

The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

February, 2010

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The Pastor Writes:



The Lenten season can be a rich source of spiritual and practical sustenance – especially in tumultuous times.

Setting aside extra time or, more likely, *making* extra time for silence, meditation, prayer, scripture reading, journaling and the like are important disciplines for strengthening our faith and spirit.

The weight of recent events in Haiti can “affright” us. Add to that a fractured economy, dissention within our political system, and personal challenges and before too long inertia can set in. The load seems too heavy to bear. Where can we turn for comfort and wisdom? Fortunately, St. Theresa reminds us, “Patient endurance attains all things.” When we turn our attention to God, we find what we need.

Lent is a God-given opportunity for us to set down the burdens for the world and ourselves at Jesus’ feet. Let Christ sort through the sheer tonnage of seemingly unsolvable problems and show us how to live with serenity, courage and wisdom in these days. Let’s learn -- one more time -- how “God alone suffices.”

*Let nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee;
All things are passing;
God never changes;
Patient endurance
Attains all things;
Who God possesses
Is wanting in nothing;
God alone suffices.”*

Peace,
Pastor Leigh

One way that we can strengthen our common walk through Lent is through an intentional focus on our lectionary readings for each week. The following are the lections for the month of February:

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

February 7

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5: 1-11

February 14

Exodus 34:29-35
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 21-Communion

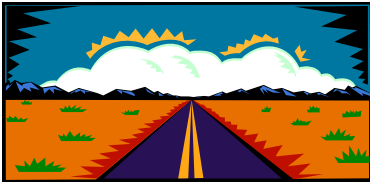
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

February 28

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Dates to Remember

- February 2 Women’s Guild, St. Peter’s, 7:15 p.m.
- 2 Autism Support Group at local restaurant, NOON
- 3 Search and Profile committees, Salem, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Salem’s Secret Sisters dinner, Carriage Corners, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 7 Northern Association Workshops, Trinity UCC, Centre Hall, 1:15 p.m.
- 10 Salem’s Hoss’s night fundraiser for 4 Our Churches campaign
- 12/13 St. Peter’s Donut Days
- 16 St. Peter’s consistory, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 21 Salem’s Pot Luck Lunch following worship.
- 24 Newsletter deadline



SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Once again the community of faith is invited to the weekly Lenten services offered in the valley. The theme for 2010 is "This Lenten Road" where we will follow Jesus down the roads of his various ministries and experiences.

As in years past, except for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, all other services will be held on Wednesday evenings. Every service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and, in the case of inclement weather, cancellations will follow the school closings. This year's offering will benefit the valley's vacation Bible school program. The following is the Lenten schedule:

- Feb. 17 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran, Millheim
Ash Wednesday service including the imposition of ashes and Communion
- *Feb. 24 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's UCC, Rebersburg**
- *Mar. 3 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's UCC, Aaronsburg**
- *Mar. 10 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's Lutheran, Rebersburg**
- Mar. 17 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. St. James United Methodist, Coburn
- Mar. 24 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Emmanuel United Methodist, Rebersburg
- Apr. 1 Thursday 7:00 p.m. St. Luke's United Methodist, Millheim
Maundy Thursday Communion service
- Apr. 2 Friday 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service, Madisonburg United Methodist

***Please note:** We have three Wednesday's in a row with a St. Peter's church hosting. Be extra careful when reading the schedule to make sure that you show up at the appropriate St. Peter's location for the service 😊.

Also, many people are rushed after work to make it to a 7:00 p.m. service. They come home, eat and then jump into their car and race to the service or, they simply choose not to come. Let us help you tone down the mad dash. Join with others going to the services each week for a soup supper (at a location to be decided) at 6:00 p.m. after which we can proceed to the service.



Salem Happenings - ATTENTION: There will be a special Congregational meeting at Salem following morning worship on February 7, 2010. The topic is renovations to the church, insulation, and painting. Please attend so you know what is going on.

The Longest Night service was hosted by Salem on December 21. There were 25 of us sharing our tears and grief remembering our loved ones as we lit candles. Thank you Pastor Leigh for a very heartfelt service.

St. Peter's hosted the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. We remembered the birth of Jesus through hymns and scripture readings. The evening's offering of \$317.25 was sent to the Bethany Children's Home.

Thank you to everyone who stayed after church on December 27 to take the tree down, raise the doors, vacuum, fold tables, set chairs and take the poinsettia stand down. Big work was made small thanks to lots of hands.

We had to say goodbye to Robert Lingle, Sr. who joined his wife and our Heavenly Father on December 24, 2009. Bob was born on March 6, 1929 and married the love of his life, Gladys Klinefelter on June 30, 1948. He is survived by his six children: Janice, Marcia, Robert Jr., Kevin, David and Amy. Bob had farmed before moving to the Penns Valley area and he retired from the Agriculture department at Penn State. Bob was a member of Salem since 1984. He was a member of the Black Panther Riding Club, loved camping and spending time with his family and friends. More times than not, when you would visit Bob at his home in Aaronsburg, you were greeted by the family dog and once you were inside, his pet cockatiel, BJ would fly around and let you know he was there. Bob spent hours and hours on his front porch in good weather. His funeral service was held at Salem UCC on December 29, 2009 with Rev. Leigh Pick officiating, assisted by layman, Jody Covalt. Bob was buried at Fairview Cemetery in Millheim. A meal was served to family and friends at the Millheim Firehall following the service. Bob is missed by many. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Lingle family.

Janie Shook, Dave Sweeley, Janet Devinnay, Steve Swartz and Peggy Swartz were installed as Consistory members on January 3. The congregation congratulated the newly installed during the passing of the peace. Thank you to these five people for being willing to serve the church in this capacity.

The church used the Discretionary Fund and gave \$150.00 to help a person with expenses.

Dave McCool from Vinyl Concepts did the sign for the marquee listing Rev. S. Leigh Pick as Interim Pastor and he did not charge us for it. A thank you was sent, but if you know Dave and see him, thank him again.

Philip Rishel and Tasha Rearick will be using the church for rehearsal on April 9 and their wedding on April 10. Mike Covalt will be officiating.

Salem's Secret Sisters will be meeting at Carriage Corners on February 6 at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, spouses are invited. Please let Karen Boob know ASAP if you plan to attend, the restaurant needs a count of how many. You can have the buffet or order off the menu, your choice. Sisters, please bring a \$10.00 gift card for a restaurant of your choice to exchange. If you are not one of the gang now but you are interested for this year, please join us, we will be drawing new names.

The next Hoss's night for 4 Our Churches campaign is Wednesday, February 10. See Donna Auman or Helen Sweeley for cards. Another date is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20. Put these dates on your calendar.

Women's Guild will once again be collecting items for "Operation Shoebox" during the month of February. A list of items will be posted on the collection box in the Narthex, please take a copy so you will have it when you go shopping. All our items will be taken to Campanis Shoe Store in Bellefonte. Dino Campanis boxes everything up and ships it to the troops overseas. We will also accept money towards postage to mail these supplies to the troops. If you know of any local people who are in the service overseas, please give us their address and rotation date.

Please keep the people on our Prayer Chain in your prayers along with our troops and anyone else you may know. Give a helping hand if you can.

Helen Sweeley



Prayer Chain - All Service Personnel and their families. All Charge Shut-ins: Polly Crader, Julie Haines, Gladys Hartley, Tom Hazel, Ellen Huey, Maxine Ross, and Bernice Warntz.

Haiti Earthquake Victims, Dorothy Alters, Loretta Auman Family, Ryan Balliett, Clinton Bonson, Emily Boob & Family, Fred Boob, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, Isabel Brindle, Bob Brown, John "Jack" Brown, Kay Brown, Joan Chestnut, Carol & Nelson Cook, Alex Corman, T.J. Coursen, Janie Crater, Suzanne Davidson, Janet Devinnay, Michael Dimock, Dr. Lillian Earle, Jean Eisenhuth, Karen Glasgow, Mary Ann Hagen, Luke Haskell, Benjamin Hosterman, Jonathan Huey, Pat Kelly, Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq), Dean Krape Family, Dave Lingle, Marcia Lingle, Robert Lingle Sr. Family, Makayla Luse, Fred & Betty Mensch, Sam Moore, Carrie Neese, Loretta Neff, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, The Ross Family, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Shirley Rossman, Lowell Rote, Abigail Royer and baby Gabriel, Warren Royer, Jackie Shawver, Tyler Shawver, Ardell & Sarah Smith, Doris Z. Smith, Bernice Snyder, Shirley Snyder-Birth, Frank Stapleton, Family of Dean Stover, Evelyn Stover, Randall Stover, Randolph Swartz, Barb Tobias, Roy VanGilder, Adam Weaver Family, Mildred Wingard and Roxann Zarchin.

Please feel free to add/subtract from this list by calling your Consistory President. Please make the changes in your church's prayer chain board.

Excerpts from a letter from Marja L. Coons-Torn: Friday, January 15, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All of us are reeling from the pictures that have come out of Haiti in the last 72 hours. Such devastation is hard to imagine. As people of faith, we are called upon to respond to this crisis and we know that, just as we have done before, we will rise to this challenge. Congregations and individuals are already coming forth with monetary gifts and offers of assistance. Gifts can be given directly online at www.ucc.org, or can be sent through Penn Central Conference. I urge you to consider giving through the Church because we know that, with help from our partners at Church World Service, we are able to get

assistance where it is needed more quickly and at a much lower cost than some secular agencies. It is tempting to want to consider gathering food or clothing to send, but with all of the logistics involved, and without knowing exactly what is needed most, it is probably best for us to give to the people who can make the proper purchases.

...

Among the ways you can respond are to decide to become involved with our Disaster Response Readiness Ministry Team, or with our Peace and Justice Ministry Team...

...

In the meantime, prayer and awareness are powerful tools. As a congregation, you can follow the latest by visiting www.ucc.org/disaster/ There you will find, along with updates from those who are on the ground on Haiti, a bulletin insert, a very moving hymn, and a powerful pastoral prayer.

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St. Peter's News - Thankfully, we were able to hold our Christmas Eve Communion and Candle Lighting Service on Thursday, December 24, 2009, even though an ice storm threatened. Thank you to everyone who participated from Salem and St. Peter's to make this such a meaningful service. A service of installation of newly elected consistory members (David Edwards, Virginia Hosterman, Linda Musser and Frank Stapleton) was held on Sunday, January 3, 2010. A big "thank you" to Lori Corman, who has served on consistory for over 30 years and decided not to run for re-election this year. We at St. Peter's appreciate all of the love and devotion Lori has put into being our secretary for these many years.

The flowers placed on the altar January 17 and 24 were given by Terry Bressler and Barbara Bower in memory of Glenn Bressler, grandson Aaron Gutshall, and Larry Bower.

Please remember in prayer the families of Bob Lingle, Dean Krape, and Jim Homan as they grieve the passing of these gentlemen from our community.

Consistory members: Please refer to the annual report (when we have it) to note changes in the offering counters schedule. If you are not able to count on a particular Sunday, it is your responsibility to arrange for someone to replace you. Thank you.

~Ginny Hosterman~

February 2010 Calendar - St. Peter's, Worship – 9:30, Sunday School - 10:45

<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Monthly Greeter</u>	<u>Monthly Offering Counters</u>
7	Ed Kerstetter	Hank K	Fay & Frank	Ginny and Tracy
14	Brenda Stover	Fay & Frank		
21	Bonnie DeBrasky	Fay & Frank		
28	Bill Miles	Fay & Frank		



Women's Guild - The Women's Guild is sponsoring "Operation Shoebox" again this year. The collection of items will be the month of February.

Candy: heat resistant, Fruit breezes (throat drops), Twizzlers

Correspondence: writing paper and envelopes, pens, pencils

Dental: floss, mouthwash, toothbrushes, toothpaste

Drink: coffee (instant), coffee creamer, Gatorade, powdered drink mixes, tea mixes (sweet), Kool Aid bursts (to freeze)

Food: including dry goods, snacks- sugar packets, Bars (Clif or Balance), beef jerky, canned fruit (pop top cans), cereal (in small boxes), Girl Scout cookies, granola bars, gum, oatmeal (instant), Pop Tarts, Ramen Noodles (any flavor), ravioli (pop top cans), tuna kits

Music: CD fanny packs, CDs, tapes, DVDs (new and used), hand held electronic games, Sudoku books

Printed materials: books (novels, short stories), newspapers (local), magazines

Toiletries/hygiene: baby wipes, nose spray, eye drops, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, foot powder, hairbrushes, hand lotion, hand sanitizers (waterless), nail clippers, Q-tips, razors (disposable), shampoo, sunscreen, tissues (heavy duty i.e. Puffs), travel size body wash, Tylenol (individual packets)

Games: board games, checkers (travel size), crossword puzzles, playing cards

Other: plastic spoons, American flags (small), baggies (with zip lock), batteries (AA, D, ...), bug spray (must be packaged in zip-lock bag), duct tape, disposable cameras, flashlights (mini/mag lite, extra bulbs, lots of batteries), fans (battery powered – small with extra batteries), fly strips, fly swatters, pre-paid phone cards, shoe insole cushions, socks (cushioned white calf high)

JOINT CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS - The first meeting of the year was held January 19 at St. Peter's. Jo LaRocque from Northern Association Ministry Commission was with us at the beginning of our meeting to let us know she will be our liaison between us and Penn Central Conference during the Search process due to the restructuring of the Conference. Any questions we have, she is the person to go to.

Pastor Leigh works on her sermon on Thursdays and Friday is her day off.

Brenda Stover did a great job as usual keeping track of our finances for the Charge.

There will be a sunrise service at St. Peter's on Easter morning beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The computer at the parsonage was repaired and a printer donated.

Volunteers are filling in for Jackie Shawver, the Charge secretary, while she is out sick. Please keep her in your prayers.

The copier at the parsonage has a maintenance contract which we increased the number of copies from 12,000 to 20,000. The cost is \$432.00.

Newsletter deadlines were set for the year.

The Charge's profile is done. The Profile and Search committees will meet February 3 at Salem at 7 p.m.

Election of officers returned the same ones for another year. President – Ken Royer, Vice-president – Ginny Hosterman, Secretary - Helen Sweeley, and Treasurer - Brenda Stover.

Committees for the year are:

- Parsonage: Gary (chair) & Donna Auman, Bonnie DeBraskey, and Jim Stover
 - Spiritual Life: Cindy Ross, Peggy Swartz, Janie Shook, Ginny Hosterman (chair), Tracy Ridenour, and Marilyn Weaver
 - Church & Ministry: Dave Sweeley, Wendell Royer, Janie Shook, Linda Musser (chair), Brenda Stover, and Marilyn Weaver
 - Profile: Donna & Gary Auman, Cindy Ross, Dave Edwards, Ginny Hosterman (chair), and Doug Royer
- Joint Consistory President Ken Royer is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Catch ya next quarter.

Helen Sweeley, Secretary, Joint Consistory

ALL-CHURCH VALENTINE DINNER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010

4:00 PM - ST. PETER'S UCC



Grab your Valentine sweetheart and join us Sunday afternoon, February 21 at 4:00 p.m. for a spaghetti dinner. Sign-ups will follow for food donations, helpers and reservations (but if your calendar clears up at the last minute and you can come - by all means come join us). There will also be a prize awarded the person who guesses how many M & M's are in a jar!

Following the dinner there will be a short program featuring Tracy Ridenour, Dave Sweeley, Pastor Leigh and their learnings from a recent Conference workshop on "Turnaround Strategies for Small Churches."

So bring those you love, your appetite and your listening ear for an evening of good food, fellowship and sharing!

Friends With a Mission - We will be collecting donations of candy, quarters, or monetary donations. This would be in addition to the sandwich sale. The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 27th at the Wert Memorial Park in Aaronsburg. Sandwich orders are due by February 4th. Please contact Fay Stapleton or Tracy Ridenour or Ed/Barb Kerstetter if you would like a sandwich for Thursday evening, February 11 or Friday, February 12.