

The Way of the Cross

Two seconds in flying time from the Pittsburg airport and in direct line with one of its busiest runways is the steeple of Union Church. “Ever since the terminal opened,” said the pastor, “planes have buzzed the belfry like bees after honey.” Reluctant to have their steeple carried away by some careless and unwary pilot, the church topped it with an eight-foot neon-lighted cross. The church is on the highest point near the airport and the lighted cross can be seen at night by planes all the way from the Ohio border.

One of the pilots made this interesting comment regarding the lighted cross: “Most of us are using it as a guide to the field.” Henry Francis Lyte penned the words to the familiar hymn, “Abide with Me.” The last verse says:

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee:
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

If it becomes possible for a man-made beacon to lead airplane pilots to the runway of an airport, how much more sure and certain is it for any and every one to be guided safely to the eternal kingdom of God, through the divinely inspired cross of Calvary? Through the darkness of sin the light of the cross shines brightly and constantly. It leads home, as the familiar gospel song says:

I must needs go home by the way of the cross,
There’s no other way but this;
I shall ne’er get sight of the gates of Light,
If the way of the cross I miss.
The way of the cross leads home.

As you journey through the season of Lent, do you see the light of the cross? Are you following “the way of the cross”?

God bless!
Pastor Randy

The Sanctuary for Lent, 2012
(Available in the church lobby)

In *The Sanctuary for Lent*, you will reflect upon Jesus as life-giver. The devotions, one for each of the forty days in Lent plus Sundays, include a message based primarily upon the theme of eternal life found in John's Gospel and the other Gospels, a suggested Scripture reading, a short Scripture passage, and a prayer. The devotional readings will help you experience the eternal life that only Jesus can give.

Souper Bowl Sunday
Sunday, February 5

You can help us celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday in several ways:

1. Bring **CANS OF SOUP & BOXES OF SALTINES ONLY**. Food donations will be given to Lebanon County Christian Ministries and Myerstown Church of the Brethren food bank.
2. Wear your favorite team jersey or team colors to worship.
3. Stay after church for a soup and hot dog lunch. Please bring a dessert to share!
4. Attend the Super Bowl Party organized by our youth- ALL are invited!
- 5.

Sunday, February 19

The **YOUTH OF ZION** will be leading the 8:00 and 9:10 worship services.

The **CONCERT BAND** will present a service of music at the 10:30 worship hour.

Blankets+
Sunday, February 12

Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world. Your contributions provide the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simply struggling to put food on the table. For 65 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields.
- Wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water.
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to feed their families.

CWS Blankets+...it's about blankets and so much more! Offering envelopes will be provided on Sunday, February 12th for your support of Blankets+.

MAKING ~ MATURING ~ MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST

24 Hours That Changed the World
Wednesday Evening Lenten Series
6:30 P.M.

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. In this DVD series, Adam Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last day of Jesus' life. We will travel to the Holy Land with Hamilton to visit the sites where those events took place.

February 22- Ash Wednesday - 7:00 P.M.
"The Last Supper"
Worship Leader: Trudy Gass

February 29
"The Garden of Gethsemane"
Worship Leader: Pastor Randy Leitzel

March 7
"Condemned by the Righteous"
Worship Leader: John Huber

March 14
"Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate"
Worship Leader: Rev. Rod Shearer

March 21
"The Torture and Humiliation of the King"
Worship Leader: Rev. John Nesbitt

March 28
"The Crucifixion"
Worship Leader: Craig Whiteley

April 5- Maundy Thursday- Fellowship Meal @ 6:00, Worship & Communion @ 7:00
"Christ the Victor"
Worship Leader: Pastor Randy Leitzel



United Methodist Women News

Normally in January our U.M.W. unit does not meet due to bad weather. But this year Mother Nature surprised us all with mild temperatures and moderate weather. We do have a meeting planned WEATHER PERMITTING for Tuesday, February 7th, at 7:00 P.M. Retires minister's wives in our congregation are going to briefly share some of the experiences in that role and then there will be a discussion time about how we think ministers' wives and how our ideas have changes – or not. There will be a time of light refreshments and fellowship. ALL WOMEN (and any interested men) are invited. We hope to see you there.

Grace Marquette
President, Zion U.M.W.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

MORE BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE

The book reviews the story of selected biblical women and their stories. The book is designed to help us examine our own motives, assumptions, and identity as we explore these stories of our faith. Some of the women are well-known to us as Miriam and Bathsheba; other women may be names we've heard as Hagar or Huldah, but their stories aren't as familiar. Then some are unnamed as a crippled women who spent time with Jesus, each of their stories have a message today. The author looks at each of these women and others and challenges us to rethink some of our attitudes and beliefs today.



LADIES – Mark your Calendar
ALL CHURCH WOMEN'S EVENT
Saturday, March 3
9:00 – 11:00 A.M.
Fellowship Hall
Come for fun, food, and fellowship
Childcare available
Sign-up on bulletin boards.
Questions ??? Contact Barb Jovett (682-9751)

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 1 Elsa Huber
- 2 Bill Simons, Emily Stauffer
- 4 Isabella Kimmel
- 5 Sherry Weik
- 6 Dick Reigel
- 7 Nicole Lynch, Ed Breen
- 10 Dick Kale
- 12 Ed Kercher, Cherie Gichner, Cory Artz, Carol Maurer
- 13 Tom Stanley
- 16 Louise Gettle, Skip Conners
- 18 Pauline Gass
- 20 Kathryn Berger
- 23 Joe Sandoe
- 24 Erik Breen
- 25 Josephine Kohr
- 26 Sheri Balderrama
- 27 Debra Leining, Michelle Umble
- 28 Lillian Heck, Luther Moyer



Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Ron and Jane Reichard
- 7 Bryan and Sharon Harnish
- 14 Bruce and Jeannie Moore
- 28 Brad and Kara Conners



St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012

Luncheon Lenten Bible Study - 2012



led by Rev. John Nesbitt
"MORE THAN CONQUERORS"
(Selections from the Epistles)

We will meet at noon in Fellowship Hall on
Tuesdays during Lent.

Bring your Bible and a bag lunch. Beverage provided!
Please read over the passage prior to our one hour study.

Tues. February 28th "Strength for Anything"
Philippians 4

Tues. March 6th "Christ Lives in Me"
Galatians 2

Tues. March 13th "The Harvest of the Spirit"
Galatians 5

Tues. March 20th "Death Abolished"
2 Timothy 1

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Tues. March 27th "Good News"
Mark 1

Each session stands on its own, so "come and go" as you are able.
Contact Pastor Nesbitt at 866-9787 if you have any
questions.

Come and ENJOY: Study, Fellowship, Sharing, Caring and some FUN!!!

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VBS 2012 – June 17th – June 21st