my community -- into the grocery store and into my children's school and extra-curricular activities. I walk into the church, people's homes and sometimes into hospitals or care facilities. I walk into the living room of my own home and the bedroom I share with my husband.

I have to ask myself often as I walk, am I talking about God's love and commandments as I go? Am I practicing them? Am I teaching them to my kids and those I meet? The scripture is clear, morning, noon and night, walking, sitting, laying down, in my home and out in the world, I am to love the Lord above all else and be obedient to His commands. How's your walk?

+++++

WINTER BLUES getting you down. Want an easy way to feel better? Research shows walking is one way to beat the winter blues. But now the cold weather has finally arrived in Western PA we are all sitting at home more and doing less. Join us on Tuesday nights to walk in the MMR. Walk at your own pace for 1 lap or for 75 minutes or anything in between. And bring your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family and enjoy some time of fellowship and catching up with each other. The MMR will be open from 7:15 – 8:30 Tuesday evenings. Stop in anytime during that time and enjoy a walk with some friends. If you have any questions please call Darlene Simpson 724-861-0416

Good Grief Corner

“Grief and grieving”

Grief is Normal:

Grief is not a disease. It is the normal human response to a significant loss. People may encourage you to “be strong”, or “don’t cry”, but how sad it would be if someone we cared about died and we didn’t cry, or we carried on as if nothing had happened. I’d like to think that someone will miss me enough to shed a tear after I’m gone. Wouldn’t you? When you lose someone special from your life you are going to grieve. Your grief is saying that you miss the person and that you are struggling to adjust to a life without that special relationship. Admittedly saying that grief is normal does not minimize its difficulty. It may be one of the most challenging experiences of your life. But you are not crazy, or weak, or not handling things. You are experiencing grief as a normal response after a significant loss.

To be continued next month. “The worst kind of grief is yours.”

Thought for today

“Though the past haunts me as a spirit, I do not ask to forget”

~ Felicia Dorothea Browne Henneans ~



God’s Devotional

BIRTHDAYS ARE GOOD FOR YOU.
STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE PEOPLE WHO
HAVE THE MOST LIVE LONGER.

“So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts into wisdom.”

- Psalm 90:12 -

There once was a woman who, upon seeing her hair turn gray, decided she must be getting old. She immediately slowed her pace, refused to wear bright colors, tried to act more sedate and began to wear “sensible shoes”. She let her hair grow long and put it up in a bun on her head, wore long sleeves to cover what she was sure must be unsightly “old lady” arms, and could often be heard telling friends, who asked how she was doing, “I suppose I’m doing as well as could be expected for a person my age.”

One day she overheard a teenager ask a friend, “How old is Miss Tilly?” The friend said, “well from the way she looks I’d say she’s at least 65-70.” The woman was shocked - they were talking about her, and she was only 55! She decided she was looking for too old for her years and immediately shifted into reverse. Bright colors, high heels, and more stylish clothes rejoined her closet. She cut her hair and used a rinse to color the gray. Several months later, a 48 year old man asked her out and wouldn’t believe her when she told him her age.

She concluded, “Fifty-five is a better speed limit than age limit”.



God’s Daily Answer

You have been saved by grace because you believe you did not save yourself.

It was a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8 NCV

Suppose you see some items at the mall that seem to be calling your name. Payday is still a week away, so you ship out your credit card and take those items home. When the bill comes, the credit card company tells you to ignore and consider the items a gift.

Fantasy! You bet! But there is a wonderful gift that God has made available for you. His grace is a gift that keeps on giving, when you least deserve it. Unlike credit card companies, God’s grace period is eternal. He’ll never call in the debts you owe. Jesus has paid it in full. Take a moment to reflect on God’s grace. Then, offer Him a gift in return - - your thanks.

“Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues.”

~ John Scott ~





Nancy Whalen is a Stephen Minister and longtime member of CUMC. You can often find her helping out in the kitchen or involved in Bible Study. Read in her own words why she wanted to become a Stephen Minister ...

I believe I was led to Stephen Ministry because I didn't do well with my own personal grief. When my husband died, I felt like my grief was the worst. I had heard grief takes one to three years depending on how well you handled it. So, I decided I would work hard and do it in one year. I read every book on death and dying in three libraries and as many self-help books about grief as I could get my hands on. My daughter found a grief group for me eleven months into my grief journey. I proudly told the group I only had one month to go. The leader kindly told me she was afraid I might not make my goal.

At the meeting I met a Stephen Minister who came with another widow. During the break the Stephen Minister talked to me and asked me how I was doing. She wanted to know, not just hoping I would say "fine." She also asked me about my husband. I loved to tell about him but my friends were avoiding his name in case I might cry or feel bad. This woman let me talk about my husband -- a subject I still like to talk about today! I don't even know this Stephen Minister's name and never thanked her for being such a caring person. But, she is the reason I wanted to be a Stephen Minister, so maybe I could help another person through their grief.

If you or someone you know is hurting from the pain of circumstances like death, divorce, chronic illness or financial strain or is experiencing some transition in their life such as; the birth of a baby, new marriage or empty nest, perhaps talking to a Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministry is one-to-one, confidential and FREE to CUMC members and non-members. Contact Pastor John or Elizabeth Somes at 724-744-3413 or esomes@communityumc.info to be connected with a Stephen Minister.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences ... the death of a loved one. This small group meets on Tuesdays from 6-8pm in the youth room. Come at any time, contact Krista Karnbauer (724-861-0286 or kkarnbauer@comcast.net) or Sue Keller (724-871-7674 or so.keller@gmail.com) for more information.

Lenten Lunches & Dinners

Community Church

A United Methodist Congregation
3487 Route 130 in Harrison City



Ash Wednesday F.E.A.S.T. ~ February 22nd

Lunch - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fried Fish Sandwich: \$7.00 or Soup and Salad: \$5.00

Dinner - 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Fried Fish, French Fries, Hush Puppies, Coleslaw or Applesauce: \$7.00

Friday's February 24th through March 30th

Lenten Lunches served 11:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Fish Sandwich and Fresh-cut Fries: \$7.00

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



Lenten Dinners served 4:00 p.m. ~ 7:30 p.m.

Adults: \$9.00 Children (under 12): \$6.00

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 Sides:

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

Cold Sides:

Coleslaw
Applesauce
Tossed Salad



Donations of bottled water and pop are being requested for use during the Lenten Dinners. Please leave donations in the MMR Kitchen at any time.

