

So. Montrose Community Church
March, 2014 Newsletter



For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin”. Hebrews 4:15

When I look in the mirror and see what I don't wish to see, Jesus appears behind me. All kinds of feelings come to the surface. I feel embarrassed. Sometimes I feel defensive, other times I feel judged and I just want to run away because I feel guilty. I know I have failed in many ways and it is difficult to have Jesus standing there. A long time ago when I was in seminary, I learned that Jesus wasn't standing in the mirror with me to judge my character. Jesus was there to help me. Jesus really does hear my confessions and personal prayers. Jesus understands where I'm coming from.

Jesus was about 30 years old when he faced the toughest days of his entire life. For six weeks he lived alone in the Judean wilderness and didn't eat. The wilderness is a desolate place with few inhabitants, little water, lots of heat and a whole bunch of rocks.

I wonder if Jesus really knew what he was getting himself into. Being led by the Holy Spirit, Jesus entered the wilderness. Jesus didn't eat for almost 1,000 hours. He went without food for 40 days and 40 nights. Many of us might say that we are starving after a few short hours! It is difficult to imagine not eating for 1,000 hours. The wilderness was also hot and dry.

I'm sure it was a real challenge to keep himself hydrated. Jesus was weak when the first temptation came. The tempter came to Jesus and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus must have wanted to do it. Can you imagine Jesus not wanting to? What would you and I do? I would have done anything to eat the bread, but Jesus didn't. Even though Jesus was weak, tired, hungry and thirsty, he would not let his physical needs take precedence over his spiritual needs. And so Jesus answered, "It is written, people do not live on bread alone."

As we know Jesus was a people person. He always seemed to be surrounded by a crowd. After 40 days alone, the tempter must have looked good for someone to talk with. We are vulnerable when we are lonely and many times we make poor choices, choices that we would never make under different circumstances. Lonely people join groups, good or bad, just so they feel accepted and loved. The tempter took Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple which is about 45 stories high. There the tempter offers Jesus a deal. "If you are the Son of God, jump, God will take care of you, you won't get hurt." (paraphrased). Jesus didn't have anything to prove. If he had jumped, Jesus would have been the center of attention, with the angels swooping down to save him, Jesus would have dazzled the crowd below and would have no longer been lonely. I probably would have jumped, how about you?

Then came the toughest test of the three, "the tempter took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and said, 'All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me.'" What an offer! Jesus cared deeply about people. His mission was to save our world from the consequences of sin. This offer surely beats dying on the cross, don't you think? The problem was the demand of the tempter that Jesus worship him. Would the tempter have really kept his word if Jesus

would have given in? Probably not, we know that the tempter would have kept the rule of the world for himself.

What does this all mean for us today? We live in a world of temptation everyday of our lives. Jesus was tempted when hungry, lonely and caring enough to want to do good for others. Jesus struggled with doing the wrong thing, but decided to do the right thing. The idea is that Jesus understands our hungers, our desires, our struggles with decisions and temptations. Jesus has been tempted in every way just as we are. I know it is hard for us to comprehend this fact, but it is true. Jesus isn't our critic, he is our encourager. Jesus is not our enemy, he is our friend. Jesus is not out to get us. He is on our side.

I'm encouraged to know that I am not alone when I'm tempted. Even when the temptation is great and I feel like a magnet is drawing me into sin, I know Jesus is by my side and that he understands my struggles. Just the other day I was tempted to eat a couple Valentine donuts, you know those with the "filling" that a couple of my friends were enjoying. By God's grace, I only ate one instead of two!!

(scripture cited here from Matthew 4:1-11)

Take heart, God is with us, we are not alone! Have a blessed Lenten journey.

Pastor Jane



Kelly & Susan will be playing dinner music at MaZAR's GreenView Restaurant from 5:00 to 8:00 on March 7th & 8th. Come check out a selection of Irish, Gospel & Folk music with great food!"





SOUP NIGHT

If you didn't have fun at February's soup night, it's simply because you weren't there! Seriously, I can honestly say I think everyone there had a great time. From the door way to the kitchen to the dining room, I heard music & laughing and I see hugs & smiles. It doesn't get much better.

We served 84 people dining in and around a dozen to go orders for folks who couldn't join us. Our donations was \$238. I donated \$88 to the food bank and kept \$150 for soup night in March. Our friend, Ingrid Balsamo joined us again to talk to people about S.N.A.P. (supplemental nutrition assistance program). She also has a new program that benefits veterans of all ages who may need financial assistance with housing, food, utility bills, etc. If you know a veteran who needs this assistance please let Pastor Jane or myself know and we will let you know how to get in touch with her.

As always, I am very thankful for my family & friends who help me serve, clean up or bake desserts for soup night. Thank you to Korena Kraynak for providing such lovely music this month.

Next month we will have soup night on St. Patrick's Day, Monday March 17. We will be serving cream of broccoli & bbq bean stew. (I had requests last time for those 2 particular kinds. They seem

to be favorites.) Please join us. Bring a friend. Can't wait to have another fun filled night!

Chris Smith

Faith and Family Night
with the Binghamton Senators

Friday, March 14, 2014, 7:05 p.m.

Broome County Arena

Binghamton Senators VS Norfolk Admirals
Featuring Local Christian Band, Ten Days

www.ten-days.com

Tickets: \$13 or \$12

6 p.m. Arena Doors Open

6:10 p.m. Pre-Game Christian Music performance by Ten Days on the concourse.

Mail Order Forms to: Binghamton Senators, 1 Stuart Street, 3rd Floor Arena, Binghamton, NY 13901
Attention: Faith Night

FAX: 607-722-7424

Phone: 607-722-7367

Order your tickets online (safe and secure)
<https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1403375-RXJler7gak>

Country Partner Dancing

Tom and Sherry Weller are teaching Country Partner Dancing on Tuesday evenings @ 7pm. All that is required is a small donation for the use of our church. Come have some fun and dance with us! For more information, call (570)278-1489.



ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ
MARCH 22, 2014

One sure sign that Spring is "just around the corner" is the SMCC Annual Chicken BBQ. Plans for that affair are well under way. It is scheduled for **Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the Montrose Fire Hall** from

11am until all are served.

Letters for work assignments will be mailed to you or given out at church on the first Sunday of March. Calls will be made to solicit for food donations. If you are not contacted to provide food, donations to offset the cost of the cole slaw, coffee, butter, rolls and milk are welcome.

It is only with your cooperation that we have been able to sustain this annual fund raiser for our church for many years and the committee members are extremely grateful for your helping hands. So, come and join us and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of your friends and neighbors. It is always a fun time. We look forward to seeing you there!

Betty Brunges

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Of Susquehanna, Lackawanna, Wayne, and Pike Counties

We are about helping children facing adversity become successful, contributing citizens of our county and country.

It is almost time for the Largest Fund Raiser in the counties we serve....

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2014
Saturday, April 5, 2014
2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Valley Lanes, Great Bend

Sign up today:

<http://nepabbbs.kintera.org/bowl>

For more information, you can also contact
Cynthia Beeman at

cynthia.beeman@nepabbbs.org

570-278-4600, ext. 212

Cafe Chocalat

Where women delight in God's grace

Welcome Teens, mothers, grandmothers, and friends....No Bible required!

The women of the First congregational Church of Harford, PA are offering to all women age 14 and up, for the first time in

our area, Cafe Chocalat---a 24 hour retreat. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. And while the name of our gathering sounds indulgent, we'll actually be using chocolate as a metaphor for God's extravagant grace.

Our retreat will be held April 4-5, 2014 at Nichols Village Hotel and Spa in Clarks Summit. <http://nicholsvillage.com>

It is very affordable! Take time to relax, to make new friends, to worship, and to draw closer to God. We hope you'll join us at Cafe Chocalat

Donna Biesecker
570-533-3264

donna.biesecker@yahoo.com

firstch@nep.net

Registration Deadline is March 1st.

PRICES ARE ALL INCLUSIVE

(per person, room, meals, snacks, lots of fun and fellowship)

Rooms: Quad: \$100, Double: \$125,
Single: \$175

WE WANT YOU!!!!

Create Memories that last a lifetime! Be the FAMILY that makes a connection with a friend from Spain.

If your family would like to host a teen from New Ideas Language School from June 28th to July 27th, please contact me. I will look for families with a teen so that the Spanish teen will not be lonely. When you contact me I will send you an application and then interview you before matching you with a teen from Spain. I look forward to meeting with you.

Diane Brueilly

brueilly@live.com

570-586-6497

If you would like to preview the school, check it out at

www.newideasschool.com

Women of Faith Tour:
From Survival to Revival, 2014

Revive Your Faith---Awaken Your Spirit---Transform Your Life
America's Leading Christian Event For Women.

September 5th-6th: Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, PA

For more information, contact Chris Latwinski at 570-533-1931 or 570-434-2224

Person In The Spotlight

Martha Denkenberger



1. Where were you born? I was born in Philadelphia, PA but grew up in Troy, PA.

2. Where did you go to high school? I graduated from Troy High School in 1967.

3. Were you involved in any sports or clubs in high school? I was involved in Spanish Club, German Club, Future Teachers, National Honor Society, and Advanced Glee Club. I was also in Girl Scouts and 4-H.

4. Did you go to college? If so, where? What degree? I got my BS from Bloomsburg State College with a major in Math education. I worked on my master's degree at Tulane University in New Orleans but didn't finish because my first child came along.

5. What was your first job? Other jobs? Any unusual job? I worked at the JC Penney Store in Troy when I was in college. I taught math for a half year in Towanda and then for a year in Troy. But my main occupation has been a "domestic engineer". I have always been very thankful that I could be home with my children and devote my primary energies to my home and family. Over the years I have been involved with music: church choirs, church organist, giving piano lessons, and Saving Graces.

6. When were you married? Children?

Charlie and I were married in 1978. Our oldest son, Sean and his wife, Siana live in San Francisco and Nate, Michelle and little Colt James live in the DC area. David, Jill, Audrey and Julia live in Durango, CO and Tom is in Boulder, CO.

7. What places have you lived? Troy, Towanda, and Montrose

8. What is your favorite vacation spot? Favorite vacation memory? It is hard to choose a "favorite" spot! Charlie and I have enjoyed travelling for many years, with the kids and then by ourselves. I loved Norway and the Alpine countries in Europe. We have been to many beautiful National Parks and several times to Alaska. And one of my favorite places to be is at our cottage at North Pond, the Shack!

9. What do you do in your spare time? I like to work in my garden and flowers in the summer time and in the winter I like to quilt and embroider.

10. How long have you attended SMCC? I joined the SMCC in 1978. I taught Sunday School and Bible School when our kids were involved and was a Den Mother for Cub Scouts at the church.

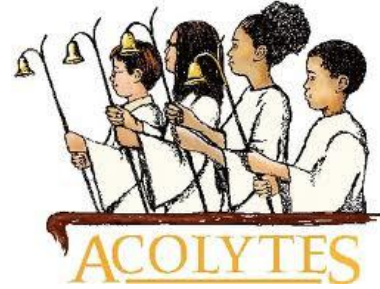
11. Do you have a favorite Bible verse or story? Micah 6:8 has always been a basic guide for my life – to act justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly with my God. Another favorite is the Isaiah scripture or the song "On Eagles Wings" where God lifts me up and holds me in the palm of his hand.

12. What is your favorite room in your house? Maybe the kitchen because I spend a lot of time there cooking and baking for my family and friends.

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? I have always felt that God was with me every step of the way. I frequently see "coincidences" as God helping me along. I often repeat scripture verses or words of songs when I have turbulence on an airplane ride or "turbulence" in my everyday life.

14. Tell us something about yourself that most people would not know. One time

when we were hiking in Alaska we came to a beautiful, clear, COLD lake and I wanted to swim in it. I improvised a bathing suit from some of the many layers I was wearing, had a great very short swim, wrapped up the wetparts, and wore the rest of the layers back.



Birthdays



Doris Sebring March 30th
 c/o Shirley Sullivan
 33 Waterview Rd.
 West Chester PA 19380

Matthew Remington March 29th
Tiffany Remington March 30th

Doris Larnerd April 10th
 10543 SR 29
 Montrose PA 18801

Cathy McCain April 17th
Melba Watkins April 29th
 10543 SR 29
 Montrose PA 18801

Nursery & Acolyte Schedule

3/2	Kelly	Tanner
3/9	Sue V	Korena
3/16	Angie	Cole
3/23	Denise	Kayleen
3/30	Mary	Elizabeth
4/6	Chris	Clay
4/13	Brenda	Kohen
4/20	Annette	Matthew
4/27	Kelly	Tanner



Communion

March 2 nd	Paula Remington
April 6 th	Cathy McCain
May 4 th	Mary Torney



Flowers In Church

March	Paula Remington
April	Diane Linaberry
May	Kathryn Linaberry



Our Prayers

In the church: Dawn Arnold, Kelly Arndt, Jim Linaberry, Melba Watkins, Joyce & Don Blaisure, Nic Remington, 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: Family of Lucas Baker, Jan Krupinski and family, Gary & Ginger Traver, Staff @ Children & Youth, Terry

Cooke, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Pat Whitaker, Mickey Patrick, Sandy, Justin & Jess, Jennifer VanEtten, Delbert Potts, Sandra Lathrop, those struggling with addictions, our teenagers in Susquehanna County, Devin, 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/>

Rev. Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

P O Box 577

New Milford PA 18834

(570)465-2318

Email: jpykus65@gmail.com
