

**THE
EAGLE**

FEBRUARY

**INDOOR WORSHIP CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK LIVE
AND ON FM 88.5 (locally)**

FEBRUARY

DATED MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

stjohnslewisburg.org

Lewisburg, PA 17837

1050 Buffalo Road

St. John's UCC





We are about to move into our second Lenten season during the COVID19 pandemic. I don't know about you, but I find it hard to believe we have been in various forms of lockdown and caution for a year now. I pray that you can join me in a spirit of hope as we move into the days ahead. Some of you have already had your vaccinations for the virus, others of us are scheduled or will be soon. There will be brighter and less challenging days ahead. I know we are all looking forward to the days when we can gather in worship, Christian Education, fellowship time and meetings again. I know we are craving the time when we can see each other's unmasked faces and smiles and share hugs and handshakes again. That time will come!

In the meantime we enter Lent on Ash Wednesday, which is February 17th this year. Last year's Ash Wednesday was before things went into shutdown mode so we were able to gather for a worship service that evening. In fact we even tried a new ministry and had a time for "drive through ashes" in the morning. This year will be different. Instead of a tradition Ash Wednesday service we invite you to come to a "Drive Through" Ash Wednesday service. As you stop on your way through you will be offered a gathering greeting, then stop for the Imposition of Ashes, at the next stop you will be offered Holy Communion, then at the last stop you will receive a blessing for your Lenten journey, including some devotional/reflection materials for the season. All of this will be done safely (low contact and masked). We hope you will be able to drive through between 5 and 6 p.m. that evening to begin your Lent.

Lent is sometimes referred to as a "wilderness experience". I suspect that many of us are already experiencing a sense of wilderness (perhaps lost, wandering, bewildered, spiritually and emotionally dry, etc.). This season's Lenten theme will address the wilderness experience in a different way than some other years. We will be using Lent as an opportunity to look inward and then be drawn outward. We will be sharing the healing stories of Jesus. We will explore the ways that Jesus' life and ministry to make a difference in people's lives as we consider "what needs to be healed in our life and the life of your family/community." Together we will imagine what you could *do* (outward journey) to help in the recovery of your health and the health of your church and community.

With the help of some wonderful ideas from the Worship Design Center (Marcia McFee) we will consider how we are "*Holy Vessels*" and share together an experience of healing and health. We will look at "physical health; community health; mental health; intellectual health; environmental health; and integrated health".

I am excited to share with you this exploration of moving forward in wholeness in Christ's name. Blessings to each one of you as we move forward in hope!

Love, Pastor Alice

FEBRUARY



2/17 Carol & Jonathan Hahn

- 02/04 Sarah Baughman
- 02/05 Alisa Jean Bingaman
- 02/07 Abigail Snayberger
- 02/08 Barry Catherman
- 02/08 Dr. Ron Zug
- 02/11 Richard Rautzhan
- 02/12 Alice Rauch
- 02/14 Daniel DeSantis
- 02/15 David Hilliard
- 02/18 Merdyth Updegraff
- 02/19 Deborah Rice
- 02/20 Victor Snyder
- 02/24 Bradley Bingaman
- 02/26 Brenda Hoban
- 02/27 Nancy Weslosky
- 02/27 Pastor Gary Nottis

Wired Word ZOOM

You're invited to a ZOOM Sunday School class on a Thursday evening in February. Linda Williams and Pastor Alice will lead us in a discussion about one of the Wired Word topics. We will let you know ahead of time which topic we will use as our focus. So, mark your calendars for a **ZOOM gathering on Thursday, February 25th at 7 p.m.** The ZOOM link will be sent out a few days before the gathering. Join us for reflection on scripture in conversation with an event or idea from the current news.



DECEMBER 2020 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$ 13,313.58
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ - 15,489.36
Current Operating Balance	\$ - 2,175.78



Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your generous gift given to our Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program. Every dollar of your contribution will be used to supply food for those enrolled in our program.

Our program provides supplemental food for income-eligible individuals and families in Eastern Union County twice a month. It takes generosity like yours to help us serve them.

Thank you again for your support of our program.

Sincerely,

Jo Orris, Sec./Treas. Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the hams and other foods you provided for Christmas dinner for our struggling families. This year Christmas was likely to be especially bleak for many people, however the dinners you provided were a blessing to the families who received them. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity in meeting the needs of the families we serve.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jamie Batman, Foster Care Coordinator

Dear Congregation,

During this holiday season, we thank you for your supporting our local youth through their process of healing. The gifts you have donated will provide many smiling faces throughout the holiday season and beyond. Thank you for thinking of our youth during this time of year. Your ongoing support will help them to continue to heal and take back their lives!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Shultz Spano
Director of Development

Dear Congregation,

On behalf of the Snyder-Union-Northumberland Habitat for Humanity Board and Development Committee, I wish to thank you for your recent donation to our organization.

We cannot build homes without people like you that open up their hearts and support our cause.

On behalf of our entire affiliation, I extend our gratitude!

Sincerely,

Sandra N. Hopkins
Development Officer

Dear St. John's Quilters,

Ladies, thank you so much for the lap quilt for caregivers. It is beautiful and so much appreciated!

Rick is slowly regaining his strength. We are being helped by Nurses & Therapists, so we are thankful for that too.

I miss seeing everyone at Church and hope we will soon be able to get together again. I really am blessed to have such wonderful and caring friends!

Love, Carol Berry

Souperbowl of Caring SOUP SALE

The Souperbowl of Caring is a nation-wide, grassroots program to address hunger, where every dollar raised stays completely local. Usually on the Sunday of The Big Game, the youth of St. John's UCC are stationed at the sanctuary doors with soup pots, ready to collect donations for the Souperbowl of Caring. This year will be a little different.

Would you like some homemade soup? Mark your calendars for a drive-through-style soup pick-up on Sunday, February 14th, from 1:00-2:00 PM, under the church portico. We will offer two soups to choose from, Beef Vegetable and Chicken Corn. All soup must be pre-ordered by Sunday, February 7th, at 3:30 PM. Please call the church office at 570-523-0162 to place your pre-order. Price will be \$7 per quart, and \$4 per pint.

Please bring exact change or check, so we won't have to make change.

All proceeds of the soup sale will be donated to the Lewisburg Food Pantry. Please wear a mask during pick-up. If you are unable to pick up your soup, please let us know when you order, and we can arrange for delivery. Soup will already be refrigerated. All you'd need to do is reheat and eat!

Hi Everyone!

Many of our members are living in Nursing Care Facilities or Personal Care Homes (Assisted Living). Since they are not able to have visitors we are going to try to shower them with cards to let them know we are thinking about them and that we miss them. For this newsletter we are listing the members and friends who are in Nursing Care Centers. Next time we will focus on the Personal Care Residents. I know that many of you have been reaching out in a variety of ways.

Would you join us in showering these folks with notes and cards this month and reminding them that God loves them and we do, too? Thanks, everyone!

Martha Anderson Room 118
c/o Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village,
189 East Tressler Blvd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Ann Beasom
c/o Milton Rehab Center
743 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA 17847

Peg Brouse
c/o Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village
189 East Tressler Blvd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Evelyn Mabus
c/o Watsonstown Rehab Center
245 East 8th St.
Watsonstown, PA 17777

Loretta Roberson
E-wing
c/o Riverwoods
15 Ridgecrest Cir.
Lewisburg, PA 17837



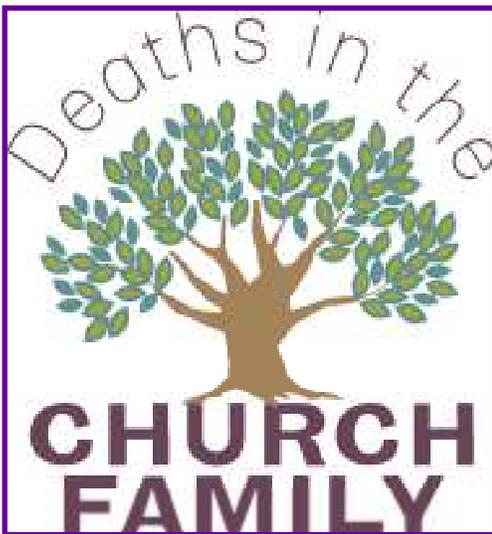
Fellowship ZOOM

Join your church family for a **ZOOM Fellowship time on Sunday, February 14th at 11:30 a.m.** The ZOOM connection will be available a few days before the gathering. It will good to see each other's faces (even on a screen) and share in conversation, prayer concerns and updates. Please join us!



SECRET PALS

The traditional Secret Pal reveal gathering has been cancelled for this year. Those who were participating in the past year should have received a personal contact about how to reveal their identities to each other some time in February. We hope to have an "in person" gathering at a later date. At that time new Secret Pals will be selected and anyone who would like to be a part of this fun ministry can sign up and be a part of it.



Fred Croover 12/21/2020

Nancy Sechler 09/21/1926 - 01/23/2021

Ways to Support the Life of Worship

We are in an unusual season in the life of our church. It seems strange, sometimes, to worship together by way of technology. Here are a couple of things we can do to interact with each other and reach out to the community:

Say “hello” when you sign in on Facebook. A couple of folks are doing this, but it would be nice to see more folks interacting. Say hello to each other, check in with each other, and welcome visitors while you are on. These are all things we would be doing if we were together in person. Don’t be afraid to use the time and technology to connect.

Share the links on your personal media. Share the Facebook post or YouTube link on your personal pages. Someone you know may be looking for a word of inspiration or a way to connect to a community of faith. This is another way to “reach out” when we can’t reach out in person.

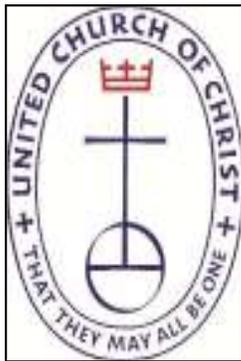
Thanks to all of you for being willing to try new things and new methods of communicating and being in relationship as a congregation. God continues to “move in mysterious ways” - ways that are tried and true or brand new!



In memory of Fred Grover

by Sue & Jim Tomlinson

by Kay & Gary Nottis



VIRTUAL WORSHIP HOURS
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
online at
Facebook or YouTube

Visit us on the Web!
www.stjohnslewisburg.org



St. John's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-523-0162
E-mail: stjohnsucc@ptd.net

MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS
FEBRUARY - Church Vocation Fund
MARCH - OGHS, One Great Hour of Sharing
APRIL - Habitat for Humanity
MAY - Phoebe Ministries

The Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program is looking for teen and adult volunteers to carry groceries at our Food Pantry distributions, from 1:15-3:30, on the first and third Friday of every month. We are located at the First Baptist Church at 51 South 3rd Street in Lewisburg. Masks are required, and social distancing practices are in place. If you can carry a bag of groceries up a flight of steps please volunteer at an upcoming distribution on **February 5 and 19 and March 5 and 19**. Questions? Call Cindy at 570-523-6898.

Thank you, again, for your continued support!
Cindy Farmer, Director- EUCSFP



YOUR MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION TEAM AT WORK
Project for Our Essential Community Workers - Donations Needed
Last month we were able to provide snacks for health care workers in the Evangelical Community Hospital Emergency Room, William Cameron Fire Company and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Nursing Care Center. We wish to continue showing our appreciation to health care workers at Elmcroft, Milton Nursing Care and Rehabilitation Center and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Personal Care. Please designate your monetary donations to "Health Care Appreciation Baskets."