

Mountain Echoes

MARCH 2023

147th Edition



(Photo courtesy of Jim Harris)



(Photo courtesy of Bob/Susan Threewitts)

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 CJB

View Worship Online: The best way to view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship is to go to: <https://www.facebook.com/keezletownumc/live> or to watch live on the Keezletown UMC YouTube channel. After the service is completed, it will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE: To give through the church website, click on <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6261418>. To use the **Tithely Giving App**, Download the Tithely App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, select your church. Since this is your first time giving with Tithely, you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts. And you will need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info. Once your account has been created, you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give! A reminder, you can set your gift up as recurring. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us back and we'd be happy to assist you further! Thank you for your generosity and partnering with us to build the kingdom.

OUR PASTOR CHATS

Are you ready for the resurrection hope and life that comes in Christ? The resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the heart of Christian faith. It is why we take about 50 days to celebrate the Easter season. God has done something amazing. Jesus being raised from the dead signals Jesus' victory over sin and death, that Jesus lives today, and that the resurrection power Jesus speaks of is available to people today through the grace of God. Here are three things to consider about God's resurrection power related to Jesus dying at Passover, raised in springtime, and our own readiness. (1) The Passover in Exodus was the night God delivered the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and they walked out into a new life of freedom following the true Living God. God's new life was available, it would be different from slavery, and the Hebrews went with God. Would we be ready for the life of freedom from slavery to sin and rather to live alongside Jesus Christ? (2) Passover is in the springtime. Easter means "Spring" which Christians used as a time to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Creation has a four-season cycle in Virginia and before Spring comes there is Fall and Winter which are times that trees lose their leaves, bulbs wait in the ground to sprout again, and plants lie fallow so there is an allowance for the old growth to fall away to make room for new growth each year. I have noticed that many of us like to keep our old stuff. Would we be ready to make room for the new growth and resurrection life that comes in Jesus Christ in our lives and church? It may be hard to allow for the resurrection Jesus brings if we have our hands full with what has gone by. Could we bring our past to God for healing and grace and open our hands to join in the future Jesus will lead us towards even making disciples (Great Commission) and loving God and neighbor (Great Commandment)? (3) One of the faith-filled parts of resurrection is how God does the raising. The Greek words for the resurrection of Jesus have a passive form indicating "Jesus was raised from the dead" meaning Jesus did not raise himself, but was raised up by God the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus was ready for that as he prayed at the cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46, NRSV). A readiness for resurrection is not anything like personal effort or discipline, but giving God permission and the room to do what God can do, bring resurrection life again. It sounds easy, but for many of us it is difficult to trust God to do it and have the room available in our thinking, behavior, and time for the new life God would bring. I encourage us to give God the permission and space because God's resurrection power in Jesus Christ brings peace, healing, and joy for life with God and neighbor in the grace and love of Jesus our Lord. I am ready for and anticipating the resurrection power of Jesus in my life, the church, and our community this Easter. How about you?

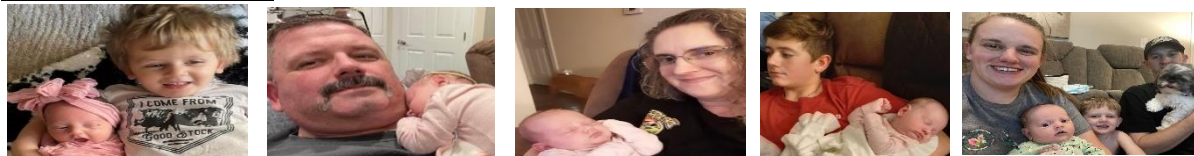
Pastor Joel

“Psalms for Faith and Prayer: The Keezletown United Methodist Church Lenten Devotional” is available in print at KUMC. Lent began February 22nd and is 40 days. There are 40 devotionals with readings and prayers from the Psalms, with an option to read through all the Psalter during Lent. A version is ready to email out and one is posted on the KUMC website.

VALENTINE SWEETNESS: “Hey mommy you know I forgot to tell you thank you for my Valentine’s Day gift, I just thought about that.” “You’re welcome buddy, you are so sweet.” “No mommy you are so sweet, there is no one sweeter than you. Really mom you are sweeter than anyone I know. You have no idea what you do to my heart and my feet.” (From 5 year old Bryson)

*****FEBRUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

CELEBRATING RYLYNN



Special Session of the VA Annual Conference At 9:00 a.m., via zoom, on Feb 18th, the Virginia Annual Conference had a special session to vote on congregation disaffiliations. One of the first issues that came up was a motion to suspend all disaffiliations for the near future, but that was rejected allowing disaffiliations in our conference to continue, so that churches who desire to leave through the end of 2023 will still have an opportunity to proceed at this time. Later in the conference, 33 congregations were approved for disaffiliation and one was not.

UNITED METHODIST MEN: On Sunday, Feb 19th the United Methodist Men held their monthly gathering with 13 in attendance. Breakfast was prepared and served by Joe Liskey and enjoyed by all. After the meal and fellowship, Ken Thomas led our time of devotion and scripture. Minutes were reviewed and approved. A treasurer's report was given by Scott Dodrill, reflecting the proceeds from our Catfish fundraiser in late January, showing that after all expenses were paid, \$400 was going to our commitment to Rise Against Hunger. A pros and cons discussion about the meal followed, focusing on changes and improvements. Since the Men’s group had agreed to provide the Lenten meal on Feb 22nd, Ash Wednesday, a planning session followed. Saturday, March 11th was chosen for our Annual Men’s Pancake Supper, with plans discussed for this event. A reminder was given to the group that we are scheduled to serve the Cross Keys-Mill Creek Ruritans in June. In other business, Jim Dillard made the suggestion that we clean out unused items from the church garage as it is difficult to get into the building to get things in and out as needed. He also suggested that we look into doing something with the old church bell as it too is taking up needed space. Randy Clatterbuck volunteered to power spray and clean the bell for the church so the trustees can determine their wishes for the bell. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 19th with Scott and Dale Dodrill providing breakfast and Lynn Williams leading devotions.

IS HE SHINING FOR YOU? On this Transfiguration Sunday, Feb 19th, we gathered to Diana playing “Hymn of Promise”, “Because He Lives”, and “Great is Thy Faithfulness”, and the bell rang. Pastor Joel welcomed everyone and gave the preparation for worship, before Diana played “He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need”, as Haiden carried in the Light of Christ. Greetings, announcements, and an opening prayer called “Transfiguration” was followed by passing of the Peace and the singing of “Majesty, Worship His Majesty”. During Children’s Time, Diana told the story of a young Indian boy who spent the night in the forest and how God never leaves us alone. The choir presented “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Biding”. Diana read the Gospel lesson from Mark 9:2-9, the Transfiguration. Guest speaker, our own Ken Thomas, came to give the message entitled “Our Own Transfiguration”. Advent is finished, Lent is in progress, Good Friday, the Resurrection, and Easter are around the corner. But Transfiguration Sunday—it doesn’t get any respect. Jesus leads Peter and James up to the mountain top to pray. While they are there He is transformed into the shining light that fills the world, and then Moses and Elijah appear terrifying Peter and James so much that they stumble about trying to find a way to build a monument to this great event. However, God intervenes from the clouds and tells them, “Listen, this is my Son”. How about our transfiguration—being made into a more beautiful state. Our heavenly bodies will be a perfect spiritual body. Celebrate Jesus’s change and our changes. The singing of “Open My Eyes” followed the message, along with the morning prayer and Lord’s Prayer by Pastor Joel. A collection was taken for Rise Against Hunger, along with the regular offering, as Diana played “Just a Closer Walk With Thee”, followed by the doxology and the offertory prayer, led by Pastor Joel. Our closing hymn was “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” as Haiden carried out the Light of Christ and Ken gave the benediction. Diana played “Alleluia” as the postlude.



WHAT BEAUTIFUL BODIES WE’LL HAVE ONE DAY.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: On Feb 20th, the members of the Monday morning Bible Study completed “Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation”, a seven week study they began in January, and celebrated by eating lunch as a group at Vito’s.



LENT BEGINS: Ash Wednesday began the Lent season as approximately 60 people celebrated on Feb 22nd at 6:30 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner served by the United Methodist Men. Pastor Joel led the responsive greeting and we sang, as Carol Sacra played, “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” and “I Surrender All”, led by Jenny and Scott Dillard. He then read the Old Testament Lesson from Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, the Prophet Joel calling all of Israel to repent to God. In Lent we call each other to repent. Pastor Joel went on that in Corinthians, we hear that we can be saved and this is the day. Jesus died for all, to give us grace and forgiveness. Now is the time.

He then gave an Invitation to the Observance of Lenter Discipleship, the Thanksgiving Over the Ashes, and the Imposition of the Ashes, as he repeated "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return. Repent and believe the gospel". We then sang "Sunday's Palms are Wednesdays Ashes" before the Pardon, Passing of the Peace, the Lord's Prayer, and the final Blessing.



FATHER FORGIVE THEM: On the 1st Sunday of Lent, Feb 26th, we gathered to Chris playing "And Can It Be that I Should Gain", "My Savior's Love", "More About Jesus", and "I Gave My Life for Thee", and the bell rang. Ken asked that all prepare for worship and Chris played "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" as the prelude as Haiden carried in the Light of Christ. Ken gave the morning welcome and announcements, and led a responsive Call to Worship, followed by Psalm 32 and the Passing of the Peace. Our first hymn was "How Great Thou Art", followed by Dale giving the Children's message about playing as a team and following God's playbook. The choir presented "More Love to Thee" as their anthem. Cathy Sites read the Gospel lesson from Luke 23:32-38, Jesus on the cross. Pastor Joel then spoke on "Father, Forgive Them", words from the cross as He was giving up His life. At 9 a.m. He said "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing". Jesus prays to the Father as He is on the cross. He is being tortured and mocked, to give us forgiveness and eternal life. Roman soldiers, all those passing by, the elders, the priests, Jesus cried out for all of their forgiveness. If He forgave them, He can forgive you and me. The gift is here now to be opened. "O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done" was sung after the message, followed by the Time of Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. The second Rise Against Hunger offering was taken, along with the regular offering, as Chris played "I Know Whom I Have Believed", followed by the Doxology and offertory prayer by Ken. Our closing hymn was "What Wondrous Love Is This", and Ken led the "Sarum Blessing", as Haiden carried out the Light of Christ. Chris played "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" as the postlude. **YOUR GIFT OF FORGIVENESS IS READY TO BE OPENED.**



POPE FRANCIS' Advice for Lent: Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from

pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

BUSY HANDS MAKE HEADS WARM: There have been some very busy knitters in the Keezletown community in the past few weeks. Eight ladies got together on January 21st for a fun few hours to learn how to knit hats on a round loom. By the end of February 24th, 24 hats have been sent to Cub Run Elementary School and 51 hats to Mission Central. In March we took 24 more hats to Mission Central which they will hold over for use next year. All are unique and original and help to keep those little heads warm. Many thanks to Geraldine Armentrout for donating the yarn. It's amazing how much can be accomplished while watching TV.



WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS

Gathering Non-Perishable Food items: Drop off items at KUMC for our local food pantry. Non-perishable foods and hygiene items are welcome. Items are distributed through Massanutten Presbyterian Church for residents of Keezletown, Penn Laird, and McGaheysville. The pantry is open 2nd Mondays from 10 – 11 AM and 2nd Thursdays from 7 – 8 PM.

Salvation Army Meal: Ann and Wes Ford have still been coordinating and providing a monthly supper for the Salvation Army Shelter. If you would like to help with preparing a meal and dropping it off at the shelter, please contact Ann and Wes.

Serving Meals to Kingsway Prison Ministry: Karen Mooney is leading preparing a meal each month for this ministry. Please contact her if you can help or donate.

US Disaster Response: For United States disaster relief designate your gift to “UMCOR US Disaster Response: Advance #901670.” For international disasters please designate your gift to “UMCOR International Disaster Response: Advance #982450.”

Mission Central Equipment for Caring: The medical equipment loaner closet at Mission Central loans out and receives donations of (1) durable medical equipment like hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bedside commodes, etc. and (2) disposable supplies like adult diapers, briefs, and wound care items. It is open Mondays 5 – 7 PM and Thursdays 9 - 11 AM.

Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet: gives and receives donations of children's clothes including winter coats and shoes from sizes infant to 15 years old. New underwear, socks, and undergarments are also received. It is open 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 AM – 1 PM; 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM; and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM.

KUMC Backpack Project is in the 2022-2023 school year. Along with McGaheysville UMC and Mountain View Brethren, we are providing weekend food for 17 school children in need. If you are interested in helping to shop, pack, or deliver, please reach out to Lynette Guilliams. Backpacking is on Monday at 11:15 a.m. for Sunday morning worship.

WHEN YOU'RE FEELIN' LOW, REMEMBER: Everyone has rolls when they bend over. If someone tells you you're beautiful, believe them. To them you are. Sometimes we all wake up with breath that could kill a goat. For every woman that is unhappy about her stretch marks, there is another woman who wishes she had them. Have confidence. If you saw yourself the way others see you, you would.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Carson & Connor



Barbara & Gary



Smile day @ work



Parker & Bun



Mother/Son Date

UPCOMING/ONGOING STUDIES:

Monday Morning Bible Study: Witness at the Cross is a six week study that was written by Amy-Jill Levine that looks at the experiences of those who saw Jesus die and invites us to learn about what they saw and heard. This study meets Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. until Apr 10th. All are welcome; chairs are available.

The Bible in a Year: KUMC has a Bible reading plan for reading the entire Bible in a year. This plan has four chapters of Bible reading each day: two chapters reading through the Bible; one chapter from Psalms, wisdom, poetry, or instructional materials; and one chapter from the Gospels or Acts. If you do this reading plan you will actually read through the Gospels and Acts three times during the 365 days. Printouts available at KUMC or online at www.keezletownumc.com.

Sunday School Classes include 0 – 2-year-olds – Nursery; 3-year-olds – Kindergarten Class; Grades 1 – 5 Elementary School Class; Middle and High School Class; An adult class taught by Mac Coffman; An adult class taught by Chris Cole using *Adult Bible Studies* materials.

A DISCIPLE'S PATH FOR NEWCOMERS AND NEW MEMBERS CLASS: A seven week class led by Pastor Joel meets during Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. until Apr 2nd. Learn more about being a follower of Jesus as a member of the church. Sign up in the narthex or contact Pastor Joel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



Reese 18



Joe Jr 18



Andrea/Austyn 11



Barbara



Jennifer



Ann

KIT COLLECTION: The Keezletown Bus has been unloaded with the health supplies you so generously gave. We hope we can fill the bus again during the month of April with items needed for filling Flood Buckets, which includes: 32-64 oz laundry detergent, 16-40 oz household concentrate, 16-34 oz dish detergent, 4-8 oz pump air freshener or 3 solids, 6-14 oz pump insect repellent, 1 scrub brush, 5 scouring pads, 18 re-usable wipes, 50-100' clothesline, 36-50 clothes pins, 24 trash bags (33-45 gal), 5 N-95 masks, 2 pair kitchen gloves, 1 pair leather palm work gloves, and a 5 gal bucket w/lid. We are in pretty good shape with work gloves, but all other items are needed.

MARCH EVENTS THAT HAPPENED

CONGRATS TO THE THREEWITTS: Bob and Susan received the Harrisonburg Rockingham Chamber of Commerce Farm Family Stewardship Award in 2014 and have been named VPF's Featured Grower for March 2023 for their environmental stewardship with fencing, solar, litter storage and application at Twin Oaks Farm.

2nd LENT SERVICE: On March 1st, about 60 folks gathered to enjoy delicious tetrazzini and coleslaw served by the Dillard and Eppard families at our 2nd Lent Wednesday service. Pastor Joel opened with prayer and led the singing of "Come! Come! Everybody Worship!" and "Lord, I Lift Your Name on



High". Rev Blair O'Quinn, from the Crimora United Methodist Church, came to speak on Amos and his warnings to the Israelites and to us. Reading from Amos 4, we hear how God tells His people to return to Him. We are in Lent, a time for reflection, time to repent and forgive others. Some believe if you sin, God will punish you, quickly and tangibly. We like to see others that sin punished, but we are just as sinful. Amos spoke doom, damnation of the society. Bashan was condemned because of how they treated others. They shall be punished and get what they deserve. Sin, with sacrifice, is not acceptable if your heart is in the sin. Changing the rules doesn't make sin right. Changing your heart makes you want to do right for others and yourself. We all deserve punishment for our sinful ways. Even with forgiveness, we still deserve punishment. Lent is the time to cut away from those things that take us away from God. Pastor Joel closed with a blessing benediction.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: Fifteen members and twelve guests met at 6:30 p.m. on Mar 2nd for a light meal and fellowship with Terrie Childress, our guest speaker, before our meeting. Judy welcomed everyone and opened with prayer. Terrie, a friend of Karen, then spoke on her journey through breast cancer with God at her side, about which she has written the book "Detoured: My Ride Through Cancer with God as Chauffeur".



Her message touched many within the group who have had or experienced with someone the cancer journey. In a shortened business meeting, we discussed feeding the Keezletown Ruritans on Mar 6th, and Sherry passed the donation sheet. UWF will serve the Mar 29th Lenten meal, which will be BarBQue, Coleslaw, baked beans, fruit, and drinks. Cheryl reported that we had made \$900.00 on the Soup sale for Relay for Life. Our next meeting will be the Call to Prayer and Self Denial meal and meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Apr 13th.

REMEMBER ME: As the 2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5th, worship began with the gathering to "Just for Today", "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" and "Pause for a Moment of Prayer" by Carol on the organ. After the ringing of the bell, Cathy gave the preparation for worship, and Carol played "A Song in Lent" as Becca Sprague carried in

the Light of Christ. Cathy gave the welcome, announcements, led the opening prayer, and the responsive Psalter Psalm 121. Scott, Kelli, and Ryan Sprague then came to present a beautiful rendition of "Praise You in the Storm". The Church family then sang "Lord of the Dance" before Pastor Joel talked to the children about band aids and forgiveness. The choir presented "I Am His and He Is Mine". Neil then came to read the Gospel lesson from Luke 23:39-43, the thief's request.



"Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise" was the title of the message. Jesus is having a conversation with a criminal hanging beside Him on a cross. One criminal is mocking and deriding Him, while the other has an insight as to who Jesus really is and asks for mercy, and to be allowed into Heaven with Jesus. Outcasts and sinners recognize Jesus, and reach out to Him. Peter did; a centurion with a sick servant did; a sinful woman washed His feet; an unclean woman touched His garment; Zacchaeus, the hated tax collector ate with Him; He seeks out and saves the lost, and then gives us His mission to do the same. Jesus gave His life for everyone. The thief says "Remember me" and Jesus saved Him, as He does for each of us every day, where we are, when we need it. "Jesus, Remember Me" was sung after the message, followed by the Time of Prayer, the Affirmation of Faith, the Invitation, the Confession and Pardon, and the Passing of the Peace. Carol played "Meditation on 'The Lord's My Shepherd'" during the collection of tithes and offerings. Cathy gave the offertory prayer. Pastor Joel then led the Great Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer, and the Giving of the Bread and Cup, as we sang "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood". Our closing hymn was "Beneath the Cross of Jesus", followed by Cathy giving the Benediction and Carol playing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" as Becca carried out the Light of Christ. **HE SEEKS YOU SEEKING HIM.**

UWF SERVES RURITANS: The Keezletown Ruritans at their Mar 6th meeting, enjoyed a Taco bar with cake/brownies and ice cream for dessert, served by three of the UWF ladies.

EASTER JOKES

Did you ever wonder why we paint Easter eggs? Because they're too hard to wallpaper.

What did one Easter egg say to the other? "Know any good yokes?"

What kind of beans don't grow in a garden? Jelly beans.

Why can't a rabbit's nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.

Why do hens lay eggs? Because if they dropped them they'd break.

3rd LENT SERVICE: A social hall full of people from KUMC, Edom, Fellowship, and Linville UMC's met on March 8th, at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a scrumptious potluck meal, and hear Rev



Costella Forney speak on "Lent-the Time to Get Real". Pastor Joel opened the service with prayer and led the singing of "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" and "I Will Call Upon the Lord". Rev Forney read from Ecclesiastes 3:1-9, to everything there is a season. She began with an explanation of Ash Wednesday, which starts Lent, and is a time of

repentance and fasting. We need to be authentic—real Christians 'til Jesus returns, walking in

the wisdom and knowledge of God. There will be changing times, and time is short. We need to figure out our relationship with Jesus, and be authentic. We live as in our own shadows, rather than the Light of Christ, but God alone knows who we are. Am I really who I say I am, or do I need to turn away from things that are keeping me from standing up for God? Now is the time to get real. Pastor Joel closed with a benediction blessing.

Administrative Council met on Mar 8th in the Library after the Lenten service, with thirteen members and Pastor Joel present. Susan called the meeting to order and Pastor Joel opened with prayer. Chris reported that all apportionments for 2022 were paid. The Tithe.ly online giving is being used by a few folks regularly. United Women in Faith reported serving the Keezletown Ruritan Club in Mar; had a guest speaker Terri Childress at the Mar meeting; collected \$900 for Relay for Life with the Soup Sale in Feb; and are serving the Mar 29th Lenten service. United Methodist Men reported a good turnout for the Tenderloin/Catfish meal, and will be serving a Pancake Supper in Mar. Trustees reported a hit and run on the chain link fence in front of the parsonage, which will be repaired. Sherry passed out a calendar of Church Mission events for 2023 for the Missions committee. Cathy reported that Sunday School Discovery, with breakfast, will again be held on Apr 23rd. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Apr 8th. Vacation Bible School is being discussed as to interest and volunteers. June 25th will be the Outdoor Worship Service at the Ruritan Park. The nomination for Kathy Armentrout to replace Carolyn Baker as Financial Secretary was approved. In Pastor Joel's report, he discussed the \$2,000 raised for John NDay and that we would hear from John via a pre-recorded video on Apr 16th. Rise Against Hunger will be packaged on Mar 26th with help from the Girl Scouts, McGaheysville UMC, Trinity and St Jacob's Lutheran churches. He will lead an after worship discussion of disaffiliations in the UMC on Apr 16th. Next meeting is May 10th at 7:30 p.m.

PANCAKE SUPPER: The United Methodist Men would like to thank all who donated, helped, and attended their Community Pancake Supper on Mar 11th. They served delicious scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, sausage gravy, and applesauce to those who attended. The free will offering will be divided between Weekday Religious Education and Camp Overlook.

MORE EASTER JOKES

Where's the best place to learn about eggs? The hen-cyclopedia.

Why shouldn't you tickle an Easter egg? You don't want it to crack up.

What did the mom Easter egg say to the baby? "You're eggs-tra special."

What do you call an Easter egg from outer space? An egg-straterrestrial.

WE ARE ALL FAMILY: The 3rd Sunday in Lent, March 12th, we gathered as Diana played "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus", "Are Ye Able", and "Precious Name", and the bell rang. Pastor Joel welcomed everyone and gave the preparation for worship. Diana played "God Will Take Care of You" as Ryan carried in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel then gave the greeting and announcements, and led the responsive Psalter of Psalm 95.

We then sang “Victory in Jesus”, before Karen and Sharon came to lead the Children’s time. Karen talked about St Patrick, who he was and why we celebrate him; then she handed out rice Krispie treats to all who came down. Carol Sacra came to read the Gospel Lesson from John 19:23-27, Jesus telling Mary and John they were now family. The title of Pastor Joel’s message today was “Woman, Here Is Your Son”, from the Words from the Cross series. When Jesus is on the cross, He is making a family, His mother and John. Family is not only biological, or marriage, but those who follow Jesus. We grow closer to others as we both grow close to the cross thru worship and prayer. Mary was very close to Jesus as His mother; Peter, James, and John were with Jesus during His life, with John being called the beloved. Those around Jesus led the Jews and Gentiles to understand how all can worship Jesus and be part of His family. The soldiers took Jesus’ clothes and divided them amongst them, except gambling for His tunic (to fulfill the Scriptures). Jesus, broken and dying, has those at the cross look at each other and tells them to take each other and become family. This is one of His greatest gifts from the cross—having us loving someone else. Here is my family, sitting at the foot of the cross. After the message, we sang “Jesus Loves Me”, then took a craft stick with a name on it from the basket and looked for that person during the Passing of the Peace. The Time of Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer followed. Jenny Dillard then came to talk about Camp Overlook (see next article). “For the Beauty of the Earth” was played as the offering was collected, followed by the Doxology, and Pastor Joel’s offertory prayer. Our closing hymn was “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”. All joined in the Benediction prayer, Diana played the refrain from “Victory in Jesus” as the postlude, and Ryan carried out the Light of Christ. **SIT DOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS AND TALK TO YOUR FAMILY.**

CAMP TIME IS COMING: Mar 12th, Jenny Dillard advised that Camp Overlook Summer Camp is having 3-day camps, week long day camps, overnight camps, horse camp, soccer camp, and a new night camp for those entering grades 1-12. If you are interested in attending or having your children or grandchildren attend, go to the Camp Overlook website at campoverlook.org or talk to Jenny Dillard. Flyers are available, as well as scholarships, if needed.

A March 15 Greeting from Missionary John NDay: Please receive my greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Here we are fine and we thank God that the cyclone has passed we are safe and but left some damages in Cambine but not serious like it was in 2017 when we first arrive in Cambine.

4th LENT SERVICE: Members of KUMC, St Jacob’s and Trinity Lutheran Churches met for a bountiful potluck meal on Mar 15th at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the 4th Lent service. Pastor Joel greeted everyone and led the opening blessing. Pastor Joel and Rev Bill Nabors, our speaker for the evening, accompanied the singing of “Be Thou My Vision” and “Christ Beside Me”,



before Rev Bill came to speak on St Patrick. He started with a quiz question, asking if

anyone knew St Patrick's real name. No one did, so he told us: Maewyn Succot. He was born in England to a rich family, captured by pirates at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland to work as a shepherd, where he had lots of time to be reflective. After six years, he worked his way back to England and became ordained in the Catholic church, where he changed his name to Patrice, or Father. As a pastor and monk, he persuaded the Church leadership to allow him to return to Ireland to bring Christianity to the people, which he did by raising up elders and bishops. He died on March 17th, or St Patrick's Day. Legends mention that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to illustrate the Trinity. He loved to learn, was strong-willed and perseverant, had trouble with the church establishment, did some unorthodox negotiations to help establish churches, and had a very strong faith. Pastor Joel closed the service with the reading of "A Prayer of Saint Patrick"

3/16 DAY: John 3:16 "For God so loved that world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV)

March 17 Happy St Patrick's Day: May God grant you always...a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering angel so nothing can harm you. Laughter to cheer you. Faithful friends near you. And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you.

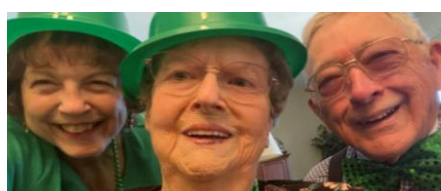
MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Showing off in DC



Visiting Hershey



Barbara, Lula Belle & Dale @ lunch



Lunch w/Mom

PLACES YOU CAN SERVE: The following service opportunities are now available in the Church. Please pray about them and volunteer as God leads you: **Maintaining the Road Sign Ministry** and **Greeters** for Sunday morning worship.

*** MARCH EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE***

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|----------|--|
| March 18 | Emmaus Teaming at KUMC |
| March 19 | United Methodist Men Meeting, 8:00 AM |
| | Sunday School, 9:45 AM |
| | Rise Against Hunger Offering #3 |
| | Worship, 11:00 AM: Message: "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" (Words from the Cross) Mark 15:33-36 |
| March 20 | Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 AM |

Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
 FIRST DAY OF SPRING
 March 22 Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM with Rev Ashley Isernhagen
 March 25 Choir meet 9:30 AM
 March 26 Sunday School, 9:45 AM
 Worship, 11:00 AM: Message: "I Am Thirsty" (Words from the Cross) John 19:28-29
 Rise Against Hunger packaging after worship
 March 27 Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 AM
 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
 March 29 Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM with Marquette Mitchell, speaker

Bryson did it again: Funny moment on our way home that I just have to share. So, Brysons favorite song right now is Three Wooden Crosses. On our way to church this evening I told Derrick that I was waiting for Bryson to ask me about the part where it says "A farmer and a teacher, a hooker and a preacher" and him ask what a "hooker" is. Well, on the way home we were listening to the song and the part that says "as he laid that blood-stained Bible in that hookers hand" and Bryson says "what does he mean he laid that blood stained Bible in that boogers hand? That doesn't even make sense." Thank you God for a laugh this evening and for prolonging me having to explain what a "hooker" is to my 5 year old!

***** APRIL EVENTS HAPPENING*****

Maunday Thursday Service @ St Jacobs Lutheran Church on Apr 6th @ 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday Service @ KUMC on Apr 7th @ 6:30 p.m
Easter Egg Hunt on Apr 8th @ 10:00 a.m.
EASTER on Apr 9th with Sunrise Service @ cemetery @ 7:00 a.m. with breakfast to follow in social hall by Relay Team and NO Sunday School
Discussion on Church disaffiliation questions led by Pastor Joel after worship on Apr 16th, with a soup/sandwich meal

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr 1	Kevin Summers	Apr 15	Ryan Heishman
Apr 3	Christine Cole	Apr 16	Kristen Roach
Apr 5	Jacob Stanley	Apr 17	Henry Martin
Apr 6	Marshall Liskey	Apr 18	Matthew Holliday
Apr 7	Karen Mooney	Apr 19	Jan Shafer
Apr 7	Sharon Martin	Apr 20	Mary Jane Propst
Apr 7	Cory Guilliams	Apr 23	Sara Ann Cole
Apr 8	Marcus Hall	Apr 23	Jamie Werner
Apr 8	Justen Cox	Apr 23	Juanity Sheffer
Apr 9	Gracelynn Knight	Apr 23	Lily Sacra
Apr 10	Hunter Pellegrin	Apr 24	Randy Sites

Apr 10	Jaden Hall	Apr 25	John Foley
Apr 14	Benjamin Wamsley	Apr 27	Bob Threewitts

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 10, 2004	David & Kathryn Propst Miller	19 years
Apr 15, 1994	Scott & Jenny Dillard	29 years
Apr 23, 1964	Kennis & Carolyn Armentrout	59 years
Apr 23, 2016	John & Jennifer Young	7 years
Apr 26, 1996	Randy & Jan Sites	27 years

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OR MORE: CONGRATULATIONS to church family couples that have been married 40 or more years in April.



Kennis & Carolyn Armentrout for 59 years on Apr 23rd

Best wishes from your KUMC family. May you have many more.

APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1 Emmaus Teaming at KUMC
Weekday Religious Education Concert @ 4:00 p.m. EMU Commons
- 2 **Small Group Leaders Gatherings, 8:45 a.m.**
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. PALM SUNDAY
Worship, 11:00 a.m. Communion Sunday; Message: "It Is Finished" from John 19:30; Luke 23:46 (Words from the Cross)
- 3 **Worship Planning, 9:00 a.m.**
Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 a.m.
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.
UWF Serve Keezletown Ruritan meal
- 6 **Maunday Thursday Service @ St Jacobs Lutheran Church @ 6:30 p.m.; Pastor Joel speaking**
- 7 **Good Friday Service @ KUMC @ 6:30 p.m.; Rev Bill Nabors speaking**
- 8 **Choir meet 9:30 AM**
Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 a.m.
- 9 **EASTER Sunrise Service @ cemetery @ 7:00 a.m. with breakfast to follow in social hall by Relay Team**
NO Sunday School
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Message: "Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit" from Luke 23:44-46; 24:1-12 (Words from the Cross)
- 10 **Last Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 a.m.**
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.
- 13 **United Women in Faith Call to Prayer and Self Denial meal & meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- 14 **Newsletter items due**
- 16 **United Methodist Men Meeting, 8:00 a.m.**
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Seeing Jesus' Hands and Side" from John 20:19-31

John NDay video message during worship

What's Going on with Disaffiliation in the UMC Info session ed by Pastor Joel after worship, with a soup/sandwich meal

17 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.

20-23 Men's Walk to Emmaus at Camp Overlook

22 Choir meet 9:30 a.m.

Relay Team to serve RMH Nurses Alumni luncheon at Dayton UMC

23 Sunday School Discovery with Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Jesus Came Along" from Luke 24:13-35

24 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.

25 Mission & Outreach Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

27-30 Women's Walk to Emmaus at Camp Overlook

30 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Day by Day Faith" from Acts 2:42-47

MORE EASTER JOKES

What do you call mischievous Easter eggs? Deviled eggs.

Which day of the week do Easter eggs like the least? Fry-day.

How do you make an eggroll? Just give it a little push.

Did you hear about the Easter egg who went to a salon? She needed a dye job.

DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

The first time Jesus raised anyone from the dead is recorded in Luke 7:11-17. Jesus was coming South from Capernaum with his disciples enroute to the small town of Nain and a large crowd was following them. They meet a funeral procession that was on their way to the burial ground. A man had died, his Mother's only son, and she was a widow. He was being carried on a stretcher. I can imagine Jesus and the crowd stepping aside so the mourners could pass. Jesus sees the mother crying, steps forward, touches the stretcher and those carrying it stopped. We can only imagine the first reaction of both crowds when Jesus interrupted the procession, which was against the religious traditions. Jesus speaks to the mother, "don't cry." Then, He said to the man, "get up." He sat up, and began to speak. And He returned him back to his mother. Luke records that: A great fear swept the crowd, and they exclaimed with praises to God. "A mighty prophet has risen among us," and we have seen the hand of God at work today." (LB) The people went out and spread the news of what they had witnessed. Today, any person who has been born again by faith in Christ, has been "made alive" when he was "dead." (Ephesians 2:1) Isn't that worth praising God for? Like the people following Jesus 2,000 years ago, we have GOOD NEWS to share. Praise Be To God!

E-MAIL OR REGULAR MAIL: I would like to offer to anyone that would like it, the availability of receiving their newsletter via e-mail rather than the Postal Service each month. If you would like to try this, please e-mail me at AntDyna@comcast.net, with your request. Please put Newsletter in the subject line.

WHO IS BRYSON? For those of you who are curious, the Bryson that I referred to in two of the funnies, is the 5 year old great-grandson of a dear Friend that I worked with for 32 years. He comes up with some really cute sayings and I hope that his parents will be happy to see others enjoying his wit. Thank you, Heather, for sharing.

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MY PERSONAL NOTE:

You want to know what I think are the two greatest things are in this world? The power of prayer, and the sharing of love. I have seen, and felt, their power in these last two months. So many of you were and are praying for E.L. and me that I cannot imagine—and each night I pray that God would bless you for praying for us. We covered each other in the mighty love of God. The storms come in our lives, and we think we can't possibly go another day or have another thing happen, and yet the One Man that loved us so much that He died for us, comes to us and says "I'm here, I'll always be here, we'll get thru this together". Hallelujah. On this earth we will have physical scars, emotional scars, spiritual scars, but in heaven, the only scars will be on the hands of the "Man on the middle cross" that looks at each of us and says, "Welcome home". May your scars be healed this Easter by our loving and living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Diana

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Editor's Note

The April deadline for submissions is April 14th . My home number is 540-269-8511 or e-mail me at AntDyna@comcast.net. I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy preparing it for you. God bless you all.

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**When asked by the Angel how he got to heaven, the thief said "The Man on the middle cross said I could come."
Hallelujah!**