

# The VOICE

March 2015

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE by Pastor Tony LENT

We are now in the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten journey. As this season approaches, many think of things to sacrifice and give up. Sadly, many set goals only for the season in the hopes to grow closer to God or the purpose of their life.

During this season, the idea of denying self gratification, life pleasures, or even bad habits for the Lenten season is hard. However, what if God does not want us to just give up things for Lent but for the rest of our lives.

### Here is Pastor Tony's Top Ten List:

1. Give up the fear of failure.
  2. Move from your comfort zone.
  3. Being impatient with family, friends, and God.
  4. Over commitment (remove the cape, practice saying no)
  5. Apathy
  6. Complaining
  7. Destructive speech (Hebrews 10:25)
  8. Small view of God
  9. Envy (I am blessed. My self worth is not in things but in my relationship with God)
- Resistance to change (Change is certain. How will we change is the better question).

Furthermore, what if Lent is not about sacrificing or giving up? What if Lent is more than the ashes on our foreheads, Bible study, Fastnacht Day/ Shrove Tuesday, or eating fish on Fridays? Imagine that Lent is a time of sharpening our understanding of the presence of God in a broken world. Imagine that God wants to empower "His people" to become voices crying in the wilderness. Perhaps in this season God is preparing us to say to our families, communities, churches and society that Christ is

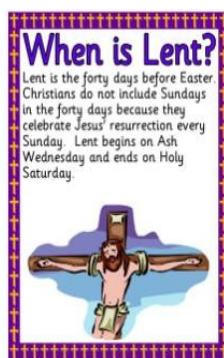
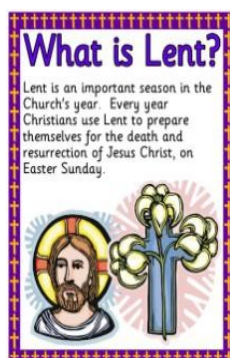
coming to make *all* things new. Imagine God is inviting us as ambassadors of Christ to share with others that kindness is stronger than cold-heartedness; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; truth is stronger than lies, and that conflict and challenge does not rule the day.

Over the last seven years I've buried approximately 30 people, if not more. A few were family members: my aunt (and the Fields' family matriarch), my favorite grandfather, my father, two uncles, and another aunt. I've seen families faced with changing roles in life and children becoming guardians of parents. In addition, walking alongside children dealing with parents as they faced complexities, challenges, and Alzheimer's, dementia, and Parkinson's has changed my perspective of life. Many parishioners are not only concerned with the challenges of family dynamics but also with the disabling changes and access to proper treatment. Getting an accurate diagnosis, finding the best treatment, and managing home care become a struggle for many.

These experiences allow an awareness and appreciation of the frailty of humanity. And amidst all the flashes of injustice and human suffering, maybe God has another remedy for healing a nation. Perhaps during this season, God's agenda is the enrichment of His people. Maybe in this Lenten season as we gaze upon the purple altar cloth and banners in our sanctuary, it will help us rebuild trust not only with one another but also with God. Perhaps in this season, GOD wants us to be aware that He is with us in life's journey.



# MARCH WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, March 1, 2015  
Second Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 8, 2015  
Third Sunday in Lent  
Exodus 20:1-7  
Psalm 19  
I Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 15, 2015  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 22, 2015  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

Sunday March 29, 2015  
Palm Sunday  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47

## NOTICE

Pastor Tony will be on vacation March 2nd until March 9th. Pastor Andrew Wilson, Hamlin UCC, will be on standby if you need any pastoral service. You can reach Pastor Wilson at 717-304-0854.

# MARCH CELEBRATION

## Happy Birthday to:

1 Anna Marie Lauer	8 Randy Ziegler	21 Ginny Knapp
5 Jim Davis Jr.	12 Elda Bugg	24 Steve Shaffer
6 Missy Daub	16 Paul Smith	26 Jeremy Stoltz
6 Rev. Thomas Jackman	16 Marlene Zechman	28 Gary Trautman
6 Glenn Rudy	20 Mildred Schriver	30 Melissa Seltzer
6 Brenda Good	20 Beth Yingst	
6 Tiara Rice	21 Kathy Fegan	

## Happy Anniversary to:

2 Violet & Ken Leibensperger	15 Marc & Beth Ann Griffiths
11 Diane & Ken Mohn	27 Jeremy & Alyssa Stoltz
12 Denise & Lee Flanick	29 Barbara & Thomas Trainor

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office. Thank you.

# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

### March Readers

March 1- Regina Engler  
 March 8- Keith Gingrich  
 March 15- Wendy Dorsey  
 March 22- Charlene Ziegler  
 March 29- Tiara Rice (Palm Sunday)

### March Flowers

March 1- OPEN  
 March 8- OPEN  
 March 15- OPEN  
 March 22- Betty Schriver  
 March 29- Gary Trautman

### February Attendance

February 1- 70  
 February 8- 64  
 February 15- No Service  
 February 22- No Service

### March Bulletins

March 1- Priscilla Rentschler  
 March 8- OPEN  
 March 15- OPEN  
 March 22- Betty Schriver  
 March 29- Gary Trautman

### March Coffee Host

March 1 Ken & Violet Leibensperger  
 March 8-Ken & Violet Leibensperger  
 March 15-Ken & Violet Leibensperger  
 March 22-Ken & Violet Leibensperger  
 March 29-Ken & Violet Leibensperger

### March Deacon

Connie Martin

### SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flower Sponsors:  
 March 1, 8 & 15  
 April 12  
 Bulletin Sponsors:  
 March 8, & 15  
 April 12  
 Coffee Hosts  
 April 19 & 26  
 May 3, 10, 17, 27 & 31

The signup sheets are in the Social Hall.



### **St. John's Fellowship** by Ginny Knapp

It's time for members of St. John's Fellowship to think about coming out of hibernation and back to the business of raising funds for the church! We've had a long break and now we need to get busy.

Spring is coming, I know it doesn't feel like that now but it will be here before you know it. Our Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale is on the agenda for the next meeting. We need to be checking drawers and closets for slightly used articles.

Our next meeting, Tuesday, March 17th is also St. Patty's Day. So let's come out wearing the green! 7:00 PM is the time of the meeting. Hope to see you there.

### **From the Christian Education Corner** by Angie Michael

You might be wondering about the display that you see on the wooden table at the front of the social hall. This committee decided to share with the congregation this prayer station display that will remain on the table throughout the Lenten season. The theme is "Jesus: I am the bread of life." There are three stations, each station has a title card, an instruction card, and a prayer card for you to read. I encourage each of you to take some time either before Christian Connection, before or after the worship service one or two Sundays or perhaps when you are in the church building during the week for Bible study or choir practice to take a look at one or all of these stations, read the instructions, complete the activity, and read the prayer. Perhaps you will want to re-visit one or more of these stations throughout Lent--and you are encouraged to do so! We hope you will use these prayer stations to reflect on your relationship with Jesus as we prepare ourselves for the journey through Holy Week, followed by the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** by Scott Benfer

**ATTENTION:** St John's youth, we have scheduled a new and cool event for Thursday, March 19, 2015. Sky Zone trampoline jumping. It is several large trampolines and a large foam ball pit. One trampoline is a dodge ball court that we can use to play dodgeball in. Bring your friends and let's have a great time! There is no fee for the youth, but the cost for adults is \$17 per adult. This is for an hour and a half of jumping. All are welcome to attend. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Let's get a group together for an awesome game of dodge ball. We will leave St John's at 5:00 PM and return at approximately 9:00 PM. If you have any questions, see Scott Benfer.

Hope to see you there!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

We are celebrating the laity of the Lebanon UCC churches! Plan to join us on Sunday, April 19, for this afternoon of celebration. We will have a tasty dinner, an energizing laity speaker and awesome prizes! Details will be forthcoming. For now . . . think Spring, mark the date, and plan to join us for this exciting event! Sponsored by the Association Life Team of the Lebanon Association UCC churches. Any questions, please contact Kay Boyer at 273-4156 or [kboyer7@comcast.net](mailto:kboyer7@comcast.net).

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

### March Choir Anthems and Musical Offerings

**Mar 1** Second Sunday in Lent

The Sr. Choir will sing, "We Remember You". The words and music are by Patricia Mock.

The anthem has been arranged by Douglas Nolan.

J.B. Yorty is our guest organist this day.

**Mar 8** Third Sunday in Lent

Pam and Gary Emery will provide the musical offering.

**Mar 15** Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Sr. Choir will sing, "I Can Hear the Savior Calling". Music by Darian Krimm, and the words and arrangement is by Joseph Marti

**Mar 22** Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Hand Bells will provide the musical offering.

**Mar 29** Palm Sunday

### Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

The committee met on Tuesday, February 17th. Louise opened the meeting with a prayer.

Our Lenten evening vesper worship will begin on Wednesday, February 25th at 6pm with a light supper in the fellowship hall, followed by worship in the sanctuary. There is sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide a light supper for these gatherings. Sr. Choir rehearsal will follow the vesper service.

During Holy Week, there will be no Wednesday evening worship. Instead, that week our gathering for a light supper in the fellowship hall and worship will be on Maundy Thursday, April 2. Our worship service that evening will include communion and the Sr. Choir will sing.

The community Good Friday worship will be here at St. John's UCC on Friday, April 3rd. We will attempt to have a community choir with voices from all the participating churches sing an anthem that evening.

Our discussion focused on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month Youth Sundays on March 29th, Palm Sunday. We will be calling youth to participate in the worship service. We are hopeful that a group of youth led by Kadie Walmer will sing a contemporary anthem for that morning's musical offering.

The committee members will work with Pastor Tony to provide visual elements and images to enhance the worship experience. These visuals would relate to one or more of the lectionary scripture readings of the day.

Charlene reported to the committee the discussions from the recent Lay Leader / Committee Chairperson meeting. There is a follow meeting scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 22nd. Louise will attend for this committee.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 20, at 7PM. Gary Trautman will lead our devotions.



### *Thank you!*

*Thank you for remembering me with cards and notes during the past months as I meet the challenges of my blood pressure issues and chronic kidney disease. You make my day with your concerns, prayers and cheery wishes.*

*Sincerely, Karen Light*

### *Thank You!*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank my church family and Pastor Tony for all the calls, cards, flowers, and food that Larry and I received during this time of my shoulder surgery. Your well wishes and encouragement has been appreciated. And after a bit of physical therapy I expect to have a complete recovery.*

*Louise Walmer*

## **Sr. Choir Members** by Louise Walmer

**Reminder:** During Lent our choir rehearsals will begin immediately following the Wednesday evening vesper worship.

On April 2nd, choir rehearsals will be back to our normal Wednesdays at 7PM schedule. We will be singing an anthem for the 7PM Maundy Thursday worship and the 7PM Good Friday worship. Both these services will be here at St. Johns' UCC.

## **CONSISTORY REPORT**

by Joe Ditzler, Consistory President

At its reorganizational meeting in January, the Consistory elected the following officers for this year: President Joe Ditzler—Vice-President Bob Seltzer—Treasurer Walter Bolles—Secretary Missy Daub. The Consistory meets the last Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

## **Calling All Youth** by Louise Walmer

**To the Youth of St John's:** If you are willing to help during the March 29th worship service and/or sing with Kadie on that day, please contact Pastor Tony, Kadie Walmer, or Louise Walmer before or after church. At other times, Pastor Tony can be reached at the church office 865-7222, Kadie by calling 821-1050 and Louise at 865-5103. Thank you.

## **NEW HORIZONS 2015**

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 for future programs, please call Betty Holdren (866-2013), Dolores Wolfe (867-1807), Eleanor Hollowell (865-8087), Etta Cuddelford (273-8140), Eleanor Baylor (865-4977), Ann Wagner (867-8087), or Patricia Rentschler (865-1492).

**March 28 – 2:00 PM** – Meet at Hebron UMC Church on East Walnut Street, Lebanon. Program is “Joy Choir”. Dinner will be at A & M Pizza, East Cumberland St., Lebanon.

**April 25 – 2:00 PM** - Slide presentation, “Grand Canyon” by Dale & Jodi Diffenbach. Meet at Christ Church UCC, S. White Oak St., Annville. Eat at Water Works Fire Hall.

**May 23 – 2:00 PM**- Miniature Golf and games. Meet at Kauffman's Bar-B-Que, Bethel.

**June 27 – 2:00 PM** – Quilt – trunk show by Pauline Charles. Meet at Quentin UCC Church. Eat at Quentin House Restaurant.

Note—Programs are subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members whose names and phone numbers are listed at the top.

# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion)  Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	<b>2</b> Pastor Tony Vacation	<b>3</b> Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	<b>4</b> Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  6PM—Light Supper Followed by Vesper Services	<b>5</b> Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	<b>6</b> Pastor Tony Vacation	<b>7</b> Pastor Tony Vacation
<b>8</b> Pastor Tony Vacation Daylight Savings Time Starts 3rd Sunday in Lent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Joy Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	<b>11</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  6PM—Light Supper Followed by Vesper Services Choir Practice following service.	<b>12</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 4th Sunday in Lent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Education Committee meeting following worship One Great Hour of Sharing	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM   7PM Fellowship Group Meeting	<b>18</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  6PM—Light Supper Followed by Vesper Services Choir Practice following worship.	<b>19</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Sky Zone Trampoline Jumping Event 5PM—9PM	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 5th Sunday in Lent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Dine & Donate Sunday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	<b>25</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  6PM—Light Supper Followed by Vesper Services Choir Practice following services.	<b>26</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  7:00 PM Consistory	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Deacon Fund Sunday	<b>30</b> Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	<b>31</b>	April 1	April 2 Maundy Thursday 6PM—Light Supper Followed by Vesper Service.  	April 3 Good Friday 7PM Good Friday Service  	

## St. John's United Church of Christ

141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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

**Every Sunday**  
**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.*

### *Church Staff*

Rev. Tony Fields, Sr. Pastor  
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist  
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director

### *Consistory*

Joe Ditzler, President  
Robert Seltzer, Vice President  
Missy Daub, Secretary  
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

### *Elders*

Walter Bolles  
Missy Daub  
Joe Ditzler  
Robin Gingrich  
Neil Grimes  
Terry Knapp

### *Deacons*

Pam Emery  
Connie Martin  
Morgan Hevel  
Bob Seltzer  
Mark Tyrpin  
Pat Ziegler