

So. Montrose Community Church
February, 2014 Newsletter



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Welcome to the month of February. Whether the Ground Hog sees his shadow or not, we still have six more weeks of winter. And, what will we do with these weeks that are ahead of us? One of the things that I do through the month of February is focus on I Corinthians 13 in my devotional time. This chapter in Corinthians reminds us what love is and what love is not. It also inspires me to love myself and others and to make the world in which I live a kinder and more gentle place.

Here these words anew from "The Message": "If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. so, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do. I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always, "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like an infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."

Love is the most important gift that we can give in our lifetime. We express love through our words and actions not only this month, but all year through. By giving unconditional love to others we begin to understand how deeply God loves us. We love others because God first loved us. Let us be generous with our love so that others see Christ living in us.

Think about the priceless gifts in our lives: trust, forgiveness, kindness, friendship, sacrifice, just to name a few. All of these have as its root, love.

Think for a moment about how much God the Father loved us. Love is exemplified through the Father's gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus loved us completely and he expressed it openly. Jesus gave his life in place of ours so that we might enjoy eternity forever.

Let's give the gift of love to our partners, our family, our friends and our neighbors. You will make a difference in their lives and in the process your life will experience a make-over.

Keep your Faith Alive!

Pastor Jane

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

Call your friends and tell them they are invited to our church for worship on February 16. We are going to have donuts & coffee afterwards. This will also be in the Mulligan's that the week before. Let's get together with our friends and neighbors in the community.

Letter of Thanks

It is hard to believe that we are almost through the first month of a new year.

Looking forward to what God has for you and your congregation in 2014 is exciting. I am sure that just as God has used you in 2013, so God will use you mightily in this new year.

One of the ways God has used you and your resources is in your ministry of stewardship. And, because you have been faithful, you have been able to pay 100% of your Shares of Ministry. I wanted to write as your District Superintendent and thank you personally for paying 100%!

Your faithfulness, even in the midst of sacrificial giving, is greatly appreciated. By your giving, you have joined hands and hearts with United Methodist Christians across our Annual Conference to make a difference in the lives of countless people.

By your generous spirit and your faithful giving, you have kept covenant as United Methodists. By your giving, you are proclaiming that God's people can do more together than we ever could alone.

By your congregation paying Shares of Ministry in full, you have helped send missionaries across the world, helped make sure that there will be Christian camping for our children and youth. By your generosity, our retired pastors are assured that their faithful ministry is honored by continuing their health benefits. And, with your giving, you are supporting new church starts in our conference as well as helping to revitalize congregations that want to grow.

Together as people of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District, you have, through Shares of Ministry, supported our homes for the elderly, our UM children's

Home and the Neighborhood Center. You have helped congregations reach out through mission and ministry in many ministries including the smallest congregations and those doing work in the inner-city with our ethnic brothers and sisters.

Because of your commitment to our covenant as United Methodists, you have helped spread the love of God and helped the kingdom of God grow and bring people to know the saving power of Jesus Christ.

I would ask that you share this letter with your congregation. Please let your members know how much I appreciate your ministry and stewardship.

Thank you! God's Peace,

Marian E. Hartman
District Superintendent

SOUP NIGHT



By Chris Smith

Our last soup night fell on January 20, Martin Luther King Day. It was very cold out and snowing off and on all day. Some schools had the day off. I wasn't really expecting a big turn out for soup night. But like I do every time on the morning of what will be soup night I ask God to send who He wants to be there. And so He sent 71 people! Not just 71 people.....71 hungry people. (My most favorite kind of people.) We had chili and bacon cheddar soup. The bacon cheddar was all gone by 5:15. We took corn chowder out of the freezer left over from last month and learned that you can warm up frozen soup quicker than you might think. There was probably enough corn chowder for about 15 bowls. In a few minutes that was gone. In addition to our guests eating in, we also had about 10 people who got to eat it at home. There wasn't much chili left so I sent that home with the remaining guests. We

received \$223 in donations. I saved \$150 for next month and sent \$73 to the food bank.

Would you all do me a big favor? Will you please tell Kelly Pratt what a good guy he is? Let me explain.....every month I have an advertisement for soup night in the Mulligan's. It says who, what, where, and what kind of soup basically. Well, last month one of the paper's employees emailed me and asked if it was OK to run the exact same ad as the previous month and just change the 2 soups and remove the Christmas type picture. I said OK and didn't proof read her next email which said Kelly Pratt would be the musical entertainment. A couple days before soup night Kel read the ad and emailed me to let me know that he could play at soup night even though we hadn't exactly discussed it! As always the people loved hearing him. I will remember to ask people before I put it in the paper and to ALWAYS proof read. Thanks Kel!

See you February 17. We'll be serving Italian Sausage Stew and Cream of Potato w/ Ham. Remember to bring your friends

February Spotlight

Our spotlight for February is Kelly Pratt



1. Where were you born? Born & raised in Hop Bottom, Pa. My parents are still alive. They were married in the South Montrose Community Church in 1951. I have a younger brother & sister.

2. Where did you go to high school? Hop Bottom grade school then Mountain View High School.

3. Were you involved in any sports or clubs in high school? Basketball, soccer, and track. I was very good in all of them but not exceptional. Being part of the teams and going to games & meets was so much fun. My parents went to every one! It also

seemed that members of the varsity basketball team were always treated special. I was very fortunate.

4. Did you go to college? If so, where?

What degree? Yes, to "The U" – University of Scranton 1971- 1975. Bachelors in Computer Science. I was in the very first year of Computer Science at the U. New professor and new curriculum. It was so cool being part of something so new & awesome!

5. What was your first job? Other jobs?

Any unusual job? All of my jobs had to do with computer programming. I was blessed with being able to do many new & fascinating things with computers. So in some respects most of my jobs were unusual. Some highlights: In 1978 I built a personal computer that could talk. I developed software in 1981 for Ingersol Rand to do financial analysis (this was before it became known as Spreadsheets). In 1985 I used IBM Industrial PC's to interconnect mainframes to shop floor tools to automate the shop floor (I was the 2nd in the USA to do so). I've managed computer departments of almost 30 people with 1.5 million dollar budgets. In 2003 I developed & implemented a highly automated footwear warehouse capable of shipping 16,000 pairs of shoes per day with only a staff of 35 people (the software told the conveyors, fork trucks and people what to do & when).

6. When were you married? Children? 1st time in 1976. Two children: Kerri is now 32 and is a professor of chemistry at U of Michigan. She lives in Ann Harbor with her husband Andy. Dustin is 29 and is an electrician. He is married to Rachel and they have 2 beautiful glorious daughters. They live in Montrose. I am blessed to be their main babysitter! 2nd time in 2004 to amazing Susan! We have a wonderful God daughter (Elizabeth) that we helped raise. We are still MomMom & PopPop to her – she is such a blessing!

7. What places have you lived? Hop Bottom, South Gibson, Horseheads NY, & Montrose

8. What is your favorite vacation spot? Favorite vacation memory? My favorite nearby place is Vermont. I've been very

blessed to have visited many places, however, my favorite vacation was the trip to Ireland in May of 2012. Ireland was spectacular! Especially the Dingle Penninsula. God decided to show off when he created that place. We were in awe each of the 3 days we spent in Dingle. We will go back someday.

9. What do you do in your spare time? I play guitar and learn new songs, hiking, running, reload bullets for my guns, make a pie, cut firewood, work on the sugarshack to get it ready for another year of maple syrup, or read.

10. How long have you attended SMCC? Since 1999. I've been Treasurer since 2000.

11. Do you have a favorite Bible verse or story? The road to Damascus when Saul was converted. This was the main turning point for Christianity.

when **12. What is your favorite room in your house?** The living room - especially Susan's Christmas forest is up for the holidays.

13. How has your faith helped you through a difficult time, or was there a specific time that you could feel God working in your life? Yes several times. The song "Precious Lord Take My Hand" always rings in my head when times are rough.

14. Tell us something about yourself that most people would not know. How about 2 things? 1) Angie uses Tax software I have written. 2) I have paddled the 70 mile General Clinton canoe race a total of 10 times.



Dear God: Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There's nothing good there now!

Dear God: Is it true that my Dad won't get into heaven if he uses his bowling words here in the house?

Dear God: In Sunday school they told us what to do. Who takes over for You when You are on vacation?

Dear God: Maybe You should have given Cain and Abel separate bedrooms--Maybe they wouldn't have killed each other. It works with my brother!!

Author Unknown

Love Story

Most of you know that Charmarie works at Susquehanna County Services for Children and Youth. Some of you know that we adopted Matthew from C&Y, and that I am a member of their Advisory Board. A few months ago, Charmarie called me asking if I knew of anyone who wanted a baby. My first reaction was "Not us!", but after she said that wasn't her intention I told her I would think about it. Later that night I thought of a friend of mine who already had an adopted 7 year old daughter. I texted my friend and asked her about taking in this beautiful baby boy. As it was with us, it was certainly a surprising call, so I asked her to just think about it, and knowing that she has a strong faith in God I asked her to pray about it. We talked several times after that, and she had been praying about it, but just could not decide if that is where she wanted her life's path to go. She lived with her daughter and her mother, so there were 3 lives affected. So although all the signs pointed in one direction, (Charmarie's director asked her about finding a foster home, she called me, I thought of my friend, none of which were things that happened often), it was still a difficult decision. It is important to note that my friend's daughter has darker skin as does the baby boy. So after quite a while of going back and forth with her decision, on a Friday night she threw her arms up in the air and said "Please God, if this is what you want me to do, I need a sign. A tangible, obvious sign!" The following Sunday, her

daughter had her final soccer game of the season. And who was on the other team? The son of the couple who were the temporary foster parents to this little boy. He was at the game! So with my friend waiting for her tangible and obvious sign from God, her daughter looks at this little boy and says "Mom!! Look at that little boy over there, he looks just like me! He could be my brother!" Sign delivered. She went home, filled out the foster parent paperwork, and is now enjoying every minute with this beautiful boy, with hopes of making their relationship permanent. True love... not just between my friend and the baby, but between God and His child who He sent such a great sign to.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming foster parents, please see myself or Charmarie. Good foster homes are ALWAYS needed.

Mary Hinds



Valentines you can give your Children

Acceptance: Let them know they are loved unconditionally.

Self Confidence: Help them understand that they can believe in themselves.

Life Without Needless Fears: Don't let your children see you as a "worrier."

Appreciation: Help your children become persons who have a spark, and to enjoy all of life around them. Tell them you appreciate them and what they do.

Faith: Introduce your children to God, the best friend they will ever have. Give this valentine all year by bringing your children to church with you each Sunday.

Author Unknown

Cheers & Boos

As some of you may already know, the Smith family are bigtime hockey fans. Levi

has been the Binghamton Senators #1 fan since his first game when he was 5 weeks old. We go to about 40 AHL games a year. Chloe and I like hockey, but we don't *love* It as much as Tim and Levi. So...us girls like to socialize. We have made many friends with the other fans that we sit near. We all cheer on the Sens together. Lots of people have gotten to watch my kids grown up and they love it when Levi's team has their intermission skate during the "big guys" game.

I've also learned many things about people by watching how they react to their team's winning or losing. Winning is fun...there's no other way to explain it. Winning any kind of game or competition gives the players and their fans a type of high. Winning makes the fans proud of their team for the hard work and determination. Winning also sells tickets.

But the fact is, you can't win every game. Most hockey fans will tell you that the 1st goal of the game "sets the stage" as they like to say. This means that most times, whichever team scores the 1st goal is usually the winner. Not written in stone, but I have noticed it to be pretty true. So when the opposing team scores the 1st goal, the fans usually start cheering their own team on. They work very hard at building the team up. The Binghamton fans are even known in the league as being the most spirited. Our mascot, Max, was voted most crowd-pleasing mascot. The games are lively and energetic and for the most part, being a Sens fan is quite a positive experience.

I had a new experience this past Saturday, January 25th though. The Sens were playing against the Rochester Americans. The Sens are doing very well this year and in 1st place in their division: The Americans are in 2nd. Before the game started, Binghamton recognized Denis Hamel into the Binghamton Hockey Hall of Fame. There was a large crowd in attendance.

Literally seconds into the game, the Americans scored the 1st goal. The whole arena was quiet. I remember thinking it was

odd that the fans weren't cheering and really trying to get the Sens motivated. The next goal was scored by the Sens. Many of the Sens fan started screaming, "You can't hack it! You can't hack it!!" to the Americans goal tender. (Now, don't get me wrong...the Sens fans get rowdy a lot of the time too. ESPN has commercials telling the world that hockey fans aren't like other fans. I mean OBVIOUSLY! The players whip pucks at each other over 100 mph and punch each other while we fans clap and bang on the glass cheering it on!).

Here's where it got even more interesting though. Sitting in front of me was a girl I had never seen before. She was cheering for the Sens and was very much into the game. But every time the Binghamton fans screamed, "You can't hack it!" to the Rochester's goalie, she looked right toward him and yelled, "you're doing the best you can." She didn't scream wildly to get anyone's attention. She looked very sincere. Watching her was so enjoyable. She was very positive. She had a nice expression on her face the whole time. She didn't appear to love the idea that her home team was losing, but she wasn't letting it ruin her night. I was so inspired watching her that even sent a text to my mom and sister telling them what she was saying to the Americans goalie.

The next morning while saying my prayers, the Lord brought her into my mind. I wish I would have told her how she inspired me. I don't know if she was a Christian or not. I hope so, but if she isn't, she'd make a *great* one!

It made me think about how the Bible tells us over and over again how important the words coming from our mouth are. Thinking and speaking positively affects everything about our life. Romans 15:2 tells us to encourage others, build them up. Never tear down or destroy.

Could Rochester's goalie hear her telling him he was doing the best he could? Probably not, but God heard her and so did His angels. Psalm 103:20 says the angels are the mighty ones who harken to God's word. I'm choosing to believe that the

angels whispered what that nice girl said into the goalie's ear last Saturday night. It made the Sens losing a little easier to take. The Rochester Americans beat the Binghamton Senators 5-2. I was reminded that God is everywhere and can speak through anyone He chooses. Sometimes God's lessons come to us in unexpected ways and make it that much more awesome. How incredibly lucky we are to serve Him and be His biggest fans. The next time the world tells you, "You can't hack it!" you yell right back, "I'm doing the best I can! I have God on my side. I'm already undefeated!"

Birthdays

February 4th Pastor Jane

Upcoming events

February 2nd— Kids J.O.Y. will be meeting at Sweet FROG in Binghamton at 2:00. All are welcome to join us. Then we will meet from 4:00-5:30 at the church. Kids ages preschool through 6th grade welcome.

March 1st— Annual Gospel Fest. Covered dish dinner at 5:30, music at 7:00.

March 22nd – Annual Chicken Barbeque at United Fire Hall in Montrose.

Happenings at the Montrose Bible Conference

2014 Couples Weekend

February 7-9: The Art of Marriage Video Series from Family Life Ministries, includes workbooks

The program begins on Friday evening and supper is served at 6:30 p.m. and concludes with Sunday lunch.

For More Information and Reservations, contact MBC at 570-278-1001

Wimps to Warriors Teen Snow Camp

February 21-23: Challenging talks about going from Wimps to Warriors in Christ. Worship Leaders, Saline, will also present a concert.

Cost: \$91 per person, includes 2 nights, 5 meals and all activities.

Make reservations at
www.montrosebible.org
1-800-598-5030

Saline: Worship Concert

Speaker - Jake Walton

Saturday, February 22nd at 7 p.m.

Lake Avenue Dining Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Free Concert, Everyone is welcome!
Call, Email, Visit to get your FREE Tickets!
570-278-1001

Women's Resource Center Wish List

The Women's Resource Center is in need of the following donations:
Cleaning Supplies: brooms, mops, sponges, dish soap, scrubbies, scouring powder, laundry detergent, 64oz or smaller, fabric softener and dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, quart and gallon size disposable plastic bags.

- Personal Items: Shampoo
- Baby Supplies: wipes, powder, lotion, bath wash
- Household: Sheets, towels, hard covered journals.
- Gift Cards: Price Chopper: \$25, Pump and Pantry: \$10

Our church representative is Cathy McCain. If you are able to donate any of the above items, please bring them with you to worship on Sunday and Cathy will be sure that they are delivered to WRC.

Thanks, Pastor Jane

Flowers On Alter Schedule

February	Mary Hinds
March	Paula Remington
April	Diane Linaberry
May	Kathryn Linabery

Nursery Schedule

Feb 2 nd	Mary /	Feb 9 th	Chris
Feb 16 th	Brenda /	Feb 23 rd	Annette
Mar 2 nd	Kelly /	Mar 9 th	Sue V
Mar 16 th	Angie /	Mar 23 rd	Denise
	March 30 th	Mary	



Our Prayers

In the church: Abraham Linaberry, Linda Matthews, Dawn Arnold, Kelly Arndt, 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.

In our community: Gary & Ginger Traver, Staff @ Children & Youth, Terry Cooke, , Dottie 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, Wayne Littlejohn, Debbie Bush, Sarah and Bill, Tina Barton, Robert Atticks, Sr, 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, Les Hawley, 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

Church Website

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

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