

So. Montrose Community Church
April, 2014 Newsletter



Easter Message from our pastor . .

"After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb.

Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lighting blazed from him.

His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move. The angel spoke to the women:

There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He has raised, just as he said." Matthew 28:1-6a. The Message Eugene H. Peterson

Long before Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah. God promised to send a valuable stone as a strong foundation for us, his people. And God promised that anyone who believed in this stone would not be disappointed. That stone was Jesus Christ.

Jesus' victory over death and his promise of eternal life set you and me free from the fear of death. On Good Friday, our Lord, took on our sins, the sins of the whole world.

Our assurance of the forgiveness of our sins is found in the risen Christ. Without the empty tomb there would not be forgiveness.

Without the risen Christ, heaven would still be closed. Jesus paid the price of your sins and mine and hallelujah they have been accepted by God. The empty grave is the

promise to all of us as believers that we are going to live forever. What a God we serve!

This life that we are living right now is not all there is. The grave is not the end for any of us. The stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb removes our doubts concerning our own eternal destiny.

Easter is a day of Radiant Light and Resurrection Power! Easter is our assurance of the gift of eternal life. It is the reason we come to worship and give thanks. It is the reason we are a church at all! All of us who believe can say without a doubt with the hymn writer, "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives."

UMH #364 "Refrain from Because He Lives"

I hope you have had a life-changing Lent this year. The season of 40 days enables each of us to repent of our sins, seek God's forgiveness and renew our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Soon this time of deep reflection will change to joyous celebration as we shout, "Hallelujah, Christ is Risen."

In this season of Easter that is before us, let us continue to make disciples for the transformation of our community, South Montrose and the surrounding area in which we live. The seeds of hope that we plant today can make a difference in the lives of people for years to come. My hope this year is that we will take the opportunity share the story of Easter with at least one new person.

Jesus is Alive--Spread the Word!

Blessings, Pastor Jane

Easter Lilies

If you would like to place an Easter lily in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 20th In Honor or In Memory of someone, please see Paula Remington. The cost is \$10.00. Please make your check out to Paula. Thank You.

Mountain Aire Brass Quintet



On Sunday March 16th we were blessed to have the Mountain Aire Brass Quintet provide music for our service. The Irish songs were wonderful! We also were blessed with a hospitality gift of Irish Soda Bread that was provided by our Lenten Bible Study group and the choir. It was a lovely morning celebrating St. Patrick's Day.



Soup Night – By Chris Smith

Our last soup night fell on St. Patrick's Day. Kelly & Sue Pratt shared lots of Irish music with us and many guests were dressed in green. It was very festive. Kelly & Sue did a great job and we all enjoyed their music. We had cream of broccoli soup and BBQ bean stew. We also had the most dessert donations that we have ever had. There was so much yummy treats to choose from. Thanks to all my bakers! We also had very generous guests. The donations were \$256. I donated \$106 to the food bank and saved \$150 to use for next soup night.

April 21 will be our next soup night. It will be our last meal until we start up again in September. Charlie & Carol Reed will be

joining us for the 3rd year in a row. They are a husband and wife evangelical team who travel the east coast sharing music and their faith with others. I am also excited to tell you that my friend, Jennifa Kidd, that many of you have met at church & soup night will be cooking with me this time. She will be moving back to Louisiana this summer. Her husband's job only called for him to be here for 2 years and it will be time to go back home. I will really miss her. Levi & Chloe will miss her son, Jaydan who is a member of our Kids JOY group, and we'll miss baby Julien. But before she moves back down south she is gonna make ya'll some gumbo! So we'll be serving gumbo & creamy baked potato soup that evening.

It will also be the day after Easter. I am happy that we can all be together & share the good news. He is RISEN! Please come join us at the last soup night of the season. It is sure to be a good



time.

Nic Remington In Haiti

By Paula Remington

As many of you know, Nic is on the board and volunteers for the Colorado For Haiti Project in Denver, CO. Below are two pictures of the project he designed, built and is now operating while on his February trip. Prior to the project, they'd have to walk up to the water source, fill their buckets, often times using a donkey/mule for transportation . . .all leading to

contaminating the drinking water. He piped drinking water from a mountain spring down to the people below. Now all they need to do is turn on a spigot! I have a more detailed blog of the work they did. Let me know if you'd like to read it.

As he's told me in the past, "the Haitians give back more than I'll ever be able to do for them."



Kelly & Susan will be playing dinner music at MaZAR's Green View Restaurant from 4:30 to 8:30 on April 4th & 5th and May 2nd & 3rd. Come check out a selection of Irish, gospel & folk music with great food!"



Kids J.O.Y.

At our March meeting of the Kids J.O.Y., we walked through the Lenten Season. We began by talking about Ash Wednesday, and receiving ashes. Then we learned about the pretzel prayer and Brenda made some yummy pretzels for us to eat. The kids liked that! We talked about Holy Thursday, received communion and Pastor Jane washed some of the children's feet. We learned about the crucifixion and the

children were amazed to see a crown of thorns, and to think about what it must have been like for Jesus to go through that. Now we look forward to the next time we meet, on April 6th, to celebrate Easter and the Risen Christ! If you know of a child between Preschool and Grade 6, please ask them to join us!

Spotlight for April



Our person in the spotlight this month is Peggy Wood. Peggy has been the accompanist at SMCC for many years. We thank her for her devotion to our church! The answers are written by Mary, from notes taken during our visit.

- 1. Where were you born?** Elmira, NY
- 2. Where did you go to high school?**
Athens High School
- 3. Were you involved in any sports or clubs in high school?** Yes, Tri-Hi-Y, Marching band (clarinet), and girls chorus.
- 4. Did you go to college? If so, where? What degree?** Yes, I went to Elmira College for 2 years. I left early to get married, and did not get a degree.
- 5. What was your first job? Other jobs? Any unusual jobs?** My first job was in an income tax office. I also worked as a camp counselor at a Girl Scout camp in Buffalo, NY, as well as played the piano and worked in the store there. I worked in the placement office of Mansfield College, was a stay at home mom, and worked in the office of Montrose Area High School until 1977 when my youngest daughter graduated. At

WSKG, where I worked for 22 years, my music background stood me in good stead when I was asked to read score for televised productions of local choirs. It was very interesting and challenging to sit in the producer's booth with the musical score in front of me, reading ahead to let the cameraman know when soloists or choir sections were to be featured. Now I am the accompanist at SMCC and East Bridgewater Church.

6. When were you married? Children? My husband and I were high school sweethearts but were not married until 1947 when he returned from serving in World War II. He was the first veteran to get his high school diploma after dropping out of school to serve in the Army. We celebrated 61 years of marriage before he passed away in 2008. We have 4 children. Mary Jeannette lives in Montrose and is an English teacher at Montrose High School. John lives in Minnesota, has 3 sons, and was recently made manager of a concrete plant. Daniel lives at Heart Lake, has 2 girls, works at Newfeed, and is active in both Bridgewater Church and East Bridgewater Church. Margaret lives in Syracuse and is a manager at United Radio.

7. What places have you lived? Elmira, Mansfield, Athens, East Athens, Rome, and Montrose.

8. What is your favorite vacation spot? Favorite vacation memory? Favorite vacation spot is my home. The in-ground pool is usually loaded with my grandchildren and great-grandchildren during the summer. There's a playhouse Warren built and lots of lawn for playing tag and other games. Favorite vacation memory is one Saturday Warren wanted to go to Warren, Pa to see the Kinsue Dam being built. So we piled the 4 kids and a puppy in the car and drove to Warren, saw the dam, camped out in the tent, and then on Sunday he said that we needed to get back for a golf tournament. So we turned around and came home! Other places we have vacationed were the Adirondacks, and each fall we would go to the Bow Hunter's Festival. Our most recent vacation was visiting family in Minnesota

and Michigan. We honeymooned in the New England states.

9. What do you do in your spare time?

My hobbies are gardening, writing poetry, and hiking. Outside activities include serving as recording secretary for the East Bridgewater Church and Child Evangelism Fellowship, as well as being on the board of the VFW Auxiliary. I enjoy playing the organ for church services at SMCC and EBCC. I don't consider the latter two "a job," but rather a joy and an honor.

10. How long have you attended SMCC?

Over 20 years.

11. Do you have a favorite verse or Bible story? The verse where Paul is asking Christ to heal him and God tell him "My strength is sufficient." I tell myself that often.

(Second Corinthians 12:7-9 "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.")

12. What is your favorite room in your house? My study. There is a fireplace in there. I like to read and write in there, and my computer is in there.

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 don't think that I would have gotten this far without God. My most memorable God moment is after my dad died. I woke up the morning of the funeral and thought "I can NOT go to this funeral." But I went, and after as we sat at the table eating, my mother sat next to me. My father had a habit of putting his hand on her shoulder. At the table I looked at my mother and there, standing behind her, was my father, looking so very happy with his hand on her shoulder. At that same time, her mother put her hand on her shoulder, although she said that she did not feel his hand there.

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

I like reading murder mysteries; people ask me how I always stay so calm during all the trials I have had lately. I tell them, "I just go home and kick the dog!" (I don't have a dog.); my father and one of his sisters were accomplished pianists. Whenever they got together they played duets on the piano and it was my goal when I began piano lessons at age 7 to be able to play a piano duet with my Dad. My goal was accomplished in two years, so Dad and I had many years of playing duets. It wasn't until I was 40 years old that I learned to play the organ.

Two examples of Peggy's Haiku:

Mournful song of owl
Faith cannot be seen
Echoes sadly through the night
Hope is a survivor, but
Weaving tears through dreams
Love is greater still

Food Bank Staff and Clients

"Dear Chris,

Thank you for your faithful donations to the TREHAB Food Bank!

Your generous gift to the Food Bank is greatly appreciated. You have gotten us through many lean times and enabled us to have sufficient food for those in need. We face increasing numbers of individuals who need food assistance in our community.

We would find it difficult to supply as much food as we do without the support of our friends in the community who give regularly.

With sincere gratitude, Lynn Senick &
The TREHAB Food Bank Staff & Clients"

Calendar of Events

--Sunday, April 6th: 4 p.m. JOY Kids.

All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome.

--Safe Sanctuaries Training: Friday, April 11th from 6:30 till 9 p.m. or Saturday, April 12th from 1 till 3 p.m.

United Methodist Community Church, Great Bend. Remember all employees and all those who work with children, youth and vulnerable adults must have the training and

background checks every three years. If you have any questions, please contact Charmarie Bisel at 278-9432. Registration Forms are due on Sunday, April 6th. The church will cover the cost of the class.

--Sunday, April 13th: 9:15 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

--Thursday, April 17th: 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Covered Dish Supper at First UMC, New Milford. We will come together to eat as if we were in the Upper Room and then we will have worship around the table with the sharing of Holy Communion. Both church choirs will be sharing an anthem. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Beverages will be provided.

--Friday, April 18th: 7 p.m. Good Friday worship at South Montrose. This year our church is presenting a Good Friday Cantata entitled, "The Seven Last Days" Come join us for an inspirational evening of music and word as we think about the price of our salvation paid by Jesus.

--Saturday, April 19th: 9 a.m. Meet at the church to do **litter pick up**. Youth and Adults are needed. More hands less work and time. Contact Bob Remington with any questions, 607-237-2997

--Sunday, April 20th: 7 a.m. Sunrise Worship at Crisman Memorial Park on Ridge Road. All are welcome! Breakfast will follow at our church

9:15 a.m. Easter Worship. Come one come all to celebrate the Resurrection!

--Monday, April 21st: 4:30 till 6:30 p.m. Soup Night. The last one of the season. Come and join some good food and fellowship. Rev. Charlie and Carol Reed will be with us to bring us some special music. Charlie and Carol come to us from Soddy Daisy TN.

Church Directory Will Be Updated

Saturday, May 3rd @ 10am . .until ?
Photography by K Hart Photography & Design. Portrait sittings by appointment. Please use sign up sheet

Benefit For Autism

On Sunday April 13th, at 2:00, there will be a Dove chocolate party at the church to benefit Autism Awareness Month. Stephanie Clark, the Dove Independent Chocolatier, will be donating 20% of total sales to an Autism organization. If you are interested in coming to the party or would like to see a catalog, please see Mary Hinds. This is a cause near and dear to our hearts. Thanks!

Happenings at Montrose Bible Conference...

Friends of the Ministry Banquet

April 4, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lake Ave. Dining Room

- Delicious Buffet Dinner and Inspiring Music
- Testimonies of God's power in people's lives
- Meet our staff and Board of Directors
- Ministry Updates and Future Plans
- Offering for the Ongoing Ministry

There is no charge for this event, but reservations are required.

570-278-1001 mbc@MontroseBible.org

Young at Heart Luncheons

Wednesday, April 9th: Celebrating Easter

Wednesday, May 14th: Dr. Gary Russell presenting Missions in Jordan
Each day starts at 10:30 a.m. and concludes with lunch @ Dreyer Hall, 218 Locust Street
\$9 per person reservations: 1-800-598-5030

Scrapbooking and Heritage Craft Weekend

April 11-13, 2014: Featured Speaker: Elaine Miller. She shares biblical insights with warmth, enthusiasm and humor.

Crafts: Knitting and crocheting, embroidery, counted cross stitch, tatting, paper quilling and scherenschnitte

For more information and costs, please contact the conference at 570-278-1001.

**Bus Trip to Sight and Sound
"Moses"**

Tuesday, June 10th, leave Dryer Lodge at 8 a.m.

Price: \$110 per person includes Shady Maple Lunch Buffet, Moses Show Ticket and Charter Bus Transportation.

Pay in full to confirm reservations by contacting Montrose Bible Conference at 570-278-1001 or 1-800-598-5030.

Happenings At Sky Lake...

Volunteer Work Day: May 3rd, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Founders' Lodge. There are projects for all ability levels ranging from planting flowers, painting cabins, cleaning trails, making benches and a whole lot more. Please RSVP for lunch by April 29th by calling or sending an email to:

registrar@skylakecenter.org

Open House: Sunday, May 18th from 1:30 p.m. till 5 p.m. Everything is free except the delicious Chicken BBQ which comes complete with all the fixins'. Tickets are \$8 in advance through the Sky Lake Office. \$9.50 at the Tent.

Special Needs Family Camp: May 23-26, 2014: Underwood Lodge @ Sky Lake Camp. Directed by Laura Coleman and Rev. Sara Baron. Adults/Teens ages 13+, \$155 per adult, Child/ages 4-12, \$105 per child, Infants/Toddlers, ages 0-3, our treat.

Spring Fling 2014, May 23-26. A Memorial Day Weekend Retreat. Call Sky Lake for more information. 607-467-2750.

Change the World

Saturday, May 17th, held at Montrose UMC. It's an all day event to make a christian impact in our communities.

Sponsored by the Montrose Area Cluster of Churches (MAC) Franklin Forks, Great Bend, Montrose, New Milford, South Montrose, Fairdale, Rush, Retta, East Rush, Dimock, Springville, Hop Bottom, Kingsley.

There are opportunities for all ages to get involved in this great day and to be a part of spreading the love of God in our area.

1. There will be work teams throughout the Montrose area cleaning yards, planting flowers, helping folks with small repairs.

We are working with the Area Agency on Aging for referrals of those in need of help. Sign up today and let us know what you can do. Pastor Don Littleton is heading this project.

2. Making Ugly Quilts. Pastor Jane and South Montrose and New Milford are heading this project. Flo Wheatly with My Brothers Keeper and Loretta Guiton will be coming to help us put together sleeping bags for the homeless. Items needed for the project will be listed in the bulletin as well as a sign up sheet so that we know how many we can expect for helpers.

3. Litter Pick-Up and or a Free Car Wash. Pastor Sara Kolenda and the Montrose and Franklin Forks churches are working this out. More news on this to come soon.

4. Cards and Crafts for Home-bound and Nursing Home Residents. The Fairdale, Rush, East Rush and Retta churches along with Pastor Ed Kerber are heading this project. We will need children and adults who love to do crafts to help us make as many cards and crafts as we can to deliver to our local nursing and personal care homes.

There will be a sign up sheet for this project as well.

The Above Projects will take place at the Montrose UMC from about 9 a.m. till 2 or 3 p.m. Volunteers can then go home if they wish to get cleaned up before supper at 5 p.m.

5 p.m. A Picnic Supper with all the Fixins. The supper will be provided by the Hop Bottom and Kingsley Churches and Pastor Richard Spering. There will be a sign up sheet for this as well so that we know how many people to approximately plan for.

6 - 8 p.m. Worship in many styles with a mass choir, skits, drama, traditional and contemporary and we will have the privilege of having Bishop Jeremiah Park with us to bring us the evening message and lead us in the service of Holy Communion. The Springville and Dimock churches along with Pastor Cec Easley will be greeting and ushering for our service of worship and praise.

There is something for everyone on Saturday, May 17th. Plan now to attend. You won't be disappointed. It will be a great opportunity to make a United Methodist Witness in Susquehanna County.

Upcoming Events

May 9th – Ladies Night Out
July 19th – Luau dinner/sunset service
September 20th – Bus trip to Moses play
September 27th – Fall Festival

Bald Eagles

If you have an interest in bald eagles, and a computer, you should go to this website: <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pgc/9106>.

The PA Game Commission has set up a remote camera outside of Pittsburgh. It is focused on a nest with a pair of eagles and 3 eggs. Mike, Matthew and I have enjoyed watching the eagles care for the eggs, and the Game Commission thinks that the first egg should hatch around March 26. We can't wait to see the eaglets, and watch them grow. This is a great thing for kids and adults to check out and enjoy!

Birthdays

Doris Larnerd April 10th
10543 SR 29
Montrose PA 18801

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



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: Dorothy Wegman, Deana Wickizer & family, Madison Koloski & family, 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, Sarah and Bill, Tina Barton, Robert Atticks, Sr, Randy Ward, Mary Helen Booth, Dewey Hunsinger, Keith Pratt, John Paul Jones, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, family of Aaron Olah, Brooke Arnold, Dee Pierson, Dick Millard, Duane Snell, Helen Petersen, Debbie Brewer, Terri Franks, Jonathan & 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