

The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

March, 2010

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The Pastor Writes:



As I write this pastor's letter we are in the depths of winter and the very beginning of Lent. Spring and Easter seem a long way off. It is in this "not yet" part of the journey that we find out what we are made of.

Some people cope by complaining. Some just get depressed. Others concoct dramas in their lives to keep from dealing with more pressing issues or concerns. More constructive approaches vary from developing deeper spiritual disciplines like prayer, meditation, reading inspirational writings, journaling, engaging in Bible study, or fasting.

These days in particular call us to expand our spiritual practices and increase our faith. Let us heed that call.

Peace,
Pastor Leigh

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

March 7, 2010 Third Sunday in Lent		Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
March 14, 2010 Fourth Sunday in Lent		Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
March 21, 2010 Fifth Sunday in Lent		Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126 Psalm 119:9-16	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
March 28, 2010 Sixth Sunday in Lent	Liturgy of the Palms	none	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	none	Luke 19:28-40 John 12:12-16
	Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 Luke 23:1-49

Upcoming Meetings to Discuss PCC Staff Changes

Clergy and lay leaders welcome to attend a meeting on staff changes in Penn Central Conference. We encourage everyone (clergy and lay leaders) who is interested in the ways that the Conference supports local churches and associations to attend the meeting in your area. No registration is required.

Feb. 28: 3 pm – 5 pm: St. John's UCC, Boalsburg
218 N. Church St., Boalsburg 16827

Friends with a Mission

A Potluck Supper will be held March 20 at 6pm at St. Peter's. We will be stuffing the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Donations of quarters, or money to purchase candy/prizes may be given to Nicole Wolfe or Pam Royer.

St. Peter's News


Our joint Healing Service was held on Sunday, January 31 at Salem. I think everyone who attended was moved by this compassionate and discerning worship experience.

The participation at the children's moment for the "Souper Bowl" Sunday service was fantastic! A big thank you goes to all the young people who participated in the "game plan" and cheers and to Bonnie and Tracy for planning this wonderful event. Our "Souper Bowl" offering was \$118.61 for the local food bank.

Pastor Leigh, Tracy and Marilyn attended the Northern Association Workshops the afternoon of February 7 at Trinity UCC in Centre Hall. These educational workshops are always inspiring.

Our new sound system was installed by Phil Reigh and was used for the first time on February 7. Sounding good! If you would like to contribute to the replacement of the sound system (\$1,090), please put a donation in an envelope with your name on it and drop it in the offering plate with your regular offering envelope.

Friends with a Mission made sandwiches to sell on Thursday, February 11. The profit from this sale will go to help sponsor the Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the community.

 Donut Days were held on Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13. A big "thank you" to all who participated from bringing ingredients to the mixers, rollers, fryers, sugarers, "donut movers", cashiers, and cleaners. This is a big undertaking and wouldn't be possible without a lot of help from the workers. We even had help from some grown up "children" who remember Donut Days from their childhood – April Cole's children, Jacqui and Heather, from our sister church (Gary Auman) and from some friends (Amy Nale). A big thank you to Pastor Leigh, also. This year's donuts were a success (financially - \$933.00, and the donuts were very good!).

We celebrated Communion at morning worship on the First Sunday of Lent (February 17) and a spaghetti supper was held for both churches at St. Peter's at 4:00 PM. The food was wonderful and Tracy, Dave Sweeley and Pastor Leigh spent some time with us in worship and also presenting what they learned from their visit to Penn Central Conference to study strategies for making stronger churches.

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

<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Monthly Greeter</u>	<u>Monthly Offering Counters</u>
7	Lori Corman		Helen Benner	Ed Kerstetter/Orvil Hosterman
14	Marilyn Weaver	Phoebe Anskis		
21	Dixie Ort	Dave Edwards		
28	Ginny Hosterman	PALMS		

Ginny Hosterman, Consistory Secretary

Thank you all for the cards, prayers, good thoughts and offers of "let me know what I can do for you". I'm just starting my battle with these 2 very different cancers, but knowing so many people are pulling for me gives me great hope. Your caring and kindness are greatly appreciated.

On the "good news" front - my son Tyler (tree fell on him in August) has been released by his Doctor. He is in great shape and is resuming all his normal activities.

Jackie Shawver

Salem Happenings

Salem's Mission Statement: Our mission goal is to service the community in a Christian way, to love one another and to worship God together seeking truth, justice and peace.

Thank you to the church mouse who purchased and hung a clock in the social room. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The Joint Healing Service was held at Salem on January 31. Marilyn Weaver shared her talent with us and played the organ. Frank and Fay Stapleton, Ken Royer, Dave and I helped Pastor Leigh with the anointing of oil. Brenda Stover and Bonnie DeBrasky helped with the communion in intinction. Thank you to all these people for helping to make this special service a success. A special thank you to Pastor Leigh for making the service mean so much. I know this was the most heartfelt healing service I've ever attended. The flowers on the altar were placed there by Polly Crader in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and Alfred Crader.

"Souper Bowl Sunday" was celebrated with the soup kettle being passed and Josh collected \$95.25 this year. The money was put with St. Peter's and donated to the Millheim Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who gave from the heart.

February 7 was the Northern Association Workshops which were held at Trinity UCC in Centre Hall this year. The three workshops offered were: "The Stillspeaking Bible Study", "Using the Narrative Budget" and "Recycling". Janie Shook, Kay Brown, Dave and I attended and between us, we took all three workshops. Pastor Leigh, Marilyn Weaver and Tracy Ridenour also attended. Each church was supposed to bring a chocolate dish and something else. We split it between the two churches, St. Peter's took the chocolate and Salem took a cream puff cake. It was a very yummy intermission. Since the one workshop was on recycling and we did learn a few things, a box to recycle leftover bulletins and paper has been put on the desk in the Narthex so everyone can take part in it. Thank you.

As a lot you saw, a lot of work has been happening at Salem. Friday and Saturday (February 19 & 20) work crews were busy blowing insulation into the outside walls in the hopes of making the church warmer. They're not quite done yet, but I heard a few folks say on Sunday, they thought it was warmer already. The guys were served lunch both days and we'll be looking for some more meals when they finish the insulation and then paint the inside of the church. I know some of the women will be helping with the painting. Thank you to everyone who came out those two days and helped. A special thank you to Brian and Kirk Stover for helping all day Friday and to Donny Royer for helping all day Saturday - we really appreciate your donation of time and energy. There are swatches of paint on some of the walls in the sanctuary (3 different colors). Take a look at them and let Dave Sweeley or Gary Auman know your thoughts. I suspect the colors that are picked will be looking back at us for quite a few years.

The Pot Luck Lunch was cancelled for February 21 since work was being done at the church, but we still went bowling. There were 18 that actually bowled and few of us who just talked and observed from the sidelines. It was a good time to share fellowship and have a few laughs. Thank you to Larry Shook for picking up the tab.

On behalf of the Women's Guild, thank you to everyone who brought things in for the "Operation Shoebox" project, our box was overflowing. I know the troops appreciate our support while they are away from their family and friends.

Tracy Ridenour did a great job getting the spaghetti meal together for the Charge's Valentine dinner on February 21. There was spaghetti, meatballs, salad and wonderful desserts, everything was great. After the meal, Pastor Leigh began the program for the evening. She, Tracy Ridenour and Dave Sweeley had attended a workshop at the Conference office a few weeks earlier and they made a presentation on that workshop. She opened with us naming things that have changed in our church and community in the last several years. Tracy, Dave and Pastor Leigh took turns explaining, discussing and talking about what they came away with from the workshop. What can we do to make our churches grow? The biggest percentage of people attending church were asked by another person to come to church. Our biggest problem is spiritual. What one thing would you be willing to give up each week and give the amount of money it would take to buy that to the church over and above what you already give? Examples - a latte, a pack of gum, you get the idea. Also, by now I'm sure everyone has seen the red bowls in the two churches. They are prayer bowls and will be passed around during the moments of sharing at the beginning of the service each Sunday. If you have a special prayer wish for someone, for the church, for the world, for the community or yourself, write it down, put it in the bowl and a prayer team will pray for you. That's the next thing, if you are willing to be on the prayer team, please let Pastor Leigh know. The teams will be made up of maybe three or four people at each church. The team will get together and pray for the request in the red bowl. We sang a couple hymns also. Tracy and

Dave did a great job with their presentations, thank you to both of them. Ken Royer won the prize for guessing how many red hot jelly beans were in the jar, but I think Fay Stapleton ended up with the jelly beans. Thank you to everyone who stayed and helped do dishes and clean up. It was a lovely evening.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the Women's Guild Easter Eggs. I'm not sure of the price right now, but it will be listed on the sheet. Also, Women's Guild will once again be collecting Jared Box items during the month of March. I think everyone remembers what to buy - small, quiet toys to keep children busy. The plastic boxes will be provided.

Salem's Dates to Remember:

- March 13 - Work Day at Salem
- Secret Sisters dinner at Carriage Corners 5:30 p.m. Spouses are welcome. Bring your restaurant gift card to exchange. If you would like to be a Secret Sister for 2010, come join us
- March 14 - Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn your clock one hour ahead Saturday night.
- March 15 - Salem Consistory 7:00 p. at the church
- March 21 - Daffodil Sunday. Please bring your vases to the church by Friday evening.
- Lenten Lunch following morning worship. Cooks: Ken Royer, Dave Sweeley and all the other men they can lasso.
- March 27 - Women's Guild making Easter Eggs at Lingle's. All help appreciated.
- March 28 - Palm Sunday
- April 4 - Easter Sunrise Service at St. Peter's 7:30 a.m. Light breakfast in social room.
- Regular service as Salem 10:45 a.m. with communion.
- April 11 - Northern Association Annual meeting, Emmanuel UCC, Tusseyville 1:45 p.m.
- April 18 - Pot Luck Lunch following morning worship.

I hope everyone comes out to the mid-week Lenten services. The offerings are going for Vacation Bible School. Remember to help those you can and pray for the ones you can't physically help.

HAPPY SPRING & HAPPY EASTER!

Helen Sweeley



Prayer Chain

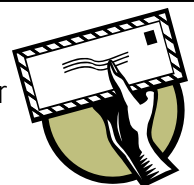
All Service Personnel and their families. All Charge Shut-ins: Polly Crader, Julie Haines, Gladys Hartley, Tom Hazel, Ellen Huey, Maxine Ross, and Bernice Warntz.

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 Rishel Chestnut Family, Carol & Nelson Cook, Alex Corman, T.J. Coursen, Janie Crater, Suzanne Davidson, Janet Devinney, Michael Dimock, Dr. Lillian Earle, Jean Eisenhuth, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Benjamin Hosterman, Jonathan Huey, Pat Kelly, Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq), Dean Krape Family, Robert Lingle Sr. Family, Dave Lingle, Marcia Lingle, Makayla Luse, Fred & Betty Mensch, Sam Moore, Carrie Neese, David E. 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, Ardell Smith & Family, 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.

HELP FIGHT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Simply collect the used postage stamps (no meter strips) from your mail. Tear off the right side (when looking at the envelope). No personal information please. Then pass them on to Barb Kerstetter at St. Peter's or Elva Fetterolf at Salem.



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with seven members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$679.96.



OUTREACH:

During the months of December and January the following gifts were given: \$75 to Ryan Balliett (car accident victim), \$50 to Judy Ribblett (child with heart defect), \$150 to Marcia Lingle (knee surgery).

OLD BUSINESS:

Thanks you's were read from Lisa Bonson and Marcia Lingle for the outreach.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will be collecting items for Operation Shoebox during the month of February. Janie will get more Jared Boxes and find out about updates to the Rolling Hills list. Janie reported that we are able to make Easter eggs at the Lingle's residence on March 27. Pastor Leigh will pass a sheet in both churches seeking helpers to do this.

The Nominating Committee reported the following candidates for officers: President, Janet VanGilder, Vice-President, Tracy Ridenour, Secretary- Brenda Stover, Treasurer-Helen Sweeley—all agreed.


The Audit Committee consisting of Donna Auman and Brenda Stover audited the books after the meeting and all was great.

We then had Bible Study and agreeing that we have the best example of beautiful nature in our midst in Centre County. We will be continuing with Bible Study of Chapter 29 in 2010 of Max Lucado's book.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 2 with Helen Benner providing devotions. We closed by joining hands and praying by name for all those that were not able to make the Healing Service on Sunday.

Hebrews 11: 1-3 - The meaning of Faith - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Brenda Ream Stover
Secretary



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of [Our Church's Wider Mission \(OCWM\)](#) , is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering. The OGHS offering is most often received the fourth Sunday of Lent, but may be taken at different times. The 2010 suggested Dedication Day is March 14, 2010.

PRAYER BOWLS



The Spirituality Task Force of Penn Central Conference will be giving red prayer bowls to every church in the Conference. The bowl will come with an invitation to appoint a small prayer team of 3-5 people who will commit themselves to 15 minutes of weekly prayer. The bowl is to be placed in a prominent location in the sanctuary where people can drop prayer requests. The prayer group will offer prayer for members of the congregation, for a particular congregational ministry, or need for a designated ministry of the Conference and the UCC. Each Association is asked to set a particular time each month for a gathering of persons who serve on these congregational prayer teams. This event is purely voluntary, but is an opportunity for our congregational prayer teams to come and life up prayer concerns for their congregation.

If you are interested in this ministry, see Pastor Leigh or a Consistory member.

2010 CAMPS AT HARTMAN CENTER



GETTING STARTED CAMPS:

For children completing grade 3. A three-day experience will serve as a gentle and interesting introduction to camping. The 3-day third grade camp is housed in the Stone House - meals served at the dining hall.

YOUNG PIONEER ADVENTURE CAMP:

For children completing grades 3-4. A week-long experience where campers stay in cabins and are introduced to camping, swimming, hiking, crafts, Bible study, and other activities.

PIONEER ADVENTURE CAMP:

For children completing grades 4-6. Junior campers live in the A-Frames. Activities such as hiking, crafts, rafting, swimming and games help to build close relationships.

PAWS, JAWS AND CLAWS CAMP:

For children completing grades 4-6. If you like animals, this is the camp for you! Learn to respect animals, to take care of them, and to live in harmony with them. Commune with God's creatures from bats, birds, reptiles and even farm animals.

JUNIOR HIGH CAMPS:

For youth completing grades 7-9. Live in A-Frames or cabins enjoying swimming, crafts, hiking, campfires and the cooperation trail. Learn to be a part of the community and explore how God calls us all into service.

SENIOR HIGH CAMPS:

For youth completing grades 9-12.

A wide variety of opportunities - "Specialty Camps" and one non-specific camp offering campers the chance to deal with issues of emerging young adults.

For registration and more information go to: www.pccucc.org

*Aaronsburg Charge UCC
232 W. Aaron Square
Aaronsburg, PA 16820*

TO:



Worship Times - - - Worship Schedule for 2010

St. Peter's: 9:30 a.m. (Sunday school following worship)

Salem: 10:45 am

Communion is open to all who seek to know the Risen Christ and is offered 7 times per year. For more information, please call 349-5094 or email at aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net