

South Montrose Community Church March 2019 Newsletter

Pastor's Perspective



Dear Family and Friends:

We are now in the season of Lent. "Lent" is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means "springtime". Lent is a 40-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter Sunrise Service. This Lenten period in our Christian walk allows us time to recall the Easter story and absorb its meaning for us today.

At the heart of this season is inner penitence and reconciliation with God. I usually begin with self-examination and inner healing. I try to set aside time to examine and evaluate my life as a Christian. Spiritual renewal is only possible if I am willing to repent of my sins and change my life for God. Penitential practices also encourage inner change in one's life. Some of my traditions include fasting, special commitments, good deeds, prayer and reflection, loving others, studying scripture and thoughtful worship.

During this season of Lent, let's go on a spiritual adventure:

Week 1: Be the hands of love---Write letters, text, send cards, speak about Lent on your Facebook page and send emails to family, relatives, far away friends, church family members, missionaries. Let these folks know

that you are thinking of them and praying for them.

Week 2: Be the voice of love---Telephone 2 or 3 people each day and have a friendly chat together. Send a live video to someone telling them how much you love them. Take some time to really listen to the other person. Be understanding and compassionate.

Week 3: Do a deed of love--- Take something you have made or bought to two or three family or friends that are special to you. Use your God-given imagination to do something specific for someone you love. It could be a pie, a craft, a meal, a hug and kiss, an invitation to worship, the possibilities are limitless.

Week 4: Be the heart of love---Make a list of several people for whom you will pray daily. Your list may include friends, family, enemies, new neighbors, community leaders, church family, or that certain person or persons you have problems with.

Week 5: Be the mind of love---Examine your own life this week and pray for yourself. Come to worship on Wednesdays and Sundays for Lenten Worship, Meditation and Fellowship. Take some time to read the Bible and ask God for direction for your spiritual life. Join a Bible study group in your church or community. Be pro-active when it comes to your spiritual life. Learn and grow this Lent.

Week 6: Celebrate love---Invite a family member or a friend over to your house for dinner or make a date to go out and eat together. Bring a meal to a family member or a friend. Reflect on your spiritual experience these past few weeks. How have they impacted your life these 40 days? What have you learned about God and yourself?

Let us pray for one another as we journey together this Lenten season. Pastor Jane



Thanks to everyone for the meaningful and beautiful cards, emails, Facebook messages, phone calls and so many well wishes for my birthday on February 4th. I love you all and am so grateful to be serving Christ with you here in South Montrose. Pastor Jane

Transfiguration Sunday, March 3rd--What's it all about?

Transfiguration Sunday is usually celebrated the Sunday before Lent. Why do we celebrate Transfiguration Sunday? The Book of Common Prayer offers a reason why we celebrate it when we do.

"O God, who before the passion of our only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

(Book of Common Prayer according to the use of the Episcopal Church, 1979, page 217)

We celebrate the revelation of Christ's glory "before the passion" so that we may "be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into his likeness." The focus of our Lenten journey is self-examination and renewal of our hearts and souls. We recognize our sin and come closer to our Lord through repentance. From the time of the Transfiguration, Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and the cross. At Easter, which reveals the fullness of Christ's glory, foreshadowed in the Transfiguration, we as

Christians give ourselves anew to the glorious resurrection of Christ.

Sunday, March 10th:

- First Sunday in Lent
- Girl Scout Sunday
- Daylight Saving Time Begins--Turn your Clock ahead 1 Hour



Lent is a season of the Christian year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It's the 40 days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically it is about 1/10 of a year (like a tithe of time). This year it's from March 6th through April 14th.

Ash Wednesday Worship: 7 p.m. at South Montrose, March 6, 2019

At the Ash Wednesday Service we recognize our own mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and re-turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We also make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next 40 days so that we might be more like Christ. We will be marking the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ashes. In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear sackcloth (scratchy

clothing) to remind them that sin is uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness. We put the sign of the cross on our foreheads to remind us of Jesus' resurrection and forgiveness. Come join us as we prepare for our Lenten journey.

.Sundays in Lent...

We will be doing the service of the Candles each week. During Lent, we will extinguish candles instead of light them as in Advent. Various groups in our church will do the ceremony of the candle each week. The Candle Theme is as follows...

- Sunday, March 10th: A Sober Season
- Sunday, March 17th: The Greatest Love
- Sunday, March 24th: Light of the World
- Sunday, March 31st: Saying Good-Bye
- Sunday, April 7th: In the Garden
- Sunday, April 14th: A Royal Reception (Palm Sunday)
- Friday, April 19th: Day of Darkness
- Sunday, April 21st: Up from the Grave He Arose (Easter)

Theme for our Lenten Sundays together: Time in the Wilderness

- Sunday, March 10th: A Time of Learning...Mark 1:12-15
- Sunday, March 17th: A Time of Challenge...Mark 1:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:8-11
- Sunday, March 24th: A Time of Dependence...Mark 1:12-15, Hebrews 4:14-16
- Sunday, March 31st: A Time of Doubt...Mark 1:9-15, Mark 9:24b
- Sunday, April 7th: A Time of Comfort...Mark 1:9-15, 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10
- Sunday, April 14th: A Time of New Beginnings...Mark 1:9-15, 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

Route 11 Ministerium Lenten Worship, 2019

All the Services Begin at 7 p.m.

Theme: The Gifts of Lent

Wednesday, March 13th: Harford Congregational, UCC

Wednesday, March 20th: United Methodist Community Church, Great Bend

Wednesday, March 27th: First UMC, New Milford

Wednesday, April 3rd: First Universalist Church of Brooklyn

Wednesday, April 10th: Gibson UMC

The offering each Wednesday of Lent goes to the Ministerium Fund to help people with gas, rent, fuel oil, propane, medication, transportation, shelter and food.

Lenten Bible Study
Our Lenten Study will begin on Wednesday, March 13, 2109 @ 10 a.m. Social Hall. All are Welcome!!

This Year's Study is entitled...SIMON PETER

Simon Peter was an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

Please sign up and join us for Adam Hamilton's Study, Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple. This is a six-week study Lenten

journey that will take us into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

Bible Study Dates: Wednesday, March 13th, 20th, 27th. April 3rd, 10th and 17th. Please sign up at worship or let Pastor Jane know of your interest so we know how many books to purchase. Books are \$10 each. Just bring the money with you to our first study on March 13th. See you then!!

Healthy thoughts

True health begins with your thoughts. Thinking about comfort, strength, flexibility, and youthfulness attracts those qualities into your life and body. Dwelling on illness, fear, disease, and pain does just the opposite. Your work is to notice and change your thoughts and move them in the direction of health and happiness.

--submitted by Janet Small

GRACE is when God gives us good things that we don't deserve.
MERCY is when God spares us from bad things we deserve.
BLESSINGS are when God is generous with BOTH.

GOD is GOOD all the TIME!

Author Unknown

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

Sunday, March 31, 2019

On UMCOR Sunday, our special offering directly affects the ability of the United Methodist Committee on Relief to respond immediately to disasters and other calamities.

UMCOR does not receive any ministry share funding. Because of this offering on Sunday, March 31st, UMCOR will be able to cover its administrative costs.

All the financial resources you give goes directly to help alleviate suffering around the world and advance hope and healing after a disaster. Through relationships with local organizations and trained community leaders, UMCOR can activate its network and provide emergency funds as soon as they know of an urgent need.

There will be a special offering envelope in the bulletin on Sunday, March 31st. Please consider giving to this worthy cause.

Pastor Jane

Women's Resource Center Wish List

The Women's Resource Center is in need of the following items:

Reusable Grocery Bags, Gift Cards to Pump and Pantry, Price Chopper, and Ray's ShurSave. They are in need of Full Sized Hair Conditioner, Feminine Care Products, Tampons, Laundry Baskets, Journals, Pens, Stationery, New Towels. Please only donate New and Full-Sized items. Travel or sample sized items are appreciated but are too small for the families we serve. Please put your donations in the basket/box in the back of our congregation. Thank you!

A Prayer

Jesus,
I wish I could be more like you and less like me.
That would be something to see!!!
Because I have many faults I am easily annoyed,
my thoughts and my actions are often BAD.
I have little patience and am easily MAD.
Lead me to your light
Without even a twitch,
So I don't head for the darkness
And end up in a ditch.
Help me not to grumble and complain
Even if the future just looks like more rain.
Help me to walk upright and straight
So someday I can walk through heaven's gate.
What a great place the world would be
If it was a lot more like you and a lot less like
me.

**Poem written by Quentin Kraynak, published
with permission.**

AARP Tax Program

Available in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties
while appointments last and volunteer time
allows. Please call 1-800-982-4346 to make an
appointment.

**AARP SAFE DRIVERS COURSE...SAVE MONEY ON
YOUR YEARLY AUTO INSURANCE**

Where: This two day course will be taught at First
UMC, New Milford on Friday, March 29th and
Saturday, March 30th from 9:30 a.m. till 2 p.m. in
the Fellowship Hall.

A Refresher Course for those who have taken the
course within the past three years will be held on

Saturday, April 20th from 9:30 a.m. till 2 p.m. You
must bring your certificate with you.

Possibly save money on your yearly auto
insurance.

Fellowship Hall---First UMC, New Milford, 69 Pratt
Street, New Milford, PA 18834

Additional Information for both courses:

*Cost of Class: Members: \$15. Non Members: \$20
(paid by check made out to AARP or cash)

*You can pay the day of the class if you arrive early
as class begins at 9:30 a.m.

*All materials provided.

*Everything we collect goes to AARP for expenses
related to program

*The certificate is good for 36 months.

*There is a class size limit, so be sure to sign up
early!

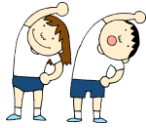
For more information and to sign up for the class,
contact Jeff Burkett at 570-879-4915 or

aarp.org

**Children of Abraham Jewish Passover Seder
for non-Jews:**

Sunday, March 3, 2019 from 2 p.m. till 4 p.m. at
Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Drive,
Binghamton, NY 13905. Cost: \$10 per
person. Each person will take home a Passover
Haggadah (Seder Booklet). The Seder will be
led by Rabbi Barbara Golman-Wartell, Chair of
the Children of Abraham Planning Group and of
Temple Concord and Rabbi Geoffrey Brown of
Temple Israel.

Exercise Class

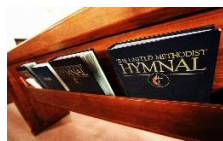


Exercise Class has started up again! Meet Sherry Weller at the church (downstairs) on **Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 10:00** for some fun and fitness!



Binghamton Devils invite you to come celebrate Faith and Family Night on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. versus the Rochester Americans. Tickets are only \$15! Savings of up to \$17.25 per ticket. See you there!

Reminder!!! There are activity bags for the young ones hanging on the coat rack. There are bags for both boys and girls. Feel free to use them!!



Large print hymnals
There are large print hymnals on the coat rack in the narthex. Please help yourself!

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

Grace Harvey
Gracious Living Estates
10543 SR 29
Montrose, PA 18801

Aggie Holbert
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

Who's doing what??

Greeters:



March 3 & 10	Alan and Peggy Jerauld
March 17 & 24 and	Sharon Newhart
March 31	Gigi Salsman Maxine Fox and Phyllis Valenza
April 7	Maxine Fox and Phyllis Valenza
April 14 & 21	Ben Owen
April 28	Rob and Phyllis Meyers
May 5	Rob and Phyllis Meyers
May 12 & 19	Farnham and Connie Hoppe
May 26	Glenn and Betty Brunges

Altar Flowers:



March	Paula Remington
April	Diane Linaberry
May	Nancy Jerauld

Acolyte:



March 3	Elizabeth Stone
March 10	Hailyn Campbell
March 17	Matthew Hinds
March 24	Kohen Kraynak
March 31	Emma Bisel
April 7	Elizabeth Stone
April 14	Hailyn Campbell
April 21	Matthew Hinds
April 28	Kohen Kraynak
May 5	Emma Bisel
May 12	Elizabeth Stone
May 19	Hailyn Campbell
May 26	Matthew Hinds

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

In the Church: Charmarie Bisel, Dave Myers, Tommy Kerr, Ruth Vandermark, Guy Vandermark, Wayne Vandermark, Jean Weaver, Grace Harvey, Harry & Harriet Snell, Aggie Holbert, Nic Remington, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Marian Nye, Gladys Barber, Gussie Fritz, Matt Hinds

In Our Community: Amy Robinson, Frog Very, Mark Smith, Robert Smith, John Fielding, Dennis, Jeff, Raili Hower, Dave Rice, Helen Myers, Phil Reimel, Suzanna, Jenny, Bill Wilber, Stephen VanKuren, Tom Teneralli, Kenny Rauch, Nancy Coy, Damon Johnson, Holden Lunger, David Daniels, Darlene Pacihlock, Dot Owen, Jason Bennet, Jim Hogg, Bridget Cooke, Dawn Arnold, Lorna Jones, Jim Snell, Chuck Peters, John Henry, Debbie Smales, Elijah Sabo, Jim Phillips, Justin Guyr, Karen Cox, Will and Sarah, Mary Alice Hawley, Misty Hitchcock, Dennis Carey, Jeanette Smith, Vanesia West, Betty Pykus, Pat Amiondolia, Tony Susi, John Capoccia, Jose Roe, Bill Lawyer, John Breen, Monica Anderson, Audrey Cady, Gary Baker, Bill Copley, Margie Green, Jim Taylor, Bernie Boyer, Carol Jones, Jim & June Ochse, Ann Smith, Jane Perry, Joyce Millard, James Walters, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Sandra Lathrop, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Dee Pierson, Duane Snell, Dennis Snell, Helen Peterson, Jonathan & Daniel Snell, those struggling with addictions, teenagers, teachers and students, military personnel, those unemployed and those under employed, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church, and each other.

If you know of someone who needs to be added to the prayer list, or if someone is on there that can be taken off, please contact Pastor Jane.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Reverend Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

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New Milford, PA 18834

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Cell: 570-396-5883

Church phone: 570-278-3019

Jpykus65@gmail.com

Church Website:

<http://southmontrose.umcchurches.org>

Facebook address:

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



