

THE EAGLE MARCH

- MARCH 3 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION
- MARCH 6 - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 7:00 P.M.
- MARCH 9 - TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
- MARCH 10 - WORSHIP
- MARCH 13 - MEISTER ECKHART SEMINAR BEGINS
- MARCH 14 - REJOICING SPIRITS
- MARCH 17 - WORSHIP
- MARCH 17 - FELLOWSHIP HOUR
- MARCH 24 - WORSHIP
- MARCH 31 - WORSHIP



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 1050 Buffalo Road
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Sometimes the world around us has the most uncanny ways of communicating its truths to us.

For example, I distinctly remember some years ago being at the movies with one of my adult kids. It was to be a pleasant diversion, a break in my busy routine, time away from the computer keyboard and books and telephones, nothing more. I had not gone looking for a personal message of any sort from the film. But it was to be otherwise.

As the characters on the screen went about the action, they happened to pass in front of a brick wall, a wall which played no part in the film except that it was the background for all of perhaps two or three seconds. But those few moments were all I needed to see the graffiti that appeared there. "Life," it read, "is what happens when you're planning for the future."

That really set me to thinking. Like some piece of subliminal advertising, a message had come through, loud and clear. In a flash, what came together for me was the relationship between this random bit of graffiti and so much of my personal reading and thinking in the spiritual and psychological areas.

And what much of that research and reflection indicate is that many of us, perhaps most of us, tend to turn our existence into something that it has never been intended to be. In short, we successfully go through the motions of living but we are rarely authentically alive.

Life is for living, I hear the religious and psychological greats signaling, like some sort of encouraging chorus. And yet there are, it appears from the way that we live out our lives, few of us who really believe that that is the truth. Our experiences of living life to the fullest at any given moment are typically few and far between.

The more common experience is that of being pulled in several different directions at one time--of being distracted and split by responsibility or fear or anger, raging against our pasts, or racing headlong into our futures. In other words, we are, most of the time, largely lost to the present of simply, fully living.

It is no wonder, I suppose, that most spiritual thinkers regard the plight of humanity as being akin to sleeping. We walk and talk and work and manage and, the whole while, we doze with our eyes wide open. Psychology refers to this as our general unconsciousness. Whatever the terminology, I guess, it amounts to the same thing.

In our own tradition, Jesus defines his ministry as coming in order that people "may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10.10). No doubt, we regard these words as assuring us of the fact that, after we are dead, we have some sort of life to look forward to. In understanding Jesus' statement in this other-worldly manner, are we perhaps suggesting that life as we now have it in this world is somehow not worth the living?

Perhaps in terms of Jesus' assuring words, we are actually being told that we are already dead and that being open to the Spirit of the vital God among us is equivalent to living the life that we have been given, moment by moment, with meaning and integrity.

As we prepare to begin another Lenten season directly, its eye fixed on the risen life symbolized by Easter, I hope that you know something of how to do that.

Cordially,

Bob Stoudt

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: **CAROL BERRY, BRIAN GRIFFITH, STEVE GEMBERLING**

Lock-up Person: **MARK SATTESON**

Lay-Reader: **COLLEEN ROSS**

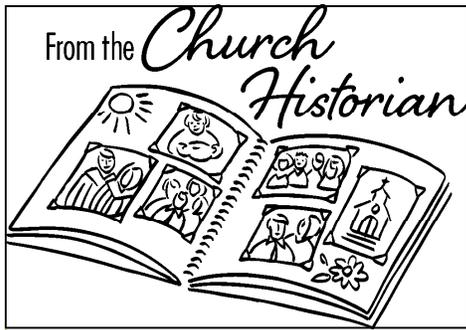
Preparation of Communion Elements: **ANNA BROUSE & DIANNA SPICKLER**

MARCH	Children's Church	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
3	DON ADAMS	SUSAN MILLER
10	LIZ DeSANTIS	
17	LINDA WILLIAMS	
24	ANGIE DONLIN	
31	DON ADAMS	

MARCH	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte	Drivers Route 1*
3	DIANNA/ROGER SPICKLER	ERIN DeSANTIS	BAISH
10	MILLIE SATTESON	ADDIE MILLER	SPICKLER
17	BETH MOSER	DANIEL DeSANTIS	ADAMS
24	KAY/GARY NOTTIS	JAMES DONLIN	BAISH
31		ERIN DeSANTIS	SPICKLER

MARCH	GREETERS
3	MARTHA/BRUCE RAUCH
10	DOT/ART BOWER
17	TESS/FRED GROOVER
24	LINDA & WAYNE WILLIAMS
31	COLLEEN ROSS/LINDA SARTWELL

If you need a ride to church, please contact Ron Zug (570-523-3987) who schedules the drivers.



“Red Book” Memories XV

“Legacy”

We have a beautiful church facility and, without a doubt, our stained glass windows help to make our building attractive. These windows are not apparent from the outside, because they are prominently displayed within the front vestibule and along the walls of the Sanctuary. Our “Red Book” says that these windows are made of Tiffany glass, manufactured by the company founded by world-famous artist, Louis Tiffany (1848-1933).

Tiffany loved to create religious art made with colored glass. His earliest windows often depicted scenes from the Bible or religious symbols. But by the late 1890s, Tiffany began to create windows that incorporated religious symbols with objects from nature, such as flowers, plants, and landscapes. Our Tiffany stained glass windows are examples of all of these. For instance, one window in the vestibule shows a heavenly crown while the other a symbol of the Trinity. Upon entering the Sanctuary, you will notice a large window on the east wall that pictures Jesus with the little children, a clear reference to a scene in Mark 10. On the west wall, another large window portrays Jesus ascending to heaven, as described at the end of Luke 24. If you look to the rear wall on the east-side of the Sanctuary, a smaller window shows a scene from Revelation 3, namely that of Jesus knocking at a door. Finally, on the west-side of the Sanctuary, you will see a window on the rear wall that displays a radiant cross with grape vines.

While these stained glass windows are lovely to look at, they are more than decorative. These windows speak to us of a rich three-part legacy handed down to us. It is a legacy of faith, of history, and of determination and hope.

In terms of faith, our stained glass windows provide the visual gift of biblical stories and symbols that help to shape how we live in the world as Christians. For example, the portrayal of Jesus knocking at the door reminds us to respond to the teachings and lived example of our Lord, more so than the expectations of society. The window showing Jesus with the children speaks to us of how our Lord wants us to treat all people, young and old, rich and poor, with love, compassion, and dignity. And the one with the radiant cross and grape vines speaks to us of how God and Christ are an intimate part of the natural world and beyond.

Our stained glass windows present us with a gift of history—our history as a church. If you look closely at most of the windows, you will see that they were created in honor of individuals who played some important role in the life of our congregation. One such person was Carrie Cressna, the first wife of Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart, who served as the 11th and 15th pastor of St. John’s from 1879-1885 and 1900-1920, respectively. We know little of Carrie Cressna. However, the fact that the Women’s Missionary Society sponsored a window for her suggests that she was a person of prominence during her husband’s first pastorate and someone who helped to enrich and further the life of the church. Without her contributions, who knows what our church history might have looked like?

Finally, our stained glass windows offer us the gift of determination and hope. They were made for our former church building on 3rd Street in Lewisburg, when it was rebuilt between 1902 and 1903. That reconstruction came at a time when the people of St. John’s had decided to move the congregation from a period of decline and internal division to one of growth and unity, an effort that sustained St. John’s for decades afterwards. Surely, our windows can be a source of inspiration as we seek to renew the life of our church, something we hope will carry us forward into our congregation’s next 100 years.

So, the next time you pass one of our stained glass windows, stop and take a closer look. Enjoy their beauty. Think about the powerful legacy they offer each of us. And then, think about the kind of legacy you will help to build for the St. John’s yet to come.

Gary Nottis

THANKS
from the
HEART

St. John's UCC,

Holiday activities are always highly anticipated and appreciated by the individuals and staff at Selinsgrove Center. Your group, St. John's UCC Women's Guild, graciously sponsored a party for CF10 this year. The group provided a heartwarming experience for the residents and staff. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to share the holiday with us. We look forward to working with your organization again.

Thank you,

Aletha Moyer, Volunteer Coordinator

St. John's Family,

I want to thank you for donating your altar flowers to us on the weekend of the snow storm. I made special bouquets from them and used them as altar flowers for all 3 of our worship services on that Sunday.

Your generosity was a special gift to our residents. Thanks you!

God bless you,

Rev. Marian K. Anderson, Chaplain, BVLV

Dear St. John's,

Thanks you for your gift in support of the UCC's international emergency fund. We are deeply grateful for your donation.

Faithfully,

Rev. John C. Dorhauer

General Minister and President

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your generous donation to Snyder-Union-Northumberland Habitat for Humanity, which now makes you a member of our Foundation Builder Club!

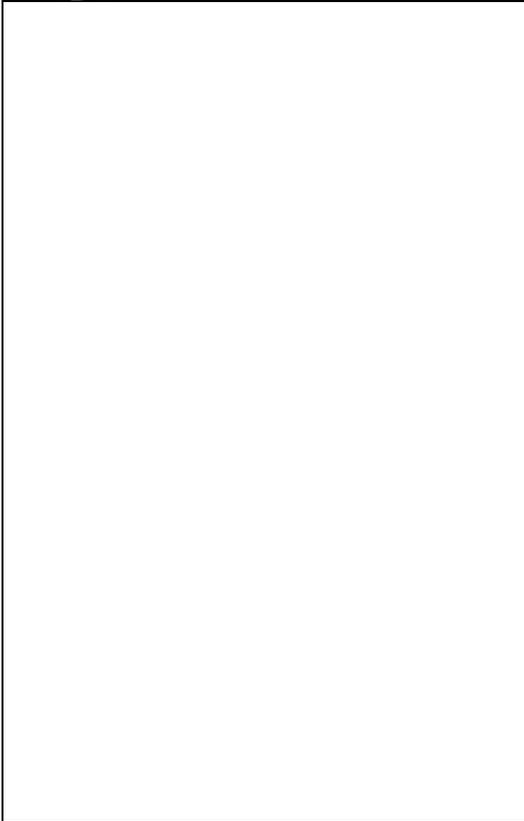
With this donation, you helped build a new home in Milton, and rehabilitate a home in Mt. Carmel.

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

Sincerely,

Sandra N. Hopkins, Dev. Officer





ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Another Lenten season will soon be upon us, as the count-down starts of the forty week- days leading to Easter.

It all begins with **Ash Wednesday**, which this year falls on **March 6th**.

We of St. John's will observe the occasion by repeating our very special Ash Wednesday service, introduced a few years ago with great reviews!

This unique service is marked by the meaningful "ritual of ashes," followed by the receiving of Communion at the foot of the altar, the only time of the year we offer it in that fashion.

As Lent again presents to us its new possibilities for life, be sure to be a part of this year's opening experience! It will take place in our sanctuary, **beginning at 7 p.m.**



The children are actively working on their plans for this year's garden. One goal is to raise a 200 lb. pumpkin! Last year's garden produce that was sold raised over \$300 for the Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Bank. This year we are expanding the garden to raise more items.

We will need more adult help this year and all children are encouraged to participate as this is an April through October project. We need some expertise to put up a "rabbit/ground-hog proof" fence. There are also numerous other projects including the renovation of our garden shed. Join in this year and have some healthy outdoor fun working in the garden!

Remember, all volunteers assisting children, are required to have current clearances. See Todd for more information.

FINAL CALL FOR THE ECKHART SEMINAR!

The Lenten season will soon be underway, with this year's Adult Enrichment series to focus on the 14th Century German preacher and mystic, "Meister" (Master) Johannes Eckhart.

Several of Eckhart's remarkable sermons to his congregation have survived, constituting provocative and enriching access to the world of spirituality.

Sessions will take place on the five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday (March 13th, 20th, 27th, and April 3rd and 10th), beginning at 7 p.m. on each of these evenings, in the Community Room.

The only cost for the seminar is that for the text which will be used (probably around \$10). The order for those books has already been placed, but with a few extra copies ordered in anticipation of last-minute "registrants."

If you are interested in also being included on the list, please contact the church office at your earliest convenience (523-0162), or talk to Pastor Bob.



The Congregation has begun to enjoy coffee and fellowship before the worship service. We would like to extend the same opportunity to the UCC military chaplains and troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. The Holy Joe's Café ministry enables the UCC chaplains to provide a coffee house atmosphere for spiritual care and good coffee. This program can be supported by placing a donation in the Holy Joe's container located by the coffee cart or visit Holy Joe's Café' at www.ucc.org.



Love was the theme of the Rejoicing Spirits worship service on February 14th where we were blessed by scripture and a special message presented by Lisa Scott from First Baptist church, Lewisburg. Mac Scott led us in song as we proclaimed that we've got "the love of Jesus, down in our heart." Ruth Blankenship, once again, added to the joy of our songs when she beautifully played the piano. There were 15 people who joined in the special worship of Love and then enjoyed refreshments provided by Retta Lincicome from Beaver Memorial UM church.

Many thanks to Todd for printing the bulletins for the service! Plan to join in next month's worship service on **March 14th at 6:30 p.m.** Every one is invited to the informal worship service that includes all people of all abilities. All are welcome here!

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT SNOWS?

Will we have to cancel church this winter? If the weather is bad, listen to one of these radio stations to hear if St. John's has cancelled services.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE:
www.stjohnslewisburg.org

or our Facebook page

WGRC 91.3 FM

WKOK 1070 AM WQKX 94.1 FM

Will the office be closed? If the weather is bad, call first.

Take Your Lenten Journey with the Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Class!

This month, come join the Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education class at 9 AM as our study of Galatians continues and a Lenten series begins.

The first two Sundays of March will be devoted to the completion of a four-part exploration of the Book of Galatians, Paul's witness to the Celtic tribes situated in the ancient Roman province of Galatia. This in-depth Bible study will examine the origins of the Celts, Paul's relationship with them, the purpose of the Book of Galatians, issues addressed by the book, and the influence Paul had on the eventual rise of Celtic Christianity.

Then, on March 24th, the class will begin a four-part Lenten study, "The Three Temptations of Jesus." We will explore the meaning of Lent and then see how the various facets of Lent are reflected in Jesus' wilderness confrontation with Satan. Three of the four sessions will focus on Jesus' fight to be faithful to God and his calling to reveal the kingdom on earth. We will learn how Jesus was tempted to use economic, political, and military power to carry out his God-inspired mission, as well as the issues involved. The series will conclude with a discussion of how Jesus ultimately responded to his struggle with temptation and how we should respond, too.

If you are considering attending these classes, please remember:

There is no cost for any class materials.

You don't need to make a commitment to participate every Sunday. Just come when you can.

All our welcome!

A tentative schedule for these upcoming classes is as follows.

Galatians

March 3rd – Foolish Celts: Issues Addressed in Galatians

March 10th – Galatians and the Rise of Celtic Christianity

The Three Temptations of Jesus

March 24th – Into the Wilderness

March 31st – Stones into Bread

April 7th – Glory and Authority

April 14th – Testing God & Jesus' Response

Don't miss out on these wonderful opportunities to expand and enrich your faith!

2019 Mission Committee Easter Family Blessings Program

Before we know it the snow will be gone, warmer weather will be here and the flowers will be blooming. The Easter Season is also fast approaching. St Johns is once again partnering with Union County Children & Youth by supporting area families with Easter dinners and Easter goodies. In the coming weeks watch for the designated containers in the Narthex for non-perishable food items. As in the past monetary donations will also be accepted. More details regarding this program will be the April Eagle.

Your Mission Committee





WORSHIP HOURS
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Café - 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Visit us on the Web!
www.stjohnslewisburg.org



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

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

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



The Communion offering for **March** is dedicated to **One Great Hour of Sharing**.
The Communion offering for **April** is dedicated to **Habitat for Humanity**.
Thanks for your continued support of St. John's missions!

HOLD THIS DATE:
Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 2PM. Bring your children and grandchildren! Encourage your neighbors to have their children join the fun, too!



TURN CLOCKS AHEAD
Don't forget to turn your clocks one hour ahead on **MARCH 10th!**