

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

MARCH WORSHIP

Sunday March 6 has us looking at Psalm 103 and Ephesians 2, "What's so Amazing About Grace?" Special music will be offered by Miranda Schell.

Sunday March 13 is Church Camp Sunday led by our children and youth.

Sunday March 20 is Palm Sunday. Our Sunbeam Choir will sing, Bob Lemon will bless us with his trumpet, and Pastor Lynch will speak on "Clap, Clap, Clap." Be sure to pick up your palm.

Holy Thursday March 24 we will share a meal in the social hall at 6:00, then we go upstairs to the sanctuary for a 7:00 communion service. Please bring a dessert to share.

Good Friday March 25 has a solemn Tenebrae Service at the Mountville Church to which we are invited at 7:00.

Easter Day March 27 worship includes our garden of Easter flowers, an Easter Choir and Pastor Lynch's uplifting message "News you can use."

EASTER FLOWERS

Bethany will once again offer Lily, Hyacinth, Daffodil and Tulip Easter flowers for \$8.00 to create a garden of flowers in honor or remembrance of loved ones. There is an order form in this newsletter.

LOYAL WORKERS

The Loyal Workers are having a bakeless bake sale on Sunday, March 13. Instead of baking we would appreciate a contribution of the items you would be baking. Boxes will be in the back of the church and on the table in the overflow area. These funds will be used to help purchase new carpet for the Sunday School classrooms.

The Loyal Workers held their Valentine Luncheon for Interfaith Manor residents on Saturday February 13. Thank you to all who contributed and helped. We also want to thank all the residents for attending despite the cold weather. We are moving the Luncheon for next year to April 1. Thank you, Sandy Pillsbury

EASTER CHOIR

Easter choir practice February 28 at 10:00 in the chapel. We will practice each Sunday leading up to Easter. Hope to see you there! ~ Helen Lutz and Audrey Scipioni

BETHANY PEOPLE

Congratulations to Don Brubaker who recently was presented with the William and Nancy Kepler Community Service Award by the Palmyra Borough Council. We also recognize and appreciate all the Bru does in our community and church.

Many thanks to Dave Brandt and his crew from Brandt's Landscaping, for plowing and shoveling all the snow around Bethany...Helen Lutz continues her rehab at Cedar Haven, Lebanon.

Emily Scipioni came the closest in predicting the final score of the Super Bowl and has received her trophy and a gift card to Lisa's....Larry and Joan Strait recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, Dave and Paula Brandt celebrated their 25th on Valentine's Day, and praise the Lord for 59 married years for Lewis and Roberta Brough.

It has been just announced by Bishop Johnson that Rev. Gary Nicholson, our District Superintendent and former pastor here at Bethany, is being appointed to Christ United Methodist Church, Lansdale, PA, effective July 1, 2016. Our new Superintendent is Rev. Joe Tyson.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember 40 years ago in 1976 the men and women who served the Lord by providing leadership to our Bethany church family? Here are a few of them: Lay Leader Lamar Shomper, Treasurer Paul Hoover, Evangelism Chair Kermit Koch, Sunday School Superintendent Claude Mader, Children's Ministries Chair Diane Schell, Youth Ministries Chair Ken Schaeffer, Delegate to Annual Conference Dale Patrick, Missions Chair Janet Fake and Historian Catherine Frantz.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday June 12, the Unity Quartet in gospel concert.

Sunday July 31, our outdoor worship and picnic.

Saturday October 8, the Apple Fest.

Saturday November 12, Loyal Workers Holiday Bazaar.

WHOOPIE PIE SALE

Thank you to all who supported the children and youth with their Whoopie pies sale, we are doing it again on March 13, 2016. Proceeds will help the children reduce the cost of this wonderful experience. Whoopi pies will be available for pick up on March 13th after church in the gathering room. Signup sheet is available on the table in the gathering room. Whoopie Pies are \$1.25.

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS**Acolyte:** Allison Deimler**Greeters/Ushers:** Paul and Karen Leicht,
Larry and Joan Strait**Scripture Readers;**MARCH 6: Michelle Patrick
MARCH 13: Children
MARCH 20: Pastor Lynch
MARCH 27: Pastor Lynch**Sound System Operators:**MARCH 6: Don Brubaker
MARCH 13: Dick Lasher
MARCH 20: Barry Smith
MARCH 27: Don BrubakerMARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 - Terry Patrick	10 - Cara Scipioni	28 - Kevin Brubaker
2 - Arlene Gable	12 - Emily Scipioni	28 - Steven Hallman
3 - Greta Ehrhart	15 - Harriet Linebaugh	28 - Aiden Schell
5 - Barbara Laraia	16 - Almeda Long	29 - Nannette Rechel
10 - Anna Scipioni	21 - Selma Patrick	

PASTOR'S PUN

Before I was a minister, I had lots of jobs.
 I used to work in a bakery because I kneaded the dough.
 I tried working in a bank, but I soon lost interest.
 I found work in an orange juice plant, but I just couldn't concentrate.
 I tried to get work at the Coca-Cola factory, but I failed the pop quiz.
 I even did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Come have a free breakfast at Bethany and have a picture of your children taken with the Easter Bunny. Come on Saturday March 19, 2016, from 9-11. Donations benefit the Children's Lunch program at the Caring Cupboard. If you would like to help serve or donate food, please see the signup sheet in the Gathering Room. ~ Cindy Anspach 534-1034

THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers and investment in the Teen Challenge Training Center. Your love offering gift of \$447.00 is much appreciated. Thank you for helping to bring wholeness to so many who feel hopeless. It was a pleasure and joy to sing and share the Lord with you at your Souper Sunday Worship service ~ Bob Constanza, Director, Teen Challenge Choir

RURAL RAMBLINGS
40 Bag Challenge
By Sue Bowman

In the nursery rhyme, "Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full" is the answer to "Baa, baa black sheep, have you any wool?" Three seems like a relatively small number of bags, especially since I have bigger things in mind--like taking on the 40 bag challenge!

Before I explain further about this challenge (which has nothing to do with wool), I need to note that the liturgical season of Lent got underway earlier in February. During this six week period leading up to Easter, Christians are encouraged to practice self-denial and become more contemplative about Christ's sacrifice on the cross. It's a good time to try and break bad habits--or to form new ones.

In years past, I've given up things like ice cream or buying my morning coffee at a convenience store and then donating my savings to a worthy cause. This year I decided to give up drinking sodas, since I've been reading how bad they can be for your health and they often seem to be the only choice if you're eating out. Shortly after committing to that goal, my friend Jane threw out another possibility--she called it the 40 bag challenge.

Jane and her husband have recently relocated from York County, PA to North Carolina, where they've built a new home. We've been having Internet discussions about how much excess "stuff" we seem to have accumulated for various reasons through the years, so Jane came up with the idea of challenging each other to get rid of one bag of "stuff" for each of the 40 days of Lent.

One of the nice things about Lenten denial is that you get to make up your own rules. We decided that our standard would be the plastic grocery bag--though anything larger than that would obviously be acceptable, as well. We also decided that it was okay to play catch-up (since we only decided on this the second day of Lent, when we were already two bags behind), as well as to "bank" bags for future days. That way, it's acceptable to do most of the de-junking on the week-ends, when both of us tend to have more time.

In addition to motivating us to declutter our respective abodes, there's also the possibility that a good bit of our stuff doesn't need to go in the trash--it can be recycled to thrift shops, friends in need or even be regifted. This adds a greater purpose to our somewhat selfish goal of wanting to make our homes more spacious and our lives more organized.

I thought about asking Dennis to participate in the challenge, but it didn't seem like much of a challenge for someone who's in charge of the barn area. He's already happily stuffing baler twine and plastic bale wrap into feed bags and properly disposing of them. Besides, he probably discards 40 grocery bags worth of barn stuff in one week's time.

As for me, while it seems I have way too much clutter and stuff, I've been surprised how much one little plastic grocery bag can hold. Paper clutter--which seems to be my biggest problem--seems to take up much more space on the kitchen island, a desk or tucked away in a tote bag, than it does when tossed neatly into a grocery bag. Whereas I once thought the 40 bag challenge was going to be a snap, I'm no longer so sure; I'm now thinking it might take me well into April.

One thing that is for sure--I have *plenty* of items that need to be tossed or relocated to a new owner. It's not the surplus goods that are lacking--it's the time to sift through things and the will to let go of them. Seems like this might end up being a better Lenten assignment than I could've imagined. It's a little late to get started, but feel free to join me in the 40 bag challenge--and since we make up our own rules for Lent, go ahead and stipulate your bag size and a reduced number of bags, since Easter is March 27th.

(WRITTEN FOR THE LANCASTER FARMING NEWSPAPER)

EASTER FLOWERS

EASTER FLOWERS may be ordered today through Sunday, March 13. Please fill in all the necessary information below, and put this form with your cash or check made out to "Bethany United Methodist Church" in an envelope, and place it in the offering plate. You may also mail or drop off your form and payment at the church office. Additional forms are found on the information table and the rear of the sanctuary.

Type of Flower	<u>Price</u>	<u>No. Ordered</u>
Lily	\$8.00	_____
Tulips	\$8.00	_____
Hyacinth	\$8.00	_____
Daffodil	\$8.00	_____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

