

So. Montrose Community Church January, 2013 Newsletter

Message From Our Pastor

"This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone. For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again. Then let us with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find. Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new." (Words by Brian Wren, 1978, UMH #383)

2012 is but a memory as you read this newsletter. As we think back over this past year, there maybe things that you would like to change or revise, but there is no going back. But we can start fresh with 2013. We can do things differently this year. We are now blessed with another opportunity to make some goals, resolutions or plans for 2013. What will we do with our hearts, our souls, and our minds this year? What will we pour our lives into this year?

Here are some examples that you might consider as you think about this new year that lies before us.

1. We will faithfully worship God on a regular basis.
2. We will continue to love and be faithful to our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren.
3. We will honor our parents and grandparents
4. We will continue to give our offerings to the Lord.
5. We will do what we can to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ and his church.
6. We will continue to care about others and help others when we are able.
7. We will continue to use the Bible as a standard for our every day lives.
8. We will invite at least 2 new people to come to worship with us in 2013
9. We will show respect and honor in our personal relationships.
10. We will live our lives worthy of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Please pray with me...

Loving God, we awake to this new year, knowing that you will be beside us and alive in us each

moment of every day. As this year unfolds give us the strength and the peace that we need to keep going so that we may live a life of joy as You so wish us to have. Thank you, Lord, that every moment is a new beginning, not just the start of a new year. Help us when we are tired, disappointed, frustrated and confused. Fill us with your Holy Spirit this day and every day. Amen.

Happy 2013! "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

Pastor Jane

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

(Worcester UMC December Newsletter)

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

One particular four year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson..."If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven", the dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Happenings at Sky Lake.... **Special Needs Winter Retreat**

When: Sunday, January 6th @ 3 p.m. until
Tuesday, January 8th @ 1 p.m.

This is a retreat for persons ages 15-65 with mild to moderate developmental disabilities needing minimal to no assistance with daily living skills.

Enjoy outdoor and indoor winter activities like hiking, singing, worship, crafts, jigsaw puzzles, talent show, sledding and building snow persons and much much more.

Cost: \$220 per person

Where: Riley Lodge on the East Shore

Sky Lake Family Winter Weekends

When: January 18-21 and February 15-18

These weekends are created for people of all ages and families of all descriptions and are held in Riley Lodge. Whether you enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, sharing in Christian fellowship with others, or just the sight of the winter landscape from inside, you are bound to have a wonderful time at either or both of our winter weekends.

Cost: Adult/Teen: Ages 13 plus, \$120 per person

Child: 4-12 years, \$60 per child

Friday night option including Saturday breakfast,
\$35 per immediate family

Soup Night

Happy New Year everybody. The last soup night of 2012 was successful and fun. That's the best way to tell if it was successful. Did everyone have fun?

We had 80 some people in attendance. Pastor Jane had a quite a few people at her casual worship. Martha Denkenberger played for Pastor Jane & then continued to play for us during our supper. They sang Christmas carols & got everyone in the festive spirit. We had tons of yummy Christmas cookies, cupcakes, brownies & pie. People were wishing each other Merry Christmas and sharing Christmas cards with one another. The donations were \$210. I kept \$150 to use for January's meal and donated \$60 to the food bank. We had left over bread & some lettuce which they really appreciated. The food bank does not get many baked goods or produce. We also had popcorn & candy canes left from our Christmas caroling adventure! The popcorn had beautiful labels that said "Just popped in to wish you a Merry Christmas" and it had the dates & times of our upcoming services printed on them. Sue Pratt made them for us & did a great job. They were so pretty. The candy canes had a book mark attached with the Christian meaning of the candy cane. One of the employees at the food bank thought that made the holiday bags a little nicer with a Christmas touch.

Our next soup night will be January 21 from 4:30-6:30. We will be serving chili & cream of broccoli soup. Come early at 4:00 to join Pastor Jane in casual worship.

Many of you do so much for me with soup night from helping serve to cleaning up to donating desserts. But I have another request. I'd like your prayers. Every month I ask God to bring exactly who He wants to soup night. I ask Him to bring people who may need the free meal and that He send people who will give a generous donation for our soup night and food bank. It is more than just food though. Most people who came to soup night regularly, who are not from our church tell me that what they like most is the company. They like talking and joking and singing. To some of us who may have lots of friends or still have our children living at home might not realize what it feels like to eat alone every night. I pray God sends not just hungry people but lonely people. I also pray He sends new, exciting people we've yet to meet. Maybe they'll want to join our church and add to our fun. Please pray with me.

Chris Smith

CINDY CONATY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
PRO-LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST

A scholarship was established by Susquehanna County District Attorney Jason Legg to honor his mother who passed away on March 29, 2010. Students from the six high schools in Susquehanna County are able to apply for the scholarship by writing an essay explaining his or her pro-life stance and values. This year community members are invited to a fundraising breakfast for her scholarship on January 26, 2013 which coincides with the date of her birthday. Please join us as we remember Cindy Conaty, her life affirming values, and pray for our country to uphold the sanctity of an unborn child's life. The breakfast is provided at no cost. However, donations will be accepted for the Cindy Conaty Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Where: Susquehanna County Community Foundation

270 Lake Ave., Montrose, PA 18801

Date: Saturday, January 26th

Time: 8:30 till 10 a.m.

RSVP: Seating is limited. Please contact Martha Cuomo at 278-5061 by January 18th to make reservations.

Flower Fund Donations

All donations are gladly accepted for the church flower fund. Donations can be given to Diane Linaberry, Kathryn Linaberry, Brenda Frystak or Gussie Fritz any time of year. Thank you in advance.

Diane Linaberry

January Birthdays

January 26th: Cole Frystak
Joyce Blaisure
January 30th: Brenda Frystak

Acolyte Schedule

Cassy Salsman: Jan. 6th; Feb. 17th; Mar. 31st
Tanner Frystak: Jan. 13th; Feb. 24th; Apr. 7th
Korena Kraynak: Jan. 20th; Mar. 3rd; Apr. 14th
Kayleen Kraynak: Jan. 27th; Mar. 10th; Apr. 21st
Clay Frystak: Feb. 3rd; Mar. 17th; Apr. 28th
Elizabeth Stone: Feb. 10th; Mar. 24th; May 5th

A New Year's Prayer

(Received this New Year's Prayer from Charlene Ayres many years ago and want to share it with you)

Dear Lord, please give me...
A few friends who understand me
and yet remain my friends
A work to do which has real value
without which the world
would feel the poorer...
A mind unafraid to travel,
even though the trail be not blazed
An understanding heart...
A sense of humor.
Time for quiet, silent meditation.
A feeling of the presence of God.
And the patience to wait
for the coming of these things,
with the wisdom to know them
when they come.

W. R. HUNT

Have a Happy New Year. Love, Diane Linaberry

A note about your weekly offering

That time is upon us again! Time to take a few moments when you are planning your 2013 budget and think about how you want to serve the church with your monetary offerings. Our church plans their budget based on average past giving, and we pay our bills from those offerings. Pastor Jane feels very strongly that we should give sacrificially and joyfully. She says "I think the true measure of stewardship is not how much we give to God. The true measure of stewardship is how much we keep for ourselves. God looks at what our giving actually costs us in the long run. I believe God looks at the sacrifices we make for his kingdom. Giving of any

kind is a matter of the heart. If our heart isn't in it, we probably won't give very much. But if our heart is in it and we really love God and the church, we give joyfully because we know our gifts are making a difference in the lives of people around us. We believe in what our church is doing in terms of nurturing one another and reaching out to others." The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

There are boxes of offering envelopes on the table by the coat rack near the door. Please take a box, and for the first few weeks write your name on the envelope so I know who belongs to what number. Thank you so much for your loving generosity. God is pleased with you!

Mary Hinds, Financial Secretary

Eleven Days Before Christmas

Twelve 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38 when 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate. Their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air. They could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there. They were filled with such joy; they didn't know what to say. They remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day. "where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse. "This is heaven" declared a small boy. "We're spending Christmas at God's house". When what to their wondering eyes did appear, but Jesus, their savior, the children gathered near. He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same. Then He opened His arms and He called them by name. And in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring those children all flew into the arms of their King and as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace, one small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face. And as if He could read all the questions she had He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of mom and dad. "then He looked down on earth, the world far below He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe, then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand, "Let My power and presence re-enter this land! "May this country be delivered from the hands of fools" "I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools! "Then He and the children stood up without a sound. "Come now my children let me show you around. "Excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran. All displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can. And I heard Him proclaim as He

walked out of sight, "in the midst of this darkness," I
AM STILL THE LIGHT."

Our Prayers

In the church: Nic Remington, Ben Owen, Harriet Snell, Theresa Owen, Sue VanDermark, June Allen, Craig Estelle, Merle Tyler, June Bishop, Marion Nye, Alice Porter, Belma Herrala, Doris Sebring, Doris Larnerd, Bob Dalrymple, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood, Kathryn Sterling, Joyce & Don Blaisure.

In our community: Rauch & Lawrence families, Julie Fair, Noah & Naomi, Liz Oliver, Reva Cline, Randy Ward, Mary Helen Booth, Janice, Tom & Carolyn Reese, Gerald Colver, Dewey Hunsinger, Keith Pratt, John Paul Jones, Patty Lasher, Helen Crotta, Charlotte Maxey Ellis, Lisa Steele, Connie Williams, Aaron Olah, Brooke Arnold, Dee Pierson, Dick Millard, Stephanie, Duane Snell, Helen Petersen, Debbie Brewer, Sharon Rosenkrans, Terry Franks, Butch Rosenkrans, Jonathan & Daniel Snell, Katherine, David & Mary Ann Pierce, Sarah Manzer, Sterling Barefoot, Les Hawley, Josh Capwell, teachers & students, those in the military, the unemployed, flood victims and flood relief workers, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church and each other.



Rev. Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

P O Box 577

New Milford PA 18834

(570)465-2318

Email: jpykus65@gmail.com

Church's website:

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/southmontrose/>



Please be advised that the registration for the upcoming E-TOUR is **January 4, 2013**. Please see below for more information. Thank you.

E-TOUR

BRINGING CONFERENCE RESOURCES TO YOU

Join Us

Saturday, January 12, 2013 @ Central UMC, 205 11th St., Honesdale, PA 18431

or Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013, Countryside Community, 14011 Orchard Dr., Clarks Summit, Pa 18411

Please note the address listed in the brochure for Countryside Community was incorrect: The correct address is listed above.

Register Online for yourself or your group at www.susumc.org. The district office has a copy of the registration form if needed. Please let us know and we can mail a copy.

You may also call Lisa Bender at the Conference Center at [717-766-7441](tel:717-766-7441)

New for 2013: E-TOUR Training for Clergy and Laity Dates and Locations

...Equip your church with exciting ministry resources...Empower your leaders for today's mission field...Engage in transforming workshop experiences...Connect with other church leaders...

New and Expanded Workshops will be offered as the Conference Connectional Ministries Team and Conference Leaders bring resources to you. The event is designed to **help leaders and future leaders in local churches discover the wealth of resources available to them through our United Methodist connection and the Susquehanna Conference**. Through an offering of workshops, displays, media, and interactive learning experiences, participants will learn new ways to

make disciples and will receive a disc packed with helpful tools and resources.

• **Saturday, January 12**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at Central United Methodist Church,

205 11th Street, Honesdale PA 18431

• **Sunday, January 13**, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
at Countryside Community, 14011
Orchard Drive, Clarks Summit PA 18411

• **Saturday, February 23**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at Second Avenue United Methodist
Church, 130 2nd Ave, Altoona PA 16602

• **Sunday, February 24**, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
at Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church,
1500 E. Branch Rd, State College PA
16801

• **Saturday, March 9**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at Wesley United Methodist Church, 130
W. 3rd Street, Bloomsburg PA 17815

• **Sunday, March 10**, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. at
First United Methodist Church, 67 E.
Wellsboro Street, Mansfield PA 16933

• **Saturday, March 16**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at
Charleton United Methodist Church, 5920
Jonestown Rd, Harrisburg PA 17112

Workshops and leaders

"Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?" Rev. Mike Bealla, Director of Connectional Ministries

"Building a Discipling System in Your Local Church" Rev. Mike Bealla, Director of Connectional Ministries

"Renovate or Die: First Steps in Finding New Life in Existing Congregations" Rev. Dr. Dennis Otto, Director of Congregational Development

"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Finances" Gary Smith, Conference Treasurer/Comptroller

"Communication and the Power of Social Media" Jerry Wolgemuth, Director of Communications

"Creating Websites That Matter" Jerry Wolgemuth, Director of Communications

"Think Outside the Box: Unleash Your Creativity - Six Hats and Lateral Thinking" Jerry Wolgemuth, Director of Communications

"VIM: Volunteers in Mission" Curt Knouse, Director of Volunteers in Mission and Outreach

"Disaster Response" Rev. Larry Siikanen, Disaster Response Coordinator

"Mission Central" Rob Visscher, Executive Director, Mission Central

"What Should I Teach?" Rev. Warren Bevacqua, Director of Christian Education and Young Peoples Ministries

"Help! I'm a Youth Worker: Part 1 - The Basics" Rev. Warren Bevacqua, Director of Christian Education and Young Peoples Ministries

"Help! I'm a Youth Worker: Part 2 - Roundtable Discussion" Rev. Warren Bevacqua, Director of Christian Education and Young Peoples Ministries

"Bullying/Cyberbullying" Anne Horton, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries

"Covenant Groups" Anne Horton, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries

"Stewardship" Rev. Phyllis Bowers, Executive Director, United Methodist Stewardship Foundation

"Funding Ministry Through Grants" Lisa Bender, Executive Secretary, Connectional Ministries

Lunch is included in the \$5 registration fee. CEU's will be available for Clergy.

Each event has a registration deadline of the Friday one full week before the event.

For all the details, including brochures, online registration, and workshop descriptions, go to: www.susumc.org and click on the E-Tour logo.

If you have questions, contact Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, Mike Bealla, (mbealla@susumc.org) or Lisa Bender (lbender@susumc.org) at [1-800-874-8474](tel:1-800-874-8474) or [717-766-7441](tel:717-766-7441).