



Pastor's Perspective



"The Legend of the Dogwood" Retold by Kelly Riley in Celebrate Easter

"Many years ago, when Jesus was on earth, the dogwood was a tall, sturdy, rugged tree. Sometimes, when Jesus wanted to be alone, he would rest in the shade of the dogwood tree. The tree grew very fond of Jesus because she recognized him as a kind and gentle man who loved all living things. One day, a woodcutter and some Roman soldiers came into the glen where the dogwood tree grew. They stopped and looked carefully at the tall, straight tree. The dogwood tree felt very proud as she listened to the woodcutter tell the soldiers how strong her wood was. "Well, Woodcutter," said one of the soldiers, "you have chosen wisely. We need strong wood for this cross." "Yes," replied another soldier in a cruel voice. "It won't be long before we arrest Jesus of Nazareth, the so-called King of the Jews." The dogwood tree was deeply distressed when she heard this. If trees could cry, she would have wept great tears, for her sorrow went as deep as her roots. When Jesus came to the glen a few days later, he gazed sadly at the drooping boughs of the once proud tree, and he understood the dogwood's great sorrow. "Because of your pity for me, I promise you that a dogwood tree will never suffer such a fate again." From that day on, the dogwood tree has grown slender and crooked. No longer does it produce sturdy, rugged wood, but it bears beautiful, delicate cross-shaped flowers. The center of each white blossom is marked with a crown of thorns, and on the tip of each

petal are red marks that look like nail prints. Since that time, the gentle dogwood tree has been a reminder to all who see it that Jesus died so that we could have new life. "

The legend is a wonderful Easter reminder to all of us of Jesus' sacrificial love. The dogwood story is simply legend, but the fact is we do know Jesus was nailed to a sturdy tree and hung to die in a garbage dump outside Jerusalem. Our Lord paid the ultimate price for you and me. We have such great value in God's eyes. Just knowing that I am worth the death of God's Son stirs my heart. Jesus' overwhelming expression of love melts my heart and transforms me as Christ's disciple in the world. I am no longer self-centered but others-centered. I no longer think of how my faith can serve me, but how I can serve others in my community and in the world. Let us be transformed to Christ, the one who loved us so much that he paid the ultimate price and hung on a tree and died to set us free to love and serve others. Have a blessed Easter Season!

Pastor Jane

+++++

God Knows (from the Fishwrapper, Lancaster/West Edition)

When you are tired and discouraged from fruitless effort, God knows how hard you have tried. When you've cried so long your heart is in anguish, God has counted your tears. If you feel that your life is on hold and time has passed you by, God is waiting for you. When nothing makes sense and you are confused or frustrated, God has the answer. If suddenly your outlook is brighter and you find traces of hope, God has whispered to you. When things are going well and you have much to be thankful for, God has blessed you. When something joyful happens and you are filled with awe, God has smiled on you. Remember that wherever you are or whatever you are feeling, God knows. Author Unknown

I will walk by faith, even when I can't see. II Corinthians 5:7

**Pointers to Live By** (from the Fishwrapper, Lancaster/West Edition)

Trust: "It takes years to build trust and a few seconds to destroy it."

Value: "What is most valuable is not what you have in your life, but who you have in your life."

Happiness: "Money can buy everything but happiness."

Attitude: "Do not marry a person that you know you can live with; only marry someone that you cannot live without."

Giving: "A successful relationship is not built on givers and takers only, but on people who also become sharers."

Perception: "There are two infinities--Yesterday and Tomorrow. One is past and gone and the other stays forever out of reach. So, live each day as though it might be your last."

*Don't wait for a crisis to discover what is important in your life.*

**Two Atoms:** Two atoms are sitting next to each other and one says, "I've lost an electron." The other asks, "Are you sure?" "Yeah," the first replies. "I'm positive."

**A New Day** (from the Fishwrapper, Lancaster/West Edition)

This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good. Author Unknown

**Tough Hunting Call** (from the Fishwrapper, Lancaster/West Edition)

A ground of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck. "Where's Henry?" "Henry broke his leg really badly. He's a couple of miles back up the trail." "You left Henry lying out there and carried the deer back?" "A tough call," nodded the hunter, "but I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"

**Self-Conscious** (from the Fishwrapper, Lancaster/West Edition)

I was self-conscious about going to the gym, because I thought the pounds I had put on would make me stand out among the regulars. I chose a treadmill in the corner so I'd be inconspicuous. However, as I exercised, my worst fears came true. At least a dozen people turned to stare at me periodically. I thought it might be my imagination, but then one woman even squinted to get a better look. Mortified, I stepped off the machine to leave. When I turned around, I realized that the gym's only wall clock had been hanging just inches above my head.

\*\*\*\*\*



**\*\*\*Ark Encounter Trip\*\*\***

The Brand New Ark Encounter plus The Creation Museum Bus Trip

Sponsored by Brenda Frystak at AAA

The bus trip is to Cincinnati, Ohio

When: April 16-19, 2018

3 Nights and 4 Days

Cost: \$715 per person (double occupancy)

**Based on Availability**

See the full sized replica of Noah's Ark. The largest timber structure in the world includes hundreds of amazing displays and exhibits. Walk through history

at the 70,000 sq. ft. Creation Museum and view its account of the beginning of all things. Discover the "Queen City" during this tour of Biblical Proportions! Includes 4 nights lodging, 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners including a River Boat Dinner Cruise and a German Dinner with entertainment. Guided tour of Cincinnati, and admissions to Ark Encounter and Creation Museum.

Please give Brenda Frystack at call at 570-836-5104 AAA Tunkhannock Office for more information and to claim your seat for this great trip.



### Faith and Family Night



Hockey Night with the Devils  
 The Binghamton Devils, that is!!!  
 Friday, April 6 at 7:05 p.m.  
 Kids just \$5  
 Adults \$15

Free Post Game Photo after the Game  
 Reserve your seats by calling 607-722-7367  
[www.bingdevils.com](http://www.bingdevils.com)



### Cancer Patients Need Your Help to get to Their Treatments

The American Cancer Society needs volunteers to drive cancer patients in our community to and from their treatment appointments.

### All You Need:

- A good record
- A current, valid driver's license
- Access to a safe and reliable vehicle
- Proof of adequate automobile insurance
- Complete an American Cancer Society Training Course
- Availability Monday through Saturday during the hours of 7 a.m. till 7 p.m.

To learn more about how you can get involved and help make a difference in someone's life, call the American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

### April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

It was first observed in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan. The office on Child Abuse and Neglect continues to annually coordinate activities, prepare promotional materials and host multidisciplinary forums focused on prevention, education and awareness.

#### Pennsylvania's Children at a Glance, 2017

State Population: 12,802,503  
 Population, Children Under 18: 2,692,020  
 State Poverty Rate: 13.2%  
 Poverty Rate, Children Under 18: 19.4%  
 Poverty Rate, Children ages 5-17: 18.7%  
 Poverty Rate, Children Under 5: 21.2%

In 2015, Pennsylvania had 36,223 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,223 reports referred for investigation.

In 2015, there were 3,855 victims of abuse or neglect in PA, a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 children, an increase of 18.2% from 2014. Of these children, 3.6% were neglected, 38.5% were physically abused, and 50.4% were sexually abused.

The number of victims has increased 17.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.

In 2015, there were 34 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Pennsylvania.

Child Welfare Administration [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

## Safe Sanctuaries Training

Saturday, May 5, 2018

9 a.m. till Noon

South Montrose Community Church Social Hall

Safe Sanctuaries Training is for anyone who works with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The training is required every 5 years. The PA Child Abuse History Clearance, Criminal Background Check and the FBI or Affidavit is also required every 5 years. So, please check your records.

The church will cover the cost of the training and any clearances that you need to have completed. Employees have to do the paid clearances. Volunteers do not have to pay for clearances, one exception is if you need the FBI clearance as a volunteer because you have not lived in PA for 10 years. If you have lived in PA over 10 years, you fill out the affidavit and get it notarized.

These requirements are for both volunteers and employees.

If you are reading this and you are not sure about your clearances or you have other questions, please contact Charmarie Bisel at 570-278-9432 or charmarie\_200@yahoo.com

\*\*\*\*\*

## Confirmation

The Confirmation Journey has begun. We are blessed to have 10 youth from South Montrose and New Milford. They include: Levi and Chloe Smith, Emma Bisel, Emma Button, Riley Jagger, Carli and Alanna Thornton, Katelyn and Ryan Supancik, and Ryan Scott.

Topics of Discussion: God, Sin, Grace, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Baptism and Holy Communion, Worship, Creeds, History of the local church as well as the United Methodist Church, the Social Principles, What We Believe, Putting our Faith into Action, Service, Living Our Faith in the World.

Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. at South Montrose and 11 a.m. at New Milford.

## Old Time Fiddlers

Benefit Concert for Disaster Relief sponsored by the Route 11 Ministerium

First UMC, New Milford  
Sunday, April 29th @ 3 p.m.  
Silent Basket Auction  
Freewill Offering

100% of your donations through the freewill offering and the silent basket auction will go to help people around the world recovering from natural disasters through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Ministerium Churches include: First Presbyterian Church, Hallstead, First UMC, New Milford, South Montrose Community Church, First Congregational, UCC, Harford, United Methodist Community Church, Great Bend, Hop Bottom and Kingsley UMC, Gibson and South Gibson UMC, and Brooklyn Universalist.

Refreshments to follow concert

If you would like to donate a Silent Auction Basket, please let Pastor Jane know.

#####

## Box Tops for Education at Red Bird Mission

### School



Harriet Snell passed me 89 Box Tops on Wednesday and I sent them into Red Bird this morning. I think it would be wonderful if we as a church could collect the Box Tops. All kinds of products have box tops on them now. They are each worth .10 cents for the Red Bird Mission School. They receive a check in the mail in December and April of each year. The schools can use the extra money for whatever they may need.

The History of Box Tops:  
It all started in California in 1996.

General Mills wanted to create a program to help support education and benefit America's schools and so, Box Tops for Education was

born. As part of the initial test program, Box Tops were only available on select Big G Cereals, such as Cheerios, Total and Lucky Charms.

The program was such a huge success that it soon launched on other General Mills products and expanded across the nation. By 1998, more than 30,000 schools were clipping Box Tops and earning cash to buy the things they needed: books, computers, playground equipment and more.

Over the next four years, the Box Tops for Education program doubled to include brands such as Pillsbury, Old El Paso and Green Giant. By 2004, over 82,000 schools across the nation participated in Box Tops, earning more than \$100 million.

In 2006, for the first time, non-food brands began to participate: now families could clip Box Tops from Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex, and Scott products, too. As the program expanded, school earnings increased. By 2010, schools across the nation had earned over \$320 million.

As of 2017, America's schools have earned over \$868 million and you can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the grocery store and online.

If you would like to help the Red Bird Mission School earn money for their education needs, please save your Box Tops and bring them to the church. I will put a can in the Narthex for you to put them.

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Pastor Jane

\*\*\*\*\*

**Benefit Concert**

There will be a benefit concert at our church on April 28<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available as the date gets closer.

**Miles for Missions**

1 Hour Walk/Run -A-Thon to Benefit

The Bishop's Partners In Mission

When: Saturday, May 12, 2018

Where: Kirby Park, Wilkes Barre, PA Pavilion #1 and Track around the Football Field

Registration/Check In: 8:30 a.m.

Walk/Run: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Entertainment/Refreshments: 9 a.m. till Noon

Music Food Fun

100% of donations go to Bishop's Partners in Mission to support:

Imagine No Malaria (INM)

\*395,000 people die of malaria in Africa every year.

\*Since the launch of INM, global mortality rates have fallen by 60%

\*INM provides support for 300 Health Clinics in Africa

Mission Central (MC)

\*MC connects God's resources with human need.

\*MC is active in disaster response, mission outreach, and mission education.

\*Typically, 65% of MC resources have remained with in Pennsylvania.

For more information and downloadable resources, including a sponsorship form, visit [tinyurl.com/BishopsPIM](http://tinyurl.com/BishopsPIM) or contact Dorranceton United Methodist Church at 570-288-1477

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hero of the Month

We are back to the “Who is your Hero, living or dead, and why?” articles. Since I am typing up the newsletter, and April is Autism Awareness Month (see next article), I am going to choose ME to do this month’s article. 😊

My hero is Matthew Hinds. He earns that title for so many reasons. Matthew has autism, (and ADHD, anxiety, oppositional defiant disorder, Addison’s disease, and more) and he has been through more in his 13 years than many adults that I know. Through it all, he has remained a wonderful, caring, and kind boy. It certainly hasn’t been easy, for any of us. But we have all grown closer, and he continues to get stronger from all his trials. Whether it is having difficulty due to a change in schedule, a fire alarm going off, having test after test after test due to his multiple physical health issues (too numerous to mention), getting 16 vials of blood taken, or just trying to make a friend, he bounces back. Always. Matthew has taught us so much. True love, patience, perseverance, more pharmacological information than I EVER thought I would know, and to appreciate the good days, the good hours, even the good moments. So Matthew, you are my hero, and we are so blessed to have you in our family.

Love, Mom

\*\*\*\*\*



**Autism Awareness Month**



April is National Autism Awareness Month. This is a cause near and dear to our hearts. Since I feel that knowledge is power, I want to share some facts about autism from the CDC’s website....

### Signs and Symptoms

People with ASD often have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills.

They might repeat certain behaviors and might not want change in their daily activities. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person’s life.

Children or adults with ASD might:

- not point at objects to show interest (for example, not point at an airplane flying over)
- not look at objects when another person points at them
- have trouble relating to others or not
- have an interest in other people at all
- avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- have trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about their own feelings
- prefer not to be held or cuddled, or might cuddle only when they want to
- appear to be unaware when people talk to them, but respond to other sounds
- be very interested in people, but not know how to talk, play, or relate to them
- repeat or echo words or phrases said to them, or repeat words or phrases in place of normal language
- have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions
- not play “pretend” games (for example, not pretend to “feed” a doll)
- repeat actions over and over again
- have trouble adapting when a routine changes
- have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound
- lose skills they once had (for example, stop saying words they were using)

Research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve a child’s development, so if you know of a child who displays some of these characteristics, I would encourage you to have them evaluated by a professional. Mary Hinds



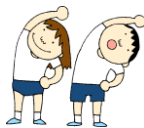
\*\*\*\*\*

# Soup Night!!!



Our head chef Chris would like to invite you to her monthly soup night on April 9, 2018. She and her crew will be serving BBQ Bean Stew and Cream of Potato with Ham. Charlie and Carol Reed will provide music, as well as have greeting cards for sale. Come join Chris and help her break her record. Serving 4:30-6:30. This is a free meal, but donations are accepted for the local food bank.

#####



## Exercise Class

Get fit with Sherry! Join Sherry Weller for some basic exercising and line dancing on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:00!

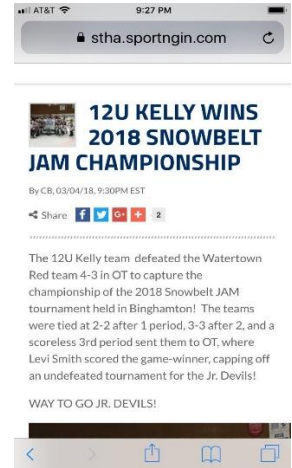
\*\*\*\*\*

**If you would like to be added to the prayer chain email list, please let Mary Hinds know. These emails are for urgent prayers needed.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Congratulations to our student athletes!

Many of the youth in our church are involved in sports. Last month, Levi Smith, who plays for the Binghamton Jr. Devils hockey team, made the winning goal for the season championship. Great job Levi!



Matthew Hinds also has played hockey this year. He plays for the special needs team the Ice House Hawks. Recently they got to practice at the Binghamton Arena with the AHL Binghamton Devils. Here is Matt with #42 Nathan Bastian.



Our Montrose Archery teams did great at states, including Chloe Smith. Many of the students will be going to Kentucky for Nationals in May. We wish them luck!

If you have a story about a student athlete, feel free to pass it on to me!

Mary Hinds

**There are large print hymnals and Faith we Sing books on the coat rack in the Narthex. There are also activity bags for the youth to keep them occupied if needed.**

### Who's doing what??

**Greeters:**

April 1 & 8	Maxine Fox and Phyllis Valenza
April 15 & 22	Mary Larrabee
April 29	Ben Owen
May 6 & 13	Betty Brunges
May 20 & 27	Phyllis and Rob Myers
June 3 & 10	Connie and Farnham Hoppe
June 17 & 23	Elsie Dalrymple

**Altar Flowers:**

April	Diane Linaberry
May	Nancy Jerauld
June	Cathy McCain

**Acolyte:**

April 1	Matthew Hinds
April 8	Kohen Kraynak
April 15	Elizabeth Stone
April 22	Chloe Smith
April 29	Matthew Hinds
May 6	Kohen Kraynak
May 13	Elizabeth Stone
May 20	Chloe Smith
May 27	Matthew Hinds
June 3	Kohen Kraynak
June 10	Elizabeth Stone
June 17	Chloe Smith
June 23	Matthew Hinds

**Snow Removal:**

April	Mike Hinds Mike Kerr
-------	-------------------------

**Please keep the following people in your prayers.**

**In the church:** Harriet Snell and family, Jean Weaver, Grace Harvey, Harry and Harriet Snell, Aggie Holbert, Nic Remington, Theresa Owen, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood, Wink Frystak, Gussie Fritz, Mike Hinds, Matthew Hinds

**In our community:** Family of Leta Smith, Family of Delbert Potts, Parkland Florida community, Michelle, Joan, Rachel, Amber, Mike Hornak, Nancy, Jack, Elijah Sabo, Jim Phillips, Justin Guys, National Relations, Ruth, Will and Sarah, Mary Alice Hawley, Misty Hitchcock, Dennis Carey, Jeanette Smith, Family of Patsy Brister, Vanesia West, Betty Pykus, Raymond Arnold, Pat Amiondolia, Tony Susi, John Capoccia, Shelly Shepherd, Josh Roe, Bill Lawyer, John Breen, Courtney Sterling, Raebelle Albeck, Bill Robinson, Monica Anderson, Audrey Cady, Kyle and Ashley, Ashley Kilmer, Gary Baker, Bill Copley, Margie Green, Clara, Betty Allen, Tammy, Jim Taylor, Bernie Boyer, Carol Jones, Jim and June Ochse, Ann Smith, Jane Perry, Joyce Millard, James Walters, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Sandra Lathrop, those struggling with addictions, our teenagers in Susquehanna County, Family of Randy Ward, Pat Pratt, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Dee Pierson, Duane Snell, Dennis Snell, Helen Peterson, Jonathon 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.





**Friends who would love a friendly card:**

**Craig Estelle**

PO Box 181  
South Montrose, PA 18843

**Gussie Fritz**

Gracious Living Estates  
10543 SR 29  
Montrose, PA 18801

**Aggie Holbert**

Gracious Living Estates  
10543 SR 29  
Montrose, PA 18801

**Alice Porter**

Gracious Living Estates  
10543 SR 29  
Montrose, PA 18801

**Harry Snell**

Fair Hill Personal Care Home  
272 Lamphere Road  
Montrose, PA 18801

**Jean Weaver**

Fair Hill Personal Care Home  
272 Lamphere Road  
Montrose, PA 18801

**Peggy Wood**

Meadowview Senior Living Center  
225 Park St.  
Montrose, PA 18801

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

Reverend Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

PO Box 577

New Milford, PA 18834

Church Address:

PO Box 86

South Montrose, PA 18843

Pastor Jane's phone: 570-465-2318

Cell: 570-396-5883

Church phone: 570-278-3019

[Jpykus65@gmail.com](mailto:Jpykus65@gmail.com)

Church Website:

<http://southmontrose.umcchurches.org>

Facebook address:

<https://www.facebook.com/South-Montrose-Community-Church-220670034624804/>