

# THE VOICE

St. John's United Church of Christ

February 2013

As we focused on the churches' liturgical calendar and colors last month, I thought it would be interesting to look at Lent and what it means to us as Christians. I hope you find the facts as interesting to read through as I have, now as we prepare for the Lenten season.....

**What is Lent?:** In the Christian liturgical calendar, Lent is the penitential period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Traditional Christian's observances of Lent include fasting and penitence, both in preparation for Easter and as a way of spiritually "joining" Jesus with the fasting and meditation he did in the wilderness. For early Christians and for Eastern Orthodox Christians today the rules of fasting are strict: just one meal a day, in the evening, and no meat, fish, eggs or butter is permitted.

**Origins of Lent:** The name lent is a Germanic word originally used to refer to the spring season generally. Over time, it replaced the Latin *quadragesima*, which means "forty days." Lent lasts forty days because, according to biblical accounts, Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days of fasting, meditation and reflection before beginning his ministry. In Western Christendom Lent begins on Ash Wednesday; for Eastern Orthodox Churches, it is called "Great Lent" and begins on Clean Monday.

**Lent & Ash Wednesday:** Where do the ashes come in for Ash Wednesday? It was traditional in ancient times for people engaged in special times of fasting, prayer, re-

pentance, or remorse by rubbing ashes on their forehead as an outward symbol of what they are experiencing internally. This custom entered Christianity through Judaism and Christians today may put ashes on their foreheads to mark the beginning of Lent. Ideally, one should use ashes from the burning of palm fronds from the previous year's Easter celebrations.

**Lent & Fasting Today:** In Western Christendom today, the strictest fasting rules were eliminated in the Roman Catholic Church in 1966. Only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are required to be strict fasting days for Roman Catholics. Penance, however, is still observed and marked by alms giving, devoting time to prayer and Bible reading, and other forms of religious study. During the early days of the church, this period was also one in which those who wanted to become Christians prepared for their baptismal rites.

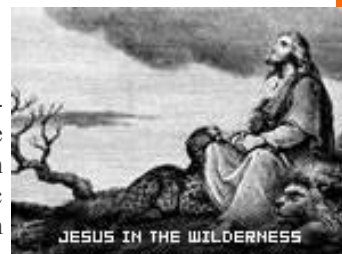
**Lent & Mardi Gras (Carnival):** In many places around the world, the last day before Lent (known variously as Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival or Fasching) is celebrated as a last fling before the solemn days of Lent. Carnival is a common name because, for centuries, people were expected to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent (just as they were expected to abstain from meat every Friday), and the term *carnivale* is Latin for "farewell to meat."

**Days of Lent:** Calculating the days of Lent varies between Western (Protestants, Catholics, Anglicans) and Eastern (Eastern

Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, eastern-rite churches affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church) churches. In Western churches, Sundays are skipped when counting because Sundays commemorate Jesus' supposed resurrection. In 2006, Lent in the West begins March 1st and ends April 8th. In the Catholic Church, the official end of Lent occurs on Holy Thursday with the mass of the Lord's Supper.

**Lent in the Orthodox Church:** In Orthodox churches, this penitential period is known as the Great Lent and Sundays are not skipped when counting. So, Lent begins on what is known as "Clean Monday," the seventh Monday before Easter and ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday (using the eastern date for Easter, which also differs from the West). Although Sundays are not commemorated by skipping them, the fasting is relaxed a bit during the weekends.

**Easter Season:** In Christianity, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus, which Christians believe happened three days after he was buried. Easter is not an isolated holiday: it is the culmination of the season of Lent, which lasts 40 days, and begins the season of Pentecost, which lasts 50 days. Because of this, Easter is a holiday which stands at the center of the Christian liturgical calendar and serves as a focal point for numerous other celebrations, commemorations, and vigils.



## Inside this issue:

<i>Worship News</i>	2
<i>Celebrations &amp; Worship Volunteers</i>	3
<i>Consistory News</i>	4
<i>Words from Pastor Hibshman</i>	5
<i>Christian Ed News</i> <i>Note of Thanks</i>	6
<i>Music &amp; Worship</i> <i>Congregational life</i> <i>Budget &amp; Stewardship</i>	7
<i>New Horizons</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	9

## *February Worship News*

### **The Lectionary Scripture Readings are:**

February 3 – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 – **Focus Scripture for Sermon**

I Corinthians 3:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

February 10 – The Last Sunday after Epiphany / Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 – **Focus Scripture for Sermon**

February 13 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

February 17 – First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 – **Focus Scripture for Sermon**

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 24 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 – **Focus Scripture for Sermon**

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

### **The Musical Offerings will be:**

Feb. 3 - Sr. Choir will sing, "Reflections of Love" by Joseph M Martin.

Feb. 10 - The Lower Voices of the choir (Tenors and Bases) will sing "Be Thou My Vision".

Feb. 17 - The Sr. Choir will sing an arrangement of an old favorite, "In the Garden". The music and words of this famous hymn are by C Austin Miles and this anthem was arranged by Patti Drennan

*Feb. 24 - The Hand Bells are scheduled to play.*

## February Celebrations...

### Happy Birthday to:

1 Brianna Nace  
1 Alison Long  
4 John Kless  
5 Steve Kubik  
6 Shirley Fortna  
7 Jordan Oskam  
9 Lori Marinkov  
11 Shirley Rudy

12 Jay Losiewicz  
13 Linda Nace  
15 Madelyn Fegan  
15 Cindy Michael  
16 Jim Davis Sr.  
16 Donnette Quairol  
17 Tiffany Nace  
21 Charlene Ziegler

22 Becky Griffiths  
23 Joe Ditzler  
23 Andrew Eberhart  
23 Roger Myers  
24 Shane Boltz  
24 Kim Kapp  
25 Pamela Myers  
27 Dawn Losiewicz

### Happy Anniversary to:

6 Cathy & Chris Rentschler

## Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

#### February Readers

Feb. 3 - Gail Grimes  
Feb. 10 - Charlene Ziegler  
Feb. 17 - Neal Grimes  
Feb. 24 - Tracy Hevel

#### February Acolytes

Feb. 3—Kayla Benfer  
Feb. 10—Andrew Eberhart  
Feb. 17—Noah Gingrich  
Feb. 24—Zach Seltzer

#### January 2013

##### Attendance

Jan 6: 64  
Jan 13: 50  
Jan. 20: 59

#### February Bulletins

Feb. 3— OPEN  
Feb. 10—OPEN  
Feb. 17—OPEN  
Feb. 24—Missy Daub

#### February Flowers

Feb. 3—Steve Kubik  
Feb. 10—OPEN  
Feb. 17—Dena Eberhart  
Feb. 24—Missy Daub

#### February Deacon

Terry Knapp



2013 Sponsorship is needed...

**Flowers:** February 3,10; March 3,10,17 and April 21

**Bulletins:** March 3, 10, 17, 24; April 7,14,21

**Coffee Host:** February 17,24; March 3,10,17,24, 31

The sign-up sheets are in the social hall. The bulletins will remain at \$10 a week.

#### February Coffee Hosts

Feb. 3—Butch & Shirley Rudy  
Feb. 10—Butch & Shirley Rudy  
Feb. 17— Ken & Violet Leibensperger  
Feb. 24 \_ Ken & Violet Leibensperger

At the time of the writing of this article, we are approaching our first meeting of the new year which will include a pot luck dinner as our way of thanking those members who are leaving consistory for their hard work and welcoming the new members who have been selected to serve to continue the vision of our members as we move forward.

As all are aware we have been looking for a pastor to serve as our interim. The elders have met with several candidates and reviewed many profiles. To date, we just have not seen anyone that jumps at us as a perfect fit for our members. We are very thankful that at this time we are not a congregation going through turmoil or conflict so certain that certain level of expertise that have been included we do not feel are necessary at this time in our church journey. We hoped for a part time pastor working twenty-five hours a week to meet our worship needs and offer direction as we continue our path to finding a full time pastor. Although it sounds like an easy and reasonable request, we have not been too successful.

After considerable prayer and thought Pastor Hibshman was approached to consider just that. Knowing that he has recently began his well-deserved retirement (golden years), it was a lot to ask of him. But hearing all of the positives of the Advent season he recently led, we felt compelled to at least ask the question.

He has graciously accepted our offer to serve as our part time pastor. Now that comes with some conditions that we feel we should share with all. His visitation will consist (for the most part) of some phone calls as we are blessed with a wonderful committee that does just that. He also had concerns with middle of the night phone calls. We agreed that they will be a case by case basis. We explained that we were confident that if the unspeakable occurred overnight, our members would wait until morning to make that call. However, if pastoral care is an absolute necessity, we will meet that need. Pastor Herb will begin the Wednesday Bible study time and look at having lunch with the pastor as a way of meeting and sharing conversation of needs and also as an alternate avenue for communion in view of the fact that many of our home bounds have been able to attend this event on occasion.

We want to create a mutually agreeable relationship with all members and our Pastor. Consistory has dedicated themselves to moving forward on the search for a new full time Pastor and you will see consistory reaching out to our membership for many things. We will rely on you in the process of selecting members to serve on the search committee. Your input for the purpose of creating a new and improved church profile will be necessary. Especially important will be the need to know what your expectations are of the one who will eventually fill our pulpit.

Consistory has also agreed to be vigilant in making sure Pastor Herb can continue as long as possible in this capacity, but also to be aware that our interim search could again be necessary if the demand becomes too much. Hopefully that will be the last thing we will need to approach, because we will all work together to lift our prayers for our call to reach the ears of the one who will find the front door of our church in the very near future and proclaim that they are the one who with shepherd us all as their flock.

**The Jonestown Male Chorus** will have its 4th Annual Sweetheart Concert on Sunday February 10th at 7:00 PM at Zion's Lutheran Church.

This is a free concert and all are invited. Bring your sweetheart and enjoy the music prepared for Valentine's Day. There will be a social following the concert.

## From Pastor Herb

The Wednesday Bible Study will start again on February 6 from noon until 1 PM., led by Pastor Herb. Bring your lunch and join in a time of fellowship and study. We will continue using the book Walk in the Light, Insight and Reflections on Living the Christian Life by Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr. The chapter for the first study is entitled "Living The Life of Faith" and uses Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" as the focus. Come and join us.

Every Wednesday evening during Lent, (February 20 & 27 and March 6, 13, 20, & 27) except for Ash Wednesday, we will gather at St John's from 7 PM until 7:30 PM for a time of meditation. Make this a part of your Lenten Journey.

St. John's choir rehearsal will be immediately following the services.

### Es Vadderunser (The Lord's Prayer: A Pennsylvania Dutch Translation)

Unsa Faddah im Himmel  
dei nohma loss heilich sei,  
Dei Reich loss kumma,  
Dei villa loss gedu sei,  
uf di eaht vi im Himmel.  
Unsa tayklich broth gebb uns heit,  
Un fagebb unsa shulda,  
vi miah dee fagevva vo uns shuldich sinn,  
Un fiah uns naett in difasuchung,  
avvah hald uns fu'm eevila,  
Fa dei is es Reich, di graft,  
Un di hallichkei in ayvichkeit.  
Amen.

[http://livinghour.org/blog/lords\\_prayer/in-pennsylvania-dutch-deutsch](http://livinghour.org/blog/lords_prayer/in-pennsylvania-dutch-deutsch)

Use the space below the line to write a prayer, clip it off at the dotted line and place it in our prayer wall

\*\*\*\*\*

---

---

---

---

---

Lent begins February 13 (Ash Wednesday) and as previously mentioned in this column, this committee will hang a felt prayer wall inside the front door of the church that will remain there for the Lenten season. Other churches have used similar prayer walls either permanently or temporarily as part of a children's class or as part of their spiritual life.

These prayer walls are inspired by the Western Wall (also called the Wailing Wall) in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Western Wall is all that's left of the wall that surrounded the Jewish Temple at the foot of the Western side of the Temple Mount. Each year millions of people of different faiths travel from near and far to pray at this most holy and sacred of sites of the Jewish faith. Many of these people place handwritten prayers in the cracks between the stones of the wall--a custom in practice since the eighteenth century.

There are also local organizations who receive emailed prayers that are then placed in the wall. Over a million prayers are placed in the wall each year, and twice a year these prayers are gathered and buried in the Jewish Cemetery on the Mount of Olives.

Now that you know a little background on this project, I hope you'll take the time to write a prayer (or two or three) and then slip it into one of the felt pockets on the wall. While we won't be able to bury them on the Mount of Olives, we will gather them each week and incorporate them into that week's Lenten service.

In other news, we have folded over 1,000 paper cranes. At last count I think the number was around 1,080 (to be honest, I lost track of a firm number after we hit 1,000!). The cranes have been on display in our sanctuary throughout December and January.

Throughout February the cranes will be on display at the Matthews Public Library. I hope you'll take the time to stop in at the library to see this colorful display. In March the cranes will return to the church. I'd like to thank those who helped pack up the cranes and helped hang them at the library and everyone who took part in this project--without your help and support we would not have made it to 1,000 cranes.

We also continue to sell nuts in the social hall after worship. The proceeds of this sale go to support the youth events that this committee sponsors each month. While we have sold out of a few items, we do still have several items available. For \$8 a bag: cashews, honey roasted cashews, and walnuts.

For \$7 a bag: almonds and dark chocolate covered bridge mix. For \$6 a bag: s'mores mix, apricots, chocolate covered raisins, and dark chocolate covered cranberries.

## February Circle Time! Schedule

Feb 3: TBA

Feb 10: Melissa Seltzer

Feb 17: Angie Michael

Feb 24: Melissa Daub

### February Children's Christian Connection Schedule

This month the children will learn about friendship and faithfulness through the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Scripture: Ruth (the whole book)

Feb 3: Game--TBA

Feb 10: Nature Craft--Teacher: Melissa Seltzer

Feb 17: Drama & Puppets--Teacher: Dena Eberhart

Feb 24: Video--Teacher: Melissa Daub

**Many Thanks!** I extend many thanks to many people over the past few months. My thanks include Pastors Hibshman (for our entire Advent Season) and Helwig (January 6 & 13) for providing our Sunday morning worship messages. Neal Grimes for his excellent message on January 20 and Rachel Miller for her message on January 27. I want to include the Eberhart and Seltzer families as well as Missy and Amber Daub for taking on the duties of assisting as Lay Leaders as well during our January services.

To Regina Engler for keeping our weekly events evident in the Lebanon Daily News church section that appears with every Saturday morning edition. Especially my thanks goes to Louise Walmer for preparing our weekly order of worship that appeared in our bulletins for the month of January, to our Elders and consistory members who are working tirelessly to keep us moving in a positive direction.

And especially to each of you, our members, for your constant encouragement and understanding of the challenges we currently face. Without all of these many people we could not accomplish all that we have and will continue to accomplish in the future.

Thanks again,

Robin

Consistory President

## Thank You!

*Thank you for all of the cards,  
prayer and kindness show to Al  
Schröder.*

*Millie & Al Schröder*



The Music and Worship Committee met on Tues., Jan. 8. Louise led devotions. Final plans were discussed for the Congregational Celebration Pot Luck that was held after church on Jan. 13. Robin Getz reported that Julie Ditzler prepared a program for after the meal.

Louise spoke to Linda Lauman and the annual Lebanon Association Dinner Meeting that is usually held in January will be delayed until spring. More information will be available concerning this event after the Association Board meets on Jan. 15. It is at this dinner meeting where the church's selected Lay Person of the Year is

honored. Louise will contact Pastor Andy Wilson for more information after Jan. 15.

Mid-Week Lenten Services were discussed and Robin Getz reported that she will speak with consistory regarding the Wed. evening light meal and worship time. The planning of these evenings will fall to this committee if there is no interim pastor in place by the beginning of Lent. The Ash Wednesday worship that we have with our Lutheran sister church should be at the Lutheran church this year. Robin also reported that there has not been any contact from the Lutheran pastor concerning this worship service.

Beth Ann presented dates in the spring that she will be away and a guest organist will be needed.

Until we get an interim pastor, it will be the Music and Worship Committee's responsibility to prepare the morning worship bulletins. We will use the UCC Book of Worship for guidance.

The committee decided we will need to meet again before the Lenten season begins. Our next meeting will be on Mon., Feb. 4 at 7PM. Sharon Hibshman will be responsible for our devotion time.

## CONGREGATION LIFE *By Ginny Knapp*

February 23<sup>rd</sup> is getting closer and closer! Our Birthday Social still has some available tables. Hostesses are looking for a few more people at their tables, but please speak to them before adding your name to their list. We have tables set up for eight persons at a table, so we need to keep a count on those sitting there.

Hostesses will provide the table decorations, food, and a birthday cake or cupcakes. We will provide the drinks. If you can remember the former socials, they were loads of fun. Won't you come out February 23<sup>rd</sup> and help us re-create that atmosphere?

## BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP *By Neal Grimes*

The Budget Committee did not meet during the month of December. We will be holding our first meeting of 2013 in February. The final actual expenses and income for 2012 showed a loss of (\$5,228.43). As was explained at the annual congregational meeting, there were two primary reasons for the deficit at the end of the year. Number 1 was the damage that was occurred by Hurricane Lee in the fall of 2011. All of the repair work was completed in 2012 and resulted in an over expenditure of \$4,940.84 toward the amount of money that was budgeted. The other area where we fell short was in our weekly giving. We needed to average \$2,250.00 per week to meet our expenses and the final result was \$2,109.97.

As we continue through 2013, we have projected that our weekly giving should be \$2,300.00 per week. If every member who contributed last year would increase their giving by 2.2% or to illustrate an example; (if you are currently giving \$50.00 per week, an increase of \$1.10 per week) would help us reach our budgeted goal.

Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

# NEW HORIZONS 2013

011210

New Horizons is an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the Lebanon Association, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ. For additional information or suggestions For future programs, please call Betty Holdren (866-2013), Dolores Wolfe (867-1807), Eleanor Hollowell(865-8087 Helen Keller (865-4014) .and Betty Ann Smith (865-5769), Barbara Beard (497-0208). Eleanor Baylor (865-4977) Ann Wagner (867-2675)

- JAN** NO MEETING
- FEB 23** 2:00 p.m. – Games, bring your favorite to Grace United Church of Christ.  
1000 South Fifth Avenue, Lebanon Supper at A & M Pizza, East Cumberland Street, Lebanon
- MAR 23** 2:00 p.m. – Dimensions of Post Cards by Donald Brown at Myerstown UCC , supper at Risser's.
- APR 27** 2:00 pm Show and Tell at Christ UCC Annville, PA Supper at Waterworks Fire Company
- MAY 25** 2:00 p.m. Miniature Golf and Dinner at Kaufman's Barbecue. Be sure to join us.
- JUN 22** 2:00 pm – Flim' Flam' Scams by Mary Bach member of Execute Board PA AARP and her talk  
Are you getting your monies worth, at Fredericksburg UCC.
- JUL** NO MEETING
- AUG 24** 1:00 p.m. Picnic, at the home of Helen Keller – Lake Strause  
Pot Luck Meal, followed by games and fellowship.
- Directions:** Rt. 72 North to Lickdale (at light), Continue until first crossroad at Monroe Valley sign, turn right. Follow hard surface road pass golf course until Stop sign. (Do not cross Manbeck Bridge). Go straight until entering Camp Strause. Turn right on Hemlock and left at Lake Side Drive. Helen's home is the first home on the right. (Tel. 865-4014).
- SEP** Date to be announced - Shore
- OCT 26** 2:00 pm Wayne Anspach speaking about one room school houses and music  
St John's UCC Jonestown, Supper at Farmers Wife
- NOV 23** 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at Country Fare – Myerstown, Reservations due by Nov 16
- DEC** Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with family and friends Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Note: Programs are subject of change.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee members.

Phone numbers are listed at top of the sheet.



# February 2013

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 8:30 am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Helen Walmer Memorial	4	5	6 12:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study  7:00 PM Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 8:30 am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30 Worship  Youth Hershey	11	12	13 Ash Wednesday 12:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study Choir Practice After Lenten Service	14	15	16
17 8:30 am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30 Worship	18	19 7 pm St. Johns Fellowship Meeting	20 12:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study Choir Practice After Lenten Service	21	22	23 6pm Birthday Social
24 8:30 am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacon Fund Sunday	25 7pm Consistory Meeting	26	27 12:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study Choir Practice After Lenten Service	28		

## St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ  
141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«Salutation» «First Name» «Middle Name» «Last Name» «Name Ext»  
«company name»  
«Address1»  
«Address2»  
«City» «St» «Zip»

### “IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This has been a difficult decision but due to continued increases in cost, this will be the last edition of the VOICE that will be mailed to this address. The VOICE will be made available each month electronically on the website. You can also provide the church with an accurate email address in order to receive an electronic copy via email. Hard copies will be available at church for pick up and if you can only receive it by regular mail please let us know that as well and we will continue with mailing in those instances. Thank you for being a continued good and faithful reader!”

## St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ  
141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Church Phone # 717-865-7222  
Pastor's Numbers 717-866-5390  
E-mail [stjohnsucc@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnsuccfburg.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfburg.org)

### Church Staff

Pastor Herb Hibshman, Jr., Interim Pastor  
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist  
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director  
Mrs. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

### Consistory

Robin Getz, President  
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President  
Secretary Position-Pending  
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

### Elders

Joe Ditzler  
Wendy Dorsey  
Robin Getz  
Jean Ann Grimes  
Jerry Mohn  
Melissa Seltzer

### Deacons

Walter Bolles  
Missy Daub  
Robin Gingrich  
Terry Knapp  
Angela Michaels  
Mark Tyrpin

**Every Sunday**  
**8:30am Circle Time**  
**9:00am Christian connection**  
**10:30am Morning Worship**

*St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.*