

***So. Montrose***  
**Community Church**  
*December, 2013 Newsletter*

***Message From Our Pastor . .***

“Shout your praises to God, everybody! Let loose and sing! Strike up the band! Round up an orchestra to play for God, add on a hundred-voice choir. Feature trumpets and big trombones, fill the air with praises to King God. Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause, with everything living on earth join in. Let oceans breakers call out “Encore!” And mountains harmonize the finale—A tribute to God when he comes, when he comes to set the earth right. He’ll straighten out the whole world, he’ll put the world right, and everyone in it.”  
Psalm 98:4-9

**The Message**

When we sing “Joy to the World” we are singing a paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9. Isaac Watts wrote this beautiful Christmas hymn with the idea of expressing joy over the marvelous works of our God. Watts praises God for the salvation that is brought through the babe of Bethlehem.

Joy is a word that we use often during the Christmas season. We express our joy when we exchange cards, gifts given and received, smiles, greetings, get-togethers, services of worship, and other community and family celebrations.

Christmas is a time of joy for most of us, but there are folks out there that have sad memories connected to Christmas. Some folks just try to endure the season and feel relieved when it is finally over. Let us pray and share a word of encouragement with folks who are struggling this Christmas season.

As we journey this Advent and Christmas season, may we all experience in some way the true joy that can only come from God, no matter what our circumstances are or have been. Let’s make a point this year to set aside some time each day to be with God. May we travel back to the beginning and remember how the good news first broke into history, as those humble shepherds were awakened by the good news of great joy.

Here are some ideas on how each of us might spread the joy of the season.

- A listening ear to a friend who needs someone to talk to.
  - A joyful “thank you” to a sales clerk at a department store.
  - Share a smile with someone who frowns or looks Christmas weary.
  - A kind word to an elderly or handicapped person in our midst.
- Making some time to read to someone who is blind or losing his or her sight.
- A warm greeting or handshake to someone who visits our church this Christmas season.
  - A random act of kindness to a homebound or shut-in person this season.
  - Take some time out of your hectic schedule to visit with someone who is ill.
  - Write a letter or send a card to a lonely person in your neighborhood.
- Call your physician and ask how he or she is feeling.
- Give a gift to a child who you think will not have any gifts under the tree this year.
  - Offer to pray or say “grace” at mealtimes this month.

We are so blessed when we give from our hearts during the holiday season and throughout the year.

May joy abound in your life this Christmas season! Blessings and peace to all!

Pastor Jane

### J.O.Y.

The J.O.Y. kids will be doing their Christmas program during church on Sunday, December 15. The kids are excited about the Christmas season. At our December 1 club meeting we practiced for the program, made an ornament to take home and had pizza & cookies.

After the program on the 15th we invite the kids and the congregation downstairs for punch & cookies. The next meeting will be on January 5, 4:00-5:30. We'd love to have some new kids. If you know of anyone interested, please tell them about our club.

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### SOUP NIGHT

November's soup night was a great time. We had 87 people eating in and about 12 to go orders. \$300 was donated! Because I still have money from Mrs. Taylor's memorial fund I was able to donate that whole amount to the food bank. When I took the check to the food bank they were so happy to see such a large amount. The volunteers were working that day to put together the "feed a friend" boxes for Thanksgiving. One of the helpers told me that this year they were providing for 439 families. That is the most they have ever served through "feed a friend." Our donation from soup night helped with some of the cost for the turkeys. Thank you for your generosity.

The next soup night will be on December 16, 4:30-6:30. We are going to be serving hamburger vegetable soup & corn chowder. Kelly Pratt will be our musical entertainment. Come on out for a hot bowl of soup, some yummy desserts, lively conversation, good music and Christmas cheer!

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### Community Workers

Here it is again, Christmas time again. Time to set a date for our Community Workers to meet.

On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the church. Together, we will have lunch @ noon. Our meeting will immediately follow and everyone will help get our Christmas packages ready for our church members and people in our community that are having health issues. It is our way to wish them happy holidays and let them know we're thinking of them.

If anyone has someone in mind, please let me know so we can check our list. We wouldn't want to forget anyone.

As in years past, we are asking for donations or 2 dozen cookies to put in our Christmas packages. Our appreciation and thanks goes out to all of you that give so freely in supplying and working at our dinners. God truly blessed us. He taught us to "do unto others" and you do!

Everyone is invited to join us on December 12<sup>th</sup> @ Noon.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and happy, healthy new year!  
Gigi Salsman

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### Adopting Family For Christmas

This year we are again happy to be adopting a family for Christmas through Interfaith. We have done this several years and it is a great feeling to be giving a family that might not otherwise have any Christmas, a wonderful celebration. This year we have a family of 4; mom, dad, a son and a daughter.

Chris Smith and I will be collecting money through December 8, and will be shopping that week for the family. With your donations we are able to buy gifts for all family members, gift wrap, other things such as food, or cleaning/laundry supplies, anything that might make their lives a little less stressful. The families that are on these lists are the most needy in Susquehanna County. Maybe next year your family, or a couple families together might consider adopting a family! God Bless and thanks for your generosity!

Mary Hinds

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### **Pineapple SLICES Donation**

Please remember to bring in your donations of canned SLICED pineapples by December 15th! Thank you!

Mary Hinds

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### **Person In The Spotlight**



**Where were you born?** I was born in the Nesbitt Hospital in Kingston. PA. My family lived in Huntsville, near Dallas.

**Do you have siblings?** I have a sister, Susan Roese, and a brother, John Fielding. I am the oldest.

**What are your earliest church memories?** Our Sunday School, which met year round, gave pins for perfect attendance. I spent most of the

summer that I was 9 staying with an aunt's family. Every Sunday she would take me to the Catholic church with her. On our way home she would stop at our Methodist Church, I would run in and announce that I had been to church and run back to the car. I still got my pin at the end of the year.

**Where did you go to college?** I graduated from Kutztown State College with a degree in Library Science in January 1965. I had gone to summer school the year before so that I could graduate in 3 1/2 years. Then I went to Syracuse University for 3 summers to get my Master's Degree.

**Did you participate in any extracurricular activities in high school or college?** In High School I belonged to the Future Teachers of America. One afternoon we actually all got to teach for a few hours while the real teachers went to a meeting. I can still see myself dressed in my best purple wool dress and high heeled shoes standing in front of the first graders. Not allowed these days!

I was also the band "librarian". That meant that I was in charge of fetching things for the band director, passing out the music, taking role and occasionally filling in as flag carrier in the band front. For a few weeks I was even a pompom girl!

**You were the librarian at Choconut Valley for a long time, what other jobs have you had?** While in college, I worked summers as a waitress in a small restaurant not far from Rickett's Glen. In 1965, I began working in Montrose as librarian at Lake Ave. and Lathrop St. elementary schools. In

1971, I was transferred to Choconut where I worked for 30 years. During those years I had a few summer jobs, including the summer library program at Choconut, lawn mowing, home health care, taking in laundry and selling the World Book Encyclopedia.

**You have a beautiful cottage home on Forest Lake. What are your favorite things about living there?**

My house and yard are small and not too hard to take care of. I have learned to Kayak and Paddle Boat and really enjoy being on the Lake. I have also made some new friends here.

**Tell us about your family. When were you married? Where?**

**Children?** Charles Small and I were married in June 1973 in the Huntsville UM Church. For 8 years I had gone home every weekend and taught Sunday School there. Charlie and I have one son, KC (Kenneth Charles II). I have a step-daughter who spent summers and every other weekend with us until she moved to a group home. She is mentally handicapped.

**What other organizations are you involved with?** I belong to Delta Kappa Gamma (an organization for women teachers), PASR (School retirees), Forest Lake Women's Club, and Montrose Chapter Number 151 Order of the Eastern Star.

**When you are at home with time to spare (which isn't very often, I am sure), what do you like to do?**

I LOVE to sit with my dog on my lap and work Sudoku puzzles while keeping one eye on the TV. I just discovered Words with friends and play with Sharon Stockholm who is in St Croix. Modern technology! In the summer I garden, kayak, and have friends and family over to swim or have impromptu cookouts.

**You are so giving of your time to help others, what motivates you?**

My parents were wonderful examples of how to live generously. They didn't always have money to give so they gave of their time and since I lived summers and weekends with them until I was 30 I guess it just rubbed off on me. When I am helping someone, I feel needed and that is a good feeling. So maybe I'm being selfish!

**What is your favorite verse/story in the Bible?**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. I was spending a week or so in bed when I was expecting KC and on Sunday morning Charlie put the TV in the bedroom so I could watch Robert Schuler. He spoke about this verse which gave me hope that day.

**What other things do you like to read?** I like historical fiction and light mysteries.

**What is your favorite dish to make to take somewhere?** Stuffed shells.

**Favorite hymn?** Amazing Grace.

**Tell us something about yourself that most people do not know.**

When I was younger I really would have loved to be in a drag race but I wasn't brave or stupid enough to do it. I was always reading books about racing.

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**Holiday Traditions**

**Pastor Jane:** One tradition in the Pykus Household was during each Advent season we as a family would take the time to do Advent Worship Services at an area Nursing Home. On Christmas Eve it was traditional

for us as a family to attend the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service. It was also a tradition in our family to do those cut-out Christmas cookies and decorate them. We would make cookies for weeks and then enjoy them from Christmas day on into the New Year.

First our whole family would go to Christmas Eve candle light service.

Sometimes we would have friends stop by afterwards for some Christmas cheer. The following morning my mom and dad would come to see the kids open their presents and we would have a big breakfast of eggs Benedict with homemade hollandaise sauce. It was delicious!!

**Janet Small:** Charlie called my nieces "Charlie's Angels" after the TV show. When he died, I started giving them each an angel for Christmas. This will be the 18th one. The only other traditions are that KC and I always have dinner together and I never miss going to a Christmas Eve church service.

**Mary Torney:** Cooking Christmas Dinner

**Phyllis Larsen Palmer:** As a child, we had 3 celebrations: On Christmas Eve at/with father's family; Christmas morning at home with Mom and Dad; Christmas day with Mom's family at Grandma and Grandpa's house.

**Denise Kraynak:** Every year I make a cake in the shape of a cross decorated in white icing. We sing Happy Birthday to Jesus on Christmas Day.

**Flo Bennett:** Enjoying family get togethers and enjoying the holidays.

**Phyllis Valentine:** Christmas music and family.

**Gussie Fritz:** Family and the gathering of the Christmas Spirit and good food.

**Anonymous:** Families getting together. Enjoying the cards from folks you don't see.

**Brenda Frystak:** Christmas Eve service. Christmas morning we open presents with the boys. Then we go to mom and dads with the boys, dog and cat. We spend the day with family. We have to watch "It's a Wonderful Life".

**Chris Smith:** At our house we LOVE Christmas. I start listening to Christmas music sometime in November. We decorate our house the Saturday after Thanksgiving. When Tim & I met we started getting 2 Christmas trees. We get one for upstairs and one for downstairs. Otherwise known as the big & little tree. The little tree is a normal size tree, around 6' or 7' tall. The big tree is on average 10 foot. Our biggest was 14' and 10' around at the bottom. It was so awesome! The little tree always has white lights and an angel. The big tree has colored lights and a star. Santa puts his presents under the big tree because it is closer to the chimney.

The year Levi was 2 we started a new tradition. We started building a "cake house" (a.k.a a ginger bread house.) That year Chloe watched from her high chair since she was only 7 months old. But every year since then we build one. They keep getting better and better.

Levi and Chloe both get 2 new ornaments each year. I get them one with their name & date and Mimi gives them a Hallmark ornament. It is such a nice way to remember their likes and interests represented by the ornaments. Plus, they'll have them someday to hang on their own tree.

**Mary Hinds:** Getting together with both our families. We eat Christmas dinner at Mike's parent's house. When I was young we would always eat at my grandparent's house. We would have to move furniture out of the living room to make room for the special table my grandfather built (which I still have). The first year Mike joined us I think he made #40 or #41. I can't imagine what it took for my grandmother to feed that many, but she always did as was happy to do it. On my father's side, we always get together before Christmas for an evening of eating and singing with my cousin Curt playing the guitar. We do an awesome Falalalala!!

**Harriet Snell:** For the past 14 years we have spent at our niece Diane's, with family. She makes chicken and biscuits and everybody brings a dish. We have a good time after dishes are done. We exchange gifts and memories.

**Bev Fraser:** Going to church on Christmas eve with family and coming back home to drink hot chocolate and eat cookies by the fireplace.

**Paula Remington:** For my family, Christmas became less about gifts and more about exchanging something special and meaningful after Matt went to Iraq twice. Example: I made Nic and Tiff flannel quilts in 2004 for Christmas, and a pillow for Matt from the scraps of their quilts that he could take to Iraq. .he would have a piece of each of us when he laid his head on the pillow when he deployed in Jan, 05'.

Every year since their birth, we give the kids a Hallmark ornament themed around their current interest. Nic has 32 years worth of ornaments, Tiff has 30 years and Matt has 28 years and now I'm doing it for the grandchildren as well.

We love going to the Christmas Eve service. Afterwards, I fix a seafood meal.

**Diane Myers:** Getting together with family and friends.

Every year, David and I (51 years!) cut down and put up a real Christmas tree.

Baking cookies and wishing all a happy new year!

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**What South Montrose Community Church  
is Thankful for**

This year we did a Thanksgiving Tree in worship for the month of November. We printed on leaves what we were thankful for and placed them on the branches. Our tree came alive with the many leaves of thanksgiving.

- For all the people in my life.
- For my mom and dad and family
- For life, family, our church and Jane
- For my wife and the natural world

- Mom and Dad
- Animals
- My family and friends
- A home
- For Soup Night
- Career, family, friends, grandmas
- God's undying love for each of us.
- Our little country church, Pastor Jane and all that she does for our church family, my precious family, children and grandchildren.
- For God and Family and everything I have
- Grateful for my husband and family, faith, and God's love.
- Friends and family
- For my loving God, he does so much for me everyday.
- 
- God's love and forgiveness in my life and my family's love
- I'm thankful for toys, family, people, electronics, food, gas, school, love, peace, house
- For the opportunity to help people
- Family and Friends, house and bed, food and safe school.
- Sanity
- Nice minister, just for being alive, and -- nice friends-Church family, life, joy, love, peace.
- My house.
- My family, My Lord and Savior, My --- Pastor
- For a loving husband
- Family
- Polly
- Family
- Jesus' love.
- For my family
- Family and their good health
- Friends and Family
- I'm thankful for the life Jesus has given me and for my son who takes care of me.
- I'm thankful for the son that I don't see very much. I am thankful for our pastor.
- God's love, Pastor Jane, Family
- Thank you for flowers
- My friends

- Mike, Ben, Grace, Matt, Life
- Friends and Family, Health and strength, For God's love and care.
- God our Father and Jesus
- grace. God is indeed my refuge and strength
- X-Box 360 and Video games
- For Everything!
- For my family
- Family, friends and good health
- Family, Friends, Home, Job
- Family

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**Poinsettias**

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary Sunday, Dec, 22<sup>nd</sup> In Memory Of or In Honor Of someone(s), please see Paula Remington. The cost is \$10.00 for an 8" plant. Colors available are red, white & pink. Sunday, Dec, 8<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday to place an order.

**Trehab Food Bank**

For the month of December our Food Bank is collecting all the fixins for a Christmas Dinner Celebration. All the folks who put the food baskets together wish to thank everyone for their generosity this holiday season. There is still time to bring Sliced Pineapple to the church. We will be taking them to the food bank after Sunday, December 15th.

Throughout the year, our food bank appreciates all our donations of soup, spaghetti and meat sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, canned apple sauce and baked beans, boxed meals, mac and cheese and boxed cereal.

Thanks so much for your generosity all throughout the year. Have a blessed and Holy Christmas season.

Pastor Jane

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**Country Partner Dancing**

Tom and Sherryl Weller will be offering a class in country partner dancing every Tuesday @ 7pm at the church. Please wear smooth soled shoes. If you have any

questions, please call Wellers' @ 278-1489 or email: [wellertom@yahoo.com](mailto:wellertom@yahoo.com).

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**Congratulations!!**

Colt James Seymour was born on October 31<sup>st</sup> to Nate and Michelle Seymour who live in Alexandria, VA. Proud grandparents are Charlie and Martha Denkenberger.

**Area Agency on Aging News**

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### Intangibles

The gift of love is never measured in a monetary way,  
For it is only manifested in the actions we display,  
The time we spend with children giving guidance, tender care, teaching, praising and up-lifting and just by being there.  
The helping hands we offer, small things we do to please, these are the precious treasures that leave sweet memories.  
Our kindness and compassion to the aged, and infirm, the giving of our inner selves are lasting gifts of endless term.  
Words of courage and encouragement, a hug to show affection, no diamond, gold or jewel can match the glow of love's perfection.

When we touch the hand of strangers, each time we kneel to pray, and invite our Lord to enter, we can brighten someone's day.  
These intangibles are gifts from God.  
Priceless love beyond compare and His love keeps multiplying if only we would share.

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### My First Christmas In Heaven

I've had my first Christmas in Heaven:  
A wonderful, glorious day!  
I stood there with the saints of the ages,  
Who found in Jesus Life, the Truth and the Way.

I sang there with the heavenly choir:  
Just think--I who longed so to sing!  
And oh, the beauty of the celestial music  
We sang to our God and King!

We sang the glorious songs of redemption,  
How Jesus to Bethlehem came,  
And how they had called His name Jesus,  
that all would be save by His name.

O loved ones, I wish you could be here,  
No Christmas on earth could ever compare  
With the joy and the glory  
I have witnessed in Heaven so fair.

You know how I always loved Christmas;  
It was always such a wonderful day,

With all my loved ones around me  
The children so happy and coming my way.

Yes, now I can see why I loved it:  
and oh, what a joy it will be  
When all of my loved ones are right here  
with me,  
to share in the fun and glories I now see.

Today I sang once again with the angels,  
The song they once sang on Christmas  
morn, that blessed  
When the shepherds first heard the glad story  
That Jesus, the Savior, was born.

So loved ones there on earth, here's my greeting:  
Look up till the day dawn appears,  
And oh, what a Christmas still awaits us,  
Beyond all our partings and tears!

Christmas is a time for love and joy,  
For you know a Savior has been given,  
Know that I am having a really great time,  
Here, my first Christmas in heaven!

Author Unknown

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### We Forgot Him!

The first Christmas that little Linda learned to read, she was allowed to give out the family Christmas gifts. According to their family custom, the one who distributed the gifts got to open the first gift. After all the gifts were given with care, little Linda looked all around the tree. "What are you looking for, dear?" asked Linda's father. Linda replied: "I thought Christmas was Jesus' birthday. I was just looking for his gifts, but I guess we forgot him, huh daddy?"

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### Happenings At Montrose Bible Conference

#### Christmas Craft Fair

Friday & Saturday,  
Dec. 6th & 7th - 9am to 4 pm  
Featuring Local Hand Crafters



Both Days Special: "Kid's Christmas Hour"  
led by Child Evangelism includes a story  
and craft, FREE

Held at the Lake Avenue Dining Room.  
Lunch will be available

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**Ladies Christmas Tea**

Tuesday, Dec 10, 2013 - 11am til 1pm

Speaker: Kim Kirk, Author and Bible  
Teacher

Includes a light lunch with Seasonal  
Goodies

Cost: \$12 per person

Also visit "Around the World Nativities" on  
display in Torrey Home after lunch.

Held in Dreyer Lodge

Reservations, call 570-278-1001

Email: [mbc@MontroseBible.org](mailto:mbc@MontroseBible.org)

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**Christmas Dinner Concert**

Friday, Dec. 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Featuring Dave Boyer

Big Band style with a message of joy!

Lake Avenue Dining Room

\$21 per adult, \$5 per child 12 and under

Reservations Required, call 800-598-5030

Add-On Bed and Breakfast---package price

\$50 total per adult

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**Happenings at Sky Lake**

**Second Sundays:** A monthly gathering  
for youth in grades 5th through 12th.

Second Sundays begin at 3 p.m. and end  
at 5 p.m.

December 8th: 3-5 p.m.

January 12th: 3-5 p.m. Dress Warmly,  
we maybe going sledding

February 9th: 3-5 p.m. Dress Warmly,  
we may go sledding if we can't do it in  
January.

March 9th: 3-5 p.m.

**Special Needs Winter Retreat:** January  
5-7, 2014, This is a retreat for persons  
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, making snow angels,  
and more!

Cost: \$225 per person includes 2 nights  
lodging, 6 meals, snacks and program fee.

Registration: On line at [skylakecenter.org](http://skylakecenter.org)

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**Sky Lake Family Weekends:** January 17-  
20 and February 14-17. 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 one or both of our weekends.

Created for people of all ages and families  
of all descriptions, our family winter  
weekends are held in Riley Lodge. Cost for  
the weekend is \$340.

Register at [skylakecenter.org](http://skylakecenter.org)

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**Senior High Winter Retreat:** February  
7-9, 2014, If you are a youth in grade 9,  
10, 11 or 12, come spend the weekend  
with friends old and new. Along with  
serious times and discussions, there will  
be plenty of time for serious fun with  
friends, new and old! Please be sure to  
bring plenty of outdoor clothing for  
hiking, sledding, and other outdoor fun.

Cost is \$99 per person.

Location: Riley Lodge

Register at [skylakecenter.org](http://skylakecenter.org)

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**2014 Sky Lake Confirmation Retreat**

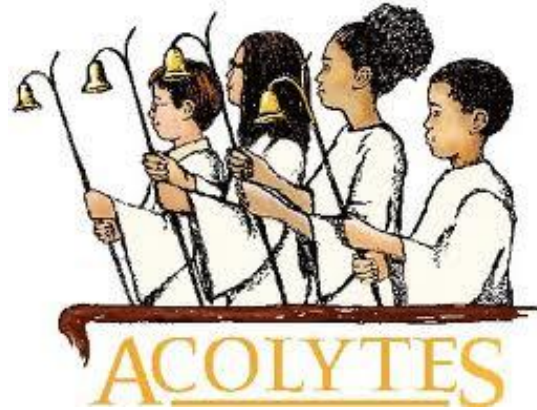
March 7-8, 2014 \$60 per person



### Our Prayers

**In the church:** Kelly Pratt, Kelly Arndt, Agie Holbert, Grace Harvey, Wayne Singer, Jim Linaberry, Melba Watkins, Joyce & Don Blaisure, Nic Remington, Ben Owen, Theresa Owen, Craig Estelle, June Bishop, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Belma Herrala, Doris Sebring, Doris Larnerd, Bob Dalrymple, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood, Kathryn Sterling, family of Margaret Canfield.

**In our community:** Mary Manzoli, Family of Scott Mead, Janice, Betty Wellman, Dotty Henry, Catalina, Edith Brigham, Pat Whitaker, Mickey Patrick, Sandy, Justin & Jess, Philippa Follert, Jennifer VanEtten, Delbert Potts, Sandra Lathrop, those struggling with addictions, our teenagers in Susquehanna County, Devin, Arden Baker, Wayne Littlejohn, Debbie Bush, Sarah and Bill, Tina Barton, Robert Atticks, Sr, Liz Oliver, Julie Fair, Randy Ward, Mary Helen Booth, Dewey Hunsinger, Keith Pratt, John Paul Jones, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Aaron Olah, Brooke Arnold, Dee Pierson, Dick Millard, Duane Snell, Helen Petersen, Debbie Brewer, Terri Franks, Butch Rosenkrans, Jonathan and Daniel Snell, Katherine, David & Mary Ann Pierce, Sarah Manzer, Sterling Barefoot, Les Hawley, Josh Capwell, teachers and students, those in the military, the unemployed, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church and each other



### Nursery and Acolyte Schedule

Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris	Kayleen
Dec. 8th	Brenda	Elizabeth
Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Annette	Clay
Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	no nurse	Kohen
Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Kelly	Matthew

### New Church Website

<http://southmontrose.umchurches.org/>

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P O Box 577

New Milford PA 18834  
(570)465-2318

Email: [jpykus65@gmail.com](mailto:jpykus65@gmail.com)