

South Montrose
Community Church
April 2020 Newsletter

Pastor's
Message



Dear Friends:

We are all troubled by the Covid-19 pandemic across our world. Times are tough for everyone; young and old alike. We are facing unusual circumstances, our lives have been turned upside down and inside out. We have had to face a lot of sudden changes to our daily lives. Many of us have had to develop new skills quickly in terms of electronics to communicate with the world. People have been laid off from their jobs, many, many businesses have had to close as a result of the coronavirus. Restaurants have been forced to do take outs only. We have been forced into isolation as a community of faith.

We are approaching Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. A most sacred week in the life of the Christian. But thankfully we have Facebook Live and Email, Phone, and Texting, ZOOM, and other resources to keep in touch during this holy time of year. Even though we can't be together physically, we can be together electronically and in spirit. Since we have been asked time and time again to stay calm and stay home, we must do it for the safety of all people. This virus that plagues the world is real. For all of us this virus can be life-threatening. As people of God we are called to check on one another, advise one another,

serve one another and pray for one another. It is what we believe and confess as Christians. I was recently reading an article by Gerard O'Connell (March 27, 2020) in regards to a message from Pope Francis. In this article Pope Francis is quoted as saying, "This moment in history is a time to choose what matters in life and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord and to others." I too, encourage you to continue to be faithful to God and the Church. To keep in touch with one another in our church and in our community. A phone call from someone can make a world of difference. Hearing another voice reminds us that we are not alone. In Mark 4:35-41, we are reminded how the disciples were so fearful when an unexpected storm arose in the middle of the lake and so they woke Jesus to save them. Like the disciples in Mark 4, we too, are caught off guard by Covid-19 and in this coronavirus storm we find ourselves afraid, lonely, and sometimes lost. Remember we are all in this together and we will all get through this together. So, we must stay calm, stay home, and know that God is with us and we are not alone. Jesus is our stronghold, our anchor in the midst of the storms of life.

Blessings to one and all,

Pastor Jane

Pastor Jane's Message

**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

Letter from Bishop Jeremiah Park

God demonstrates God's own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

April 2, 2020

My Dear Sisters and Brothers of the
Susquehanna Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name Jesus
Christ, Healer and Hope of the world.

There is no more sacred and profound time in
the church year than the days from Palm
Sunday through Holy Saturday.

At the beginning of the week it is about his
joyful entrance into Jerusalem, where Jesus
was heralded a king and messiah. What must it
have been like for this once-carpenter to be
welcomed into the Holy City by crowds waving
palm branches and shouting hosanna!

Oh, how the week quickly and desperately
changed for him. The days progressed and led
to Passover, and he made sure he and his
disciples observed the ancient rite and meal of
this holy time. On that night Jesus took the old
familiar ritual and gave it new meaning when
he took the bread and cup, thanked God and

gave it to his beloved, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body” and “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant.”

When that night of intimacy with his disciples was finished, he went to pray in the quiet garden. Only Jesus knew, in the stillness of that evening, that his life was moving toward its end. He knew that his ministry was nearly finished. As he prayed in anguish, “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will,” his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

The road now ahead of him would lead to pain, agony, and, finally, death; death on a cross. His violent and cruel death was something his followers and his family couldn’t understand or accept. They left Golgotha filled with fear, sorrow, and disbelief.

As I reflect on this week in the life of Jesus, I am reminded that this week is not about us, but about Jesus. It’s about what Jesus experienced from the highest moment of “Hosanna!” to the lowest moment of “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” But why did Jesus have to go through it all? Yes, Holy Week and those events are all about Jesus. However, he lived his life and especially his last days for you, me, and all humanity. All that Jesus did—the steps he took, the pain he endured, the death he suffered—he did so that we might live the life, the abundant life now and the eternal life with him. All that Christ did in his life, and especially in his last week, he did because of his unfathomable, eternal love for each of us.

I invite you to join me in accompanying Jesus through his last week. Though we cannot worship together in person this season, we can be with each other in spirit. Apart, yet bound together as God’s beloved, we can know, accept, and believe that Christ lived and died for us.

We are living in scary times. We are fearful, we are uncertain, and we experience pain. We are in disbelief of what’s happening all around us, particularly during the last couple of weeks. In certain sense, it’s not unlike what the disciples lived in the last three days in the first Holy Week. However, we know that the last three days of Holy Week made up a liminal season, a between-time of an ending and a new beginning. This current crisis will end and new life will break.

I pray that despite being “sheltered in place,” you will know that you are sheltered in the certain knowledge and sure faith that our God provided a savior for us. It is in this Holy Week that we know beyond a shadow of a doubt what God did for us. God did it all, for God so loved you and me and the world.

Holy Week blessings,
Jeremiah J. Park

Children's Sunday School



Dear Girls and Boys,

This is a crazy time having to be home and not be able to go to church. I hope that we can see each other again soon! I have missed you all and we have had to postpone the start of Sunday School. If you haven’t received it yet, I have sent you all a packet of stories and activities to help you think about Holy Week. Remember Jesus died on the cross for you and me so that we can live with Him in heaven someday. Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday when Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a

donkey. The people were cheering and waving palm branches to welcome Jesus. Some people were not so happy to see Jesus and believed that He was going to stop them from having control of the people. It was the season of Passover and Jesus was meeting with his Disciples to have a Passover meal. They met in an upstairs room in someone's house. Before the meal started, Jesus washed all his Disciples' feet. He was showing them that it is important to serve other people and take care of them. After the supper, Jesus took the Disciples out to the garden to pray. The Disciples were very tired and fell asleep. After a while, soldiers came to arrest Jesus and take him away. They hurt him and beat him and then took him to a sort of court where the people shouted to crucify him. The people who didn't like Jesus started this and it was decided to crucify Jesus by nailing him to a cross of wood until he died. All his Disciples and friends and his mother were very sad. Jesus was taken to a tomb which is like a cave where they sometimes buried people. Guards were put at the tomb to make sure that nothing happened. Three days later, on Sunday, some women went to the tomb and Jesus was gone! They found out that Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive!! How exciting. Jesus kept his promise and died for our sins so that we can all live with him in heaven someday.

As soon as we get back to church, we will start Sunday School and learn more about Jesus.

During this hard time of not being together remember that you are loved, not just by your parents and your church family but Jesus loves you best of all! Try to not to worry about the coronavirus. Jesus is looking after us and will help us with whatever we need. Keep talking to Jesus. Happy Easter!

Love, Charmarie



April is the month that the state of Pennsylvania designates as Child Abuse Awareness month. Child abuse continues to be a part of daily life for too many children but it is not just a family problem. The effect of child abuse invades and erodes every part of our society. Many of the children involved with our juvenile justice system are victims of abuse or neglect. Victims of abuse may suffer or deal with school and relationship problems, develop sleep, eating, and mental health problems. Some children and youth resort to substance abuse or personal harm to cope with the myriad of concerns associated with child abuse. Effects of child abuse can continue on through adulthood damaging those relationships too. And then there are those children who never make it to adulthood but pay the ultimate price for child abuse—death. I don't know the numbers of those who have died in the last year, but I know it is more than 40 and that is too many in the state of PA. One is too many!

What can we do about it? Professionals, families and community members need to make it our business to know about child abuse and neglect. We need to recognize the signs and symptoms, know where to report it and get involved. For individuals who have contact with children as a part of their professions, Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law makes it mandatory for them to report child abuse if they have reason to suspect. There are a number of protections under the law for mandatory reporters. There are also penalties for those who suspect abuse and do not report. In the past couple of years there have been a number of changes in the Child Protective Services Law regarding mandated reporters.

If you have reason to suspect that child abuse has occurred, call ChildLine (the Pennsylvania State Child Abuse Registry) at 1-800-932-0313 to make a report. If you are interested in learning more about child abuse and the mandated reporter's obligations, please contact Rev. Jane Pykus at 570-465-2318 or Charmarie Bisel at 570-278-9432. Thank you.



Holy Week Scriptures

I am so sad that we can't do Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week and Easter Services in our sanctuary. Hopefully by the end of April we will be able to be together again. Let us pray for one another and encourage one another in the faith this week and in the week to come.

Thanks, Pastor Jane

Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms:

Matthew 21:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Holy Monday

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Holy Tuesday

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
I Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Holy Wednesday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, 5-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday

John 14:1-14
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
I Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Easter Sunday

Acts 30:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God even when He is silent."

(Written on a wall during the Holocaust, written by an unknown prisoner and found by Allied troops in 1945.)

Encouraging words from our Pastor

Hope this note finds everyone continuing to survive this time of isolation. I pray everyone is healthy. We are almost through the second week. It is certainly a challenging time. But it has also pushed us to learn new ways of communicating. Technology in these days has really been our friend. This week I have put together some self-help topics and scriptures to look up during your reading and/or prayer time in these days ahead.

There are many places to find help in the Bible when you know where to look....

When you are dealing with Grief: I Thessalonians 4:13-18, John 11:25-27, Matthew 5:4

When you are facing Illness: Acts 3:16, James 5:16, Jeremiah 17:14

When your feel Depressed: Nehemiah 8:10, Hosea 6:1, Psalm 5:11

When we are in Crisis: Jeremiah 29:11, Lamentations 3:55-58, Proverbs 3:5-6

When we are Fearful: Isaiah 41:13, Joshua 1:9, Psalm 46:1-3

When we are feeling Anxious: I Peter 5:7, Matthew 11:28-30, Proverbs 12:25

When we feel Lonely: 2 Corinthians 6:18, Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 43:2

When you are feeling Discouraged: Romans 12:11-12, John 14:27, Deuteronomy 31:8

When you need Comfort: Psalm 23, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Psalm 55:22

When you need Patience: Colossians 1:10-12, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Romans 15:4-5

When you need Strength: Philippians 4:13, 2 Samuel 22:32-33, Isaiah 40:29-31

When you need Forgiveness: 1 John 1;8-9, Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 6:37

When you need Grace: I Peter 5:5-6, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Ephesians 2:8-9

When you need to know you are Loved: I John 4:7-21, I Thessalonians 3:12, Romans 8:38-39

Have a blessed week. Hope these scriptures will speak to your hearts this week. Love and miss you all. Looking forward to the day when we can gather for worship again and resume our normal church activities. We will once again have the service on Facebook live. The bulletin and announcements will come via email from both churches.

Lifting prayers to God for one and all. Pastor Jane

Fifth Grade Assignment

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

God is like.... Bayer Aspirin. He works miracles.

God is like... a Ford. He's got a better idea.

God is like... Coke. He's the real thing.

God is like....Hallmark Cards. He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like.... Tide. He gets the stains out others leave behind.

God is like... General Electric. He brings good things to life.

God is like.... Walmart. He has everything.

God is like.... Alka-Seltzer. Try Him, you'll like Him.

God is like... Scotch Tape. You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

God is like.... Delta. He's ready when you are.

God is like..... Allstate. You're in good hands with Him.

God is like... VO-5 Hair Spray. He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like.....Dial Soap. Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everyone did?

God is like....The US Post Office. Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination,

God is like....Chevrolet. The heartbeat of America.

God is like....Maxwell House. Good to the very last drop.

God is like.....Bounty. He is the quicker picker upper. Can handle the tough jobs, and He won't fall apart on you.

God is like... The Energizer Bunny. He keeps going and going and going.

Blessings from our house to your house. Peace, Love, and Prosperity to all.

(Submitted by Sally Ayres)

Take Time

Take Time to think....It is the source of power.

Take Time to play... It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take Time to read.... It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take Time to pray....It is the greatest power on earth.

Take Time to love and be loved....It is a God given privilege.

Take Time to laugh.... It is the music of the soul.

Take Time to give....It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take Time to work..... It is the price of success.

Take Time to do charity....It is the key to heaven.

(Submitted by Janet Small)

April birthdays

April 1: Jim Linaberry and Chuck Mead

April 3: Sue Vandermark

April 14: Florence Bennett

April 17: Phyllys Palmer and Susan Pratt

April 20: Julie Ochse

April 21: Kermit Ayers

April 22: Denielle Palmer

April 30: Martha Denkenberger and Kelly Pratt

Litter pickup will be in May!

Friends who would love a card:

Craig Estelle

PO Box 181
South Montrose, PA 18843

Aggie Holbert

Gracious Living Estates
10543 SR 29
Montrose, PA 18801

Jean Weaver

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

It is unfortunate that we will not be able to worship together at church for Holy Week, but I would encourage you to keep checking your emails, and if you are on Facebook you can view Pastor Jane’s messages. The services will be at New Milford, and they will be streamed on the First United Methodist Church of New Milford’s Facebook page on Facebook Live. After the services, I will share them on the South Montrose Community Church Facebook page. You just need to “like” those pages. If you have questions, give me a call. Mary Hinds 278-9403



Altar Flowers:

April	Diane Linaberry
May	Nancy Jerauld
June	



Greeters:

April 5	Maxine Fox and Phyllis Valenza
April 12 & 19	Ben Owen and Rich Lee
April 26	Rob and Phyllis Myers
May 3	Rob and Phyllis Myers
May 10 & 17	Farnham and Connie Hoppe
May 24 & 31	Bud and Bernadette Beamer
June 7 & 14	Elsie Dalrymple and Diane Myers
June 21 & 28	Vicki and Nick Mase



Acolytes:

April 5	Kohen Kraynak
April 12	Emma Bisel
April 19	Hailyn Campbell
April 26	Abigail Rozell
May 3	Alexis Rozell
May 10	Matthew Hinds
May 17	Kohen Kraynak
May 24	Emma Bisel
May 31	Hailyn Campbell
June 7	Abigail Rozell
June 14	Alexis Rozell
June 21	Matthew Hinds
June 28	Kohen Kraynak

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

In the Church: Connie Hoppe, Lori Weller, Brittany Elko, Phyllis Myers, Jesse Frystak, Charlie Valenza, Glenn Vandermark, Marian Arnold, Mickey Fox, Ida Rhodes, David Myers, Brenda, Clay & Cole, Ruth Vandermark, Guy Vandermark, Wayne Vandermark, Jean Weaver, Harriet Snell, Aggie Holbert, Nic Remington, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Nate Seymour

In Our Community: Ann Very, Matthew Holinej Family, Patty Robinson Family, Michelle Hawley Family, Dave Hibbard, Jim Hogg, Bishop Park & Cabinet, The UMC, General Conference 2020 and our Delegates, Janet Birchard, Hunter Wilcox, Brendon Kelly, Chandler Brown, Tracey Cunningham, Zion Emmanuel Nye, Jerry Townes, Ron Baker, Jeff Posten, Hayden Brunges, Dylan Blaisure, Norma Babcock, Sandy Gardner, John Clough, Frog Very, Robert Smith, Phil Reimel, Bill Wilber, Stephen VanKuren, Kenny Rauch, Nancy Coy, Damon Johnson, David Daniels, Darlene Pacihlock, Dot Owen, Bridget Cooke, Dawn Arnold, Lorna Jones, Jim Snell, Chuck Peters, John Henry, Debbie Smales, Elijah Sabo, Jim Phillips, Justin Guyrs, Misty Hitchcock, Dennis Carey, Jeanette Smith, Betty Pykus, Tony Susi, John Capoccia, Jose Roe, John Breen, Monica Anderson, Audrey Cady, Gary Baker, Bill Copley, Margie Green, Jim Taylor, Bernie Boyer, Jim & June Ochse, Joyce Millard, James Walters, 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

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