

***So. Montrose Community Church,
December, 2017***



From Pastor Jane

Dear Friends - - -

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light....Isaiah 9:2 New International Version

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish. John pointed him out and called, "This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word." We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, this endless knowing and understanding—all this came through Jesus, the Messiah. No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day. John 1:14-18 The Message

God said in the beginning of creation, "Let there be light," and God provided new light in Jesus, the Light of the World. We are reminded of Jesus in the lights of the season: decorations on Christmas trees and houses, candles glowing on the Advent wreath, the lights on our streets, the stars shining bright above our heads these winter nights. The Light of the World shines in these lights and in the hearts of all who believe.

Salvation has come to the world through Jesus, the Christ, the living image of God the Father. We sing "Joy to the World" because we know what Jesus has

done for us. We share God's love in our families this holiday season through kindness, cooperation, and consideration that we give to one another. In the year to come we will have plenty of opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ through forgiving others, and asking for forgiveness ourselves, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, giving shelter to the homeless and giving encouragement to those who are lonely or sad. In the new-year, God is going to use us for great things. We will be lights shining in the darkness for many people.

I am always grateful for your prayers on my behalf for health, strength and daily guidance. The congregations that I serve, New Milford and South Montrose are doing great work for God and I look forward to a new year of God's leading in their lives.

May the radiant star of Bethlehem shine brightly in your life this Christmas! Blessings and peace to all!

Christmas & Advent Season Schedule

On Sunday, December 3rd, we begin our Advent/Christmas Season. Listed below are the scripture reading for each Sunday and some notes on what's happening on each Sunday. Come join us at worship at 9:15 a.m. and for other Advent/Christmas Activities this month. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the greatest story ever told.

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

3 p.m. Ecumenical Advent Worship at United Methodist Community Church of Great Bend. This special Advent worship is sponsored by the Route 11 Ministerium.

Sunday, December 10th

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

Monday, December 11th

Come join us for Soup Night: 4:30 till 6:30 p.m. All Are Welcome,

Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, I
Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28
3 p.m. Gracious Living Worship and
Communion,

Sunday, December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke
2:1-20

Our Christmas Cantata will be presented
at our morning worship service with
communion and candlelighting. We will not
be having an evening Christmas Eve service
this year. Please join us at 9:15 am as we
welcome the Christ Child into our midst.

Monday, December 25th

Merry Christmas to one and all. Have a
wonderful Christmas celebration with family
and friends.

Sunday, 12/31

First Sunday after Christmas/New Year's Eve

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-
7, Luke 2:22-40

7 p.m. till 12:30 a.m. New Year, New Us.
Join the Route 11 Ministerium for a
Christian New Year's Eve Party. There will
be crafts, worship, games, activities, snacks.
We will be sharing in communion at
Midnight. All ages are welcome. Please let
Pastor Jane know of your plans to attend.
We are in need of RSVPs so we know how
many people to prepare for. Thanks so
much.

Monday, January 1, 2018

**New Year's Day!
Happy New Year's!**



Soup Night – Monday, Dec 11th

The soup choices for December are bar-b-q bean
and bacon cheddar, as well as bread, salad, dessert
and beverage. Hope to see you there between 4:30-
6:30!

Our record was broke in November . . .108
PEOPLE!! My team and I were thrilled that people
come together to talk, eat and enjoy each others
company. I'd like to thank everyone that helps put
this monthly event together. I wouldn't be able to do
it without YOU!

Soup night is a free meal to anyone. It's a chance
for folks who may not need a meal, but need the
conversation & fellowship. It is also for people who
may want to come & make a donation because they
want to help the food bank. I love to look through the
kitchen window and see people of all ages eating &
laughing together. Thank you!

Holiday giving

By: Mary Hinds

It is the time of year when we think about giving a
bit more than normally. Giving makes us feel good.
With that in mind, we are doing our annual holiday
collecting dessert. For Christmas, we are collecting
15 oz cans of fruit cocktail.

We also have adopted a family, we don't know the
particulars yet, but hope to get that information
soon. If you would like to donate towards the
shopping, you can put it in the offering plate in an
envelope marked "Adopt a family". Thank you in
advance for your giving.

Women's Resource Center

Donations Needed

By:Cathy McCain

First I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!
This time of year seems to fly by and everyone is so
busy, we need to take time to remember the reason
for the season!

"It's not how much we give but how much love we
put into giving" Mother Theresa

Unfortunately for some, the holidays increase
stress and women and children suffer. Some have no
choice but run from their homes and go to a shelter
with only the clothes on their back. That's where we

can help! Please consider donating items for the WRC. Bring any items to the church and I will be making the delivery. Anything is very much appreciated.

-If you don't like to shop, a monetary donation is appreciated and I will shop for you.

-Any clothing donations need to be taken too Interfaith.

-Because the donated items are used for families, please don't donate "trial size" items.

-Any donated bed sheets also need to be in the package they were purchased in.

I think we are all familiar with their Christmas Wish List but in case you're not, here are some items they request:

Shampoo
Deodorant
Body lotion
Toothpaste and toothbrush
Q-tips
Body wash
Feminine products
Price Chopper Gift cards
Gas cards (to transport to and from court)
Baby supplies

Thank you in advance for your donations, together we can make someone less fortunate happy and hopefully loved!



Community Workers Annual Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2017
Noon in the social hall of our church

We will begin with a soup and sandwich lunch, then have our annual meeting. Then we will pack our Christmas Cheer Boxes for our home-bound, nursing home residents and for those we know who are ill. We also send cards to those who can't have a cheer box.

Each year we put together and deliver approximately 15-18 boxes.

Any monetary donations are gratefully accepted plus we are in need of Christmas Cookies for our boxes. 'Tis the season for baking, so if you are baking cookies for your family and friends this year, please

make a couple extra dozen for the boxes. Those who receive the cheer boxes are very thankful because they are not able to bake as they once did. Home-baked treats light of their lives.

Please have your donations to the church by noon on December 14th. You are also welcome to stay and eat with us, stay for the meeting, and then help pack the boxes and deliver them. Home-bound, nursing home, and those who are ill, love to have visitors.

Blessings for a wonderful Christmas season for All!

Bev Way, Peggy Jerauld, Angie Frystak, Martha Denkenberger and Pastor Jane

New Year, New Us
Join the Route 11
Ministerium
For A
Christian New Year's Eve
Party

Crafts, Worship, Games,
Activities, Snacks

PLUS

The First Communion of the
New Year will be served right
after the ball drops at 12:01
a.m.

All Ages are Welcome!

Please sign up by Sunday,
December 17th so that we
can plan for the number of
people coming.

**Sunday, December 31st from
7 p.m. till 12:30 a.m.**

**First UMC, 69 Pratt St., New Milford,
Pa.**



Fall exercise classes will be Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 11am.

We'll be learning a few line dances at the classes.

**THERE ARE LARGE PRINT
HYMNALS ON TOP OF THE COAT
RACK BY THE FRONT DOOR FOR
YOUR CONVENIENCE.**

**There's also activity packets for
youngster to use while church
is going on to keep them
occupied.**

**Happy 47th anniversary on
November 28th
to**

Tom and Sherry Weller!!

**There are blank Christmas
cards on the table in the
sanctuary addition to send to
members of the New Milford
Methodist church**

Festival of Lights

Stone Hedge Golf Course

Starting November 24th – December 29th (except Christmas Eve), Monday – Thursday, 5pm – 10pm, and Friday-Sunday hours, 5pm – 11pm, there will be a festival of lights at the golf course located at 287 German Hill Rd., Factoryville, PA. Advanced tickets

are \$20.00 a carload and can be purchased at Gay's True Value, People's Security Trust in Meshoppen, and True Friends Animal Welfare Center in Montrose, AOS Metals in Scranton & Francine Kiryluk's Hair Studio in Nicholson or \$25.00 at the event. Nothing larger than passenger cars or SUVs. Check out their facebook page for further details.

Changing from "Spotlight" to "Hero"

We are going to change from our "spotlight" articles, and instead going to be running a monthly article about our heroes: **"Who is your hero, living or dead, and why?"**. Pastor Jane graciously agreed to do the first one. So be thinking about who your hero is, so when I ask you you'll be ready!
Mary Hinds

Pastor Jane: When I think of heroism in God's terms, I think of Romans 15:1-2:

"Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

The Message

This verse describes the characteristics of a hero: Helping those in need, using our strength to help the weak, and contributing the the welfare of our neighbors.

A biblical woman that comes to my mind that has these hero characteristics is Tabitha. She was a woman that God used in Acts 9:36-43.

Tabitha's actions spoke louder than words. The city of Joppa was the home of a Hebrew woman named Tabitha or in Greek, Dorcas. Joppa was located on Israel's western border on the Mediterranean coastline, about 35 miles to the west of Jerusalem. Today it is apart of Tel Aviv. It was a major port and trading center. Peter visited and preached in Joppa. There aren't a lot of details written about Tabitha's life. We don't know whether she was single, married or widowed, rich or poor, or whether she had children. Tabitha was a Christian woman who did many good deeds and also charitable work for the poor, for whom she had active compassion and mercy.

Tabitha was well known by the widows of her day for whom she sewed garments. In biblical times it was no small task to order and purchase materials, cutting, assembling, fitting, altering and sewing garments. She did all her sewing and altering by

hand and so it was a tedious and labor intensive endeavor. Tabitha willingly gave of her time to help others. Tabitha had to be a strong woman in many ways to consistently and personally care for the needs of others.

There are many biblical heroes that I could have written about, but I chose Tabitha because she was truly a woman of service. Her example is an inspiration to me to continue to serve others with a willing heart, compassion, and love. She also inspires me to use my gifts to make a difference in the community in which I live. God blesses us with many gifts. I hope that I will continue to grow in my service to others.

Pastor

Jane

Crafts at the Square

By: Mary Hinds

There were 23 residents that took part in the craft for this month. They made a foam turkey to keep for next year, and then decorated glass ornaments to brighten up their apartments. Each lady got to decorate 2 ornaments, and they were all unique. We had paint, glitter, ribbon, puff balls, feathers, and more. We made quite a mess, but they all turned out great! Thanks to Pastor Jane and Mary Jane for helping out this year, and thanks to Bev for the snacks.



The Facts About Global Migration

-28,300 people a day are forced to flee their homes due to conflict or persecution.

-55% of Refugees come from South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria.

-65+ Million people are displaced worldwide. The most since World War II

-Every 5 seconds a person is displaced or forced to leave their home.

-Over half of 22.5 Million refugees are under the age of 18.

-Fewer than 1% of formally recognized refugees worldwide are resettled annually.

-10 Million stateless people have no access to education, healthcare, employment or freedom of movement.

UMCMigration.org
Care for Immigrants



People Who Would **LOVE** Getting A Card

Harry Snell
Fair Hill Personal Care Home
272 Lamphere Road
Montrose PA 18801

Our Prayers

Gussie Fritz

Gracious Living Estates
10543 State Route 29
Montrose PA 18801

Aggie Holbert

Gracious Living Estates
10543 State Route 29
Montrose PA 18801

Alice Porter

Gracious Living Estates
10543 State Route 29
Montrose PA 18801

Jean Weaver

Fair Hill Personal Care Home
272 Lamphere Road
Montrose PA 18801

Peggy Wood

27 Reynolds Pond Rd.
Montrose PA 18801

Craig Estelle

P O Box 181
So. Montrose PA 18843



Altar Flowers

December – Angie Frystak

January – Janet Small

February – Gigi Salsman



In the church: Jean Weaver, Grace Harvey, Harry & Harriet Snell, Aggie Holbert, Nic Remington, Theresa Owen, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood, Wink Frystak, Gussie Fritz, Betsy Jones, Matt Hinds, Brittany Elko

In our community: Family of John Paul Jones, Mike Hornak, Gordon Clark, Peighton Hewitt, Dennis Carey, Nancy, the wildfires, Jack, Elijah Sabo, Jim Phillips, Texas and FL flooding, Justin Guys, Charlottesville, VA, national relations, Ruth, Karen Cox, Will & Sarah, Mary Alice Hawley, Alissa Macazan, Vanessa West, Betty Pykus, Raymond Arnold, Pat Amendola, Tony Susi, John Capoccia, Shelly Shepherd, Josh Roe, Bill Lawyer, John Breen, Whitney & Rob Johnson, Courtney Sterling, RaeBelle Albeck, Bill Robinson, Monica Anderson, Audrey Cady, Kyle & Ashley, Ashley Kilmer, Gary Baker, Bill Copley, Margie Green, Clara, Kaylee & Family, Mrs. Pettyjohn, Sarah Manzer, Betty Allen, Tammy, Jim Taylor, Bernie Boyer, Carol Jones, Jim & June Ochse, Jane Perry, Joyce Millard, James Walters, Staff @ Children & Youth, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Sandra Lathrop, those struggling with addictions, our teenagers in Susquehanna County, Debbie Bush, Randy Ward, Pat Pratt, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Dee Pierson, Duane Snell, Dennis Snell, Helen Petersen, Jonathan and Daniel Snell, 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.umchurches.org>

Rev. Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

P O Box 577

New Milford PA 18834

(570)465-2318

(570)396-5883

Email: jpykus65@gmail.com

Check Us Out On Facebook!