

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION!

If you were to take a survey, I would imagine that a large number of people would choose Christmas as their favorite holiday. Yet, if there was a holiday that exemplified the truest purpose of the church, it would be Easter—as we celebrate Resurrection Sunday! After all, the birth of Jesus at Christmas would have no purpose, unless He would lay down His life on Good Friday to be resurrected on Easter.

Years ago, I came across a story that touched my soul as I read it. A woman named Margaret Sangster Phippen shared this story, as she wrote that in the mid 1950s her father, British minister W. E. Sangster, began to notice some uneasiness in his throat and a dragging in his leg. When he went to the doctor, he found that he had an incurable disease that caused progressive muscular atrophy. His muscles would gradually waste away, his voice would fail, his throat would soon become unable to swallow.

Sangster threw himself into his work in British home missions, figuring he could still write, and he would have even more time for prayer. "Let me stay in the struggle, Lord," he pleaded. "I don't mind if I can no longer be a general, but give me just a regiment to lead."

He wrote articles and books, and helped organize prayer cells throughout England. "I'm only in the kindergarten of suffering," he told people who pitied him.

Gradually, Sangster's legs became useless. His voice went completely. But he could still shakily hold a pen, in order to communicate. On Easter morning, just a few weeks before he died, he wrote a note to his daughter. In it, he said, "It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!' yet it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout, 'He is risen!'"

As a minister, leading people in worship is one of the greatest joys in my life. I love the moment in our Christmas Eve worship where we sing "Silent Night" and we lift our candlelight into the air together. I love the color red that we wear as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Yet, there is something about singing the great hymns of faith at Easter, recognizing what Jesus did for us on the cross and then from the empty tomb. The joy of Easter is that we can receive grace and forgiveness because of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Charles Wesley, the brother of Methodism's founder John Wesley, wrote this hymn which is almost always traditionally sung at the start of worship on Easter Sunday:

Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia! Earth and Heaven in chorus say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high! Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

And, personally, this next verse is my favorite: Love's redeeming work is done! Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won! Alleluia! Death in vain forbids Him rise! Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise! Alleluia!



The apostle Paul wrote about this redemptive work of Christ upon the cross, and the victory that is also available to the children of God through the resurrection of Christ. He writes, **"So you are no longer a slave..."** (from Galatians 4:7). Jesus had also said, **"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"** (from John 8:36) On the cross, the price was paid in full for our freedom, so we can be freed from the bondage to sin. Because of the redemptive work of the true Easter story, children of God have been set free, and we are at liberty to live a life of real meaning, freed from the sinful passions that destroy fellowship with the Lord and devastate lives. Followers of Christ have been delivered from their sins and are enjoying the empowerment of the Holy Spirit of Christ to overcome sin. The redemptive work of freedom from sin goes on and on, for those who truly enjoy the ever-flowing life from the resurrection!

Does your life reflect the glory of Christ's redemption for you?

Embrace grace! Pastor Kevin (aka Rev Kev)

Adult Bible Study with Pastor Kevin Tuesdays ~ 9:30am ~ Library



Together, **let's discover Jesus**, described according to the gospel of Luke. Jesus sums up the entire Biblical message like this:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27)

But, what does that love look like where we live? Where we work? The people we do life with everyday?

This Bible study will help us live a life that is modeled after the example of Jesus Christ: developing a pattern of prayer, relating to others, establishing holy priorities, and a host of day-to-day issues that, all together, make up what Jesus called the abundant life.

March 5 ~ Jesus Begins His Ministry March 12 ~ <u>NO STUDY TODAY</u> March 19 ~ The Sermon on the Plain March 26 ~ Jesus & the Disciples April 2 ~ Prayer April 9 ~ Following Jesus April 16 ~ Jesus in Jerusalem

Youth From the 3rd Floor Realm of... Terry Lasut, Director of Youth Ministry March Schedule

Sunday March 3rd ~ Youth 180 Soup Sale! Anyone interested in volunteering to make soup can pick up quart-sized containers from the church office. Please feel free to make any kind of soup you want. We ask that you fill as many quarts as you can, and drop them off in the fellowship hall before the end of the first service. Also, label your containers with what kind of soup you made. Quarts of soup can be purchased by donation. All proceeds will go towards funding church camperships. At the conclusion of the soup sale, all members of Youth 180 will go out for lunch to Dino's (Greensburg).

Sunday March 10th ~ 6:00pm Bible Study, Fellowship, Games & Snacks (Youth Café)

Sunday <u>March 17</u>th ~ 5:30-7:30pm Youth 180 & KidsRock join together in the Fellowship Hall Halo Choir Rehearsal at 5:00 today for Games, Fun Activities, Crafts & Yummy Snacks!

Sunday March 24th ~ *PALM SUNDAY*... after the 10:45 Worship service, all are welcome to join Youth 180 for lunch at Eat'n Park (New Stanton) at 12:30. Following lunch, we will drive to Jumonville Camp, to hike up the mountain to the cross. A great start for Holy Week!

Sunday March 31st ~ EASTER SUNDAY... Youth 180 will NOT meet this day.



gets its name from the way we are called to turn from our sins towards Jesus (doing a 180 degree turn away from mistakes!)



Stay up-to-date with our youth activities and events Facebook page Greensburg First: Youth 180.

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GREA

Methodist Women

FAITH + HOPE + LOVE IN ACTION

from Fred Pershing **Director of Music**

Read: Isaiah 61:1-4

These can be chaotic times with constant turmoil in the news; around the world, nationally, and maybe in our own households. Forty days of Lent can have us humbly look at ourselves and ask God for guidance. We then can prepare for Jesus' incredible sacrifice and His glorious resurrection. Here are key dates for our music ministry in March: 3rd Chancel Chanters, 17th Lenten Chimes, 24th Halo & Chancel Choirs, and 31st Bonnie Ross Řingers Bell Choir.

> Questions??? Would you like to take part in this weekly fellowship??? Please contact the church office at 724-834-3111.

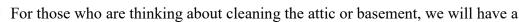
SUNDAYS 9:00 a.m. Children's Chimes (Bell Room) 5:30 p.m. Halo Youth Choir (Choir Room) THURSDAYS 6:00 pm Chancel Chanters (Sanctuary) **Regular Practices** 6:30 pm Bonnie Ross Ringers Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the Mighty Hand of God so that at the proper time He May Exalt You 1 Peter 5:6

Happy Spring! Please plan to join us for a "Spring Tea" on

Tuesday, March 5, at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

It will be a great time of much-needed fellowship for all of us, and a time to make new friends and renew existing friendships. We will have light refreshments and a brief business meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.



Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 18.

We would appreciate having your gently-used housewares and clothing for this sale. We will do setup on Friday, May 17 beginning at 9am. We can always use more hands to get things ready for the sale on Friday, and to help pack up leftover items after the sale. It is our intent to recycle as much as we can from the sale to organizations who can use the items.

Looking forward on your calendar, please note that the

Church Picnic will be Sunday, July 14,

Church after the 10:45 Worship service. The UMW will supply chicken, hot dogs, beverages, Picnic and drinks. If you would be willing to make a side dish, please let Sherry Miller know at 412-932-5309. We also need someone who is willing to pick up cases of drinks for us. We will provide the money for these.



A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a tax-smart way to support the First United Methodist Church. Starting when you turn 70 1/2 years old, you can make a QCD from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). No income tax will apply to that withdrawal. Starting in the year you turn 72, each year you can choose to designate all or a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA to the church, and you will not count the gift in your adjusted gross income, so you won't pay income taxes on the amount. The amount you

give will count toward your RMD for the year. You can also name the church as beneficiary for all or a portion of your IRA, and there are tax benefits. Please consider these options, to support the mission and ministries of our church. Please contact your financial advisor or your IRA administrator, for instructions on how to do this. Contact the church office at 724-834-3111 to obtain the tax identification number.



We Graciously Thank Barb Hinkle for sponsoring our March Gnome Lavender Truck of the Month in honor of All Volunteers!

Next Distribution: Friday, March. 15th @ 10 a.m.

Thursday Afternoon "Set-up Team" March 14th

- Arrive 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to help prepare boxes & bags on tables.

Friday Morning "Distribution Team" March 15th

(arrive 8:00 a.m. -or whenever you can- at glass doors on S. Maple) - We need to unload the truck, pack boxes & bags in Fellowship Hall, & distribute at 10.

Distribution-Day <u>Instructions</u>

All activity will be **<u>outside</u>**

- Stay in your car, register in parking lot adjacent to YMCA on S. Maple
- Continue across street, in front of glass doors, and your car will be loaded

Emergency Weather Cancellation Procedure

Food Pantry Ministry Contact:

Mallory Baker 570-765-0781 mallory.n.baker@gmail.com



to the Rotary Club of Greensburg

for their most generous financial gift to benefit our Food Pantry ministry at the Greensburg First United Methodist Church. These funds will help provide gift cards to every client, in the month of March, for Easter.



n the event of severe weather *(deep snow or ice)* or

Date Cha

post any cancellations on

Bank Friday we will

stations.

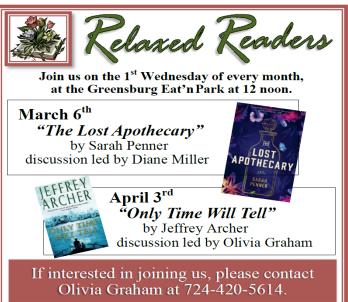
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WPXI,



Find us on FACEBOOK: First United Methodist Church – Greensburg

Regular Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm (May change without notice ... thank you for your understanding & patience)

<u>WiFi Network</u> Name: Greensburg First Password: Jeremiah2911



However, school closures take priority Food Bank cancellations may only appea

and



Remembering those who wish to, but cannot be among us.

Allan Pierce, Marge Trumbetta Brookdale (500 Brouwers Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650)

Paulette Hood Hempfield Manor (1118 Woodward Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601)

Vivian Engel Loyalhanna Care Sr. Suites (543 McFarland Road rm. 209, Latrobe, PA 15650)

Donna Bush, Norma Gump, Charlotte Sonafelt

Westmoreland Manor (2480 S. Grande Blvd., Greensburg, PA 15601)



"in memory" or "in honor" of friends or family, and return to the church office with payment. This will provide beautiful flowers for our weekly worship services in the Sanctuary, and the bulletin sponsorship will help defray some of our copying/administrative fees...Thank You.



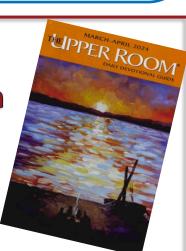
Contact the church office, or make note on your Welcome/info. card, to get the prayer chain going... 724-834-3111 churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org



to the friends & families of: Marge Fagert (January 24, 2024) Susan Ivory (February 17, 2024) The Upper Room Daily Devotional for March/April is NOW available

in the media rack

in Sanctuary Hall.



Healing Hearts Support Group

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 18, at 6 pm in the Lounge.** Losing a loved one is painful, and it's hard to move on in life, without that person. We have been where you are. We are moving on in our journey to our new reality, and we welcome you to join us, when you are able. You are NOT alone.



Contact Sherry Miller for further info. 724-537-9366 sherrymiller8966@gmail.com

Find Encouragement with us...Be an Encouragement to us.



Jim Swank (chairperson)

Richard Briggs Karen Pershing Ellen Matthews Mark Steeves Chad Miller

Mike Sweeney Randi Wichrowski

In our efforts to keep you informed of our maintenance projects, we often explain how much this work costs and the manner of payment. Last month, we mentioned that our resources for financing of these projects sometimes come from funds donated by generous congregants from past generations. We are undoubtedly blessed to have this money to use, but aware that we must be judicious in our spending. A recent report on

balances in these accounts revealed how well our investments are doing, and therefore, the cash we use to fund these projects is *only interest income*. In fact, the interest income far exceeds the amounts we need. We are thankful for that!

New flooring for the parsonage master-bedroom bathroom has been installed, as well as repairs to the first-floor powder room ceiling. As usual, *D Squared Home Improvements* did quality work, and the bid (\$1,500) was within the amount paid by *Church Mutual Insurance* for the damage.

The hose sprayer on the church kitchen dishwasher, installed last August, was not working well. For some reason, it was restricting the water pressure, making it almost worthless. It was purchased through *Hobart*, the company where most of our kitchen appliances were bought. The technician that installed the fixture has been contacted, to see if another unit would be better or if some adjustment can be made. Since the unit itself cost about \$500, and the labor costs put our total outlay over \$700, we want to make sure it does the job satisfactorily.



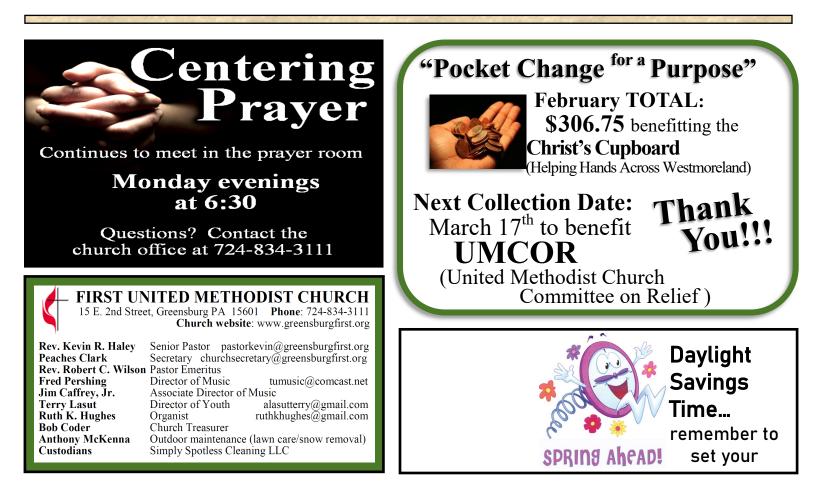
After many months of waiting for parts, *Mullen Refrigeration* will now be able to replace some leaking valves on the boiler system. Although these leaks have not caused significant problems, we wanted to address these issues, before they make matters worse. The parts and labor are estimated to cost about \$700.

The outside church restoration project is due to start sometime in April. Originally, we planned to split the cost of this job into three payments. Now, the contractor has requested monthly

payments. This doesn't affect the total cost or which funds are used, it simply gives the contractor a little money, each month, to offset their costs.

Welcome to Chad Miller, the newest member of the Board of Trustees.

Submitted by Jim Swank







Outreach Ministry Sunday, May 12, for Church World Service Blanket Sponsorship Sale. For \$10, you can sponsor a blanket that will be given to people, anywhere in the

world, who have suffered from a disaster. With the record number of disasters in our world recently, blankets are sorely needed. Blankets can be used as shelter, to carry things in, to keep people warm. It's a way that we can be proactive in the world and reach people in need. Your support of this ministry helps to let those affected by these disasters know that there are people who care. Please join us again, as we participate in world-wide ministry, to support those who need our help.

To participate, simply mark your check or envelope "BLANKET."

Starting in the month of June and continuing through mid-August, you will see our

Happy Feet collection banks in the back of the Sanctuary. This money will be given to local families who can't afford to provide their children with new shoes for school. This is a mission project that hits close to home and supports our friends and neighbors. You will be able to donate once or as many times as you wish to this much-needed project.

Questions....Volunteer Opportunities....Fundraising ideas?

Contact Sherry Miller 724-537-9366 sherrymiller8966@gmail.com

Easter Flowers

Please use the inserted <u>YELLOW</u> form to order Easter flowers.

If you would like recognition for the flowers in our "Easter Sunday" bulletin insert, we will need your order **by Friday, March 22.**

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DEADLINE Please fill out th	TER SUNDAY FLOWERS for MARCH 31, 2022 for ordering & having the names of your loved ones included in our listing is March 22. The state of the state of the state state of the state of the flowers-bayever, your listing is block our check, make gravity and the state of the flowers' on "howers provide state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the flowers' on the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the s
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-	ice on Faster Sunday or on Monday, April 1, 2024
Ву	I will pick up my flowers after the 10.45 service on Easter Sunday or on Monday, April 1, 2024 Enclosed is my check payable to=UMW** for \$
Name	Questions? Please call MaryAnn Herd at 724-454-9132.
Plante	a please call MaryAnn Heru at 12



Simply contact Pastor Kevin to discuss what church membership is all about, and the ways you can be received into the congregation (via profession of faith, or via transfer from another church).

Check off the box on your Welcome/Information card that reads "Interested in Church Membership" or contact Pastor Kevin at the church office: call (724)834-3111 email pastorkevin@greensburgfirst.org call/text (814)706-7788

Received on Sunday, February 4, 2024

Jill S. Bennett (Husband: Dale) 8120 State Route 819, Greensburg PA 15601 Allan R. Brown 373 Lakewood Road, Greensburg PA 15601 Janet L. Brunozzi (Husband: Daniel) 1148 Skyline Drive, Greensburg PA 15601 **Terry D. Lasut** (Director of Youth Ministries) 2563 Carpenters Park Road, Davidsville PA 15928 Loretta M. Poteste 209 West 3RD Street, Apt.402, Greensburg PA 15601 Frank K. & Susan Stillman 136 Patton Hill Road, Slickville PA 15684 **Received on Sunday, February 25, 2024 Garrett & Emily Bele** 11 Lynn Lee Drive, Greensburg PA 15601 Sarah Briggs Boyle 514 Westland Drive, Greensburg PA 15601 **Julie Dickert** 215 Apple Hill Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650 Ron Ryan 302 Shutt Road, Greensburg PA 15601



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday So Class Locatio		Age 4 thru Grade 5 (Room 304-upper level) Grades 6 - 12 (Youth Café-upper level) Genesis Adult Class (Library-lower level)			1	2
3 Soup Sale <u>TODAY</u> for Camperships 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9am Kid's Chimes 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream) 12ish Youth Halo Choir 12:30pm Youth 180 Out to Lunch	4 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room) 6:30pm Trustees (Trustee Room)	5 9:30am Adult Bible Study (Library) The Gospelof Luke Session #3 "Jesus Begins His Ministry" 6:00pm UMVV Spring Tea (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm SPRC (Church Lounge)	6 RSVPs <u>due for</u> Fella•Ship	7 10am-1pm 12-Step (Fellowship Hall) 6pm Chancel Chanters 6:30pm Adult Bells 6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8 <u>Food Pantry</u> moved to the 15 th this month <u>ONLY</u>	9 9:00am Fella+Ship (Fellowship Hall)
10 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9am Kid's Chimes 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream) 2:30pm Worship at Redstone (Greensburg) 5:30pm Youth Halo Choir 6:00pm Youth 180 (Youth Café)	11 5:30pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	12 <u>NO</u> Bible Study Resumes the 19 th	13	14 10am Staff Meeting 10am-1pm 12-Step (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Food Pantry Set-up (Fellowship Hall) 6pm Chancel Chanters 6:30pm Adult Bells 6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step 7:30pm Chancel Choir	15 8-10am Food Pantry unload Truck & Set-up 10am Food Pantry Distribution (S. Maple glass doors) Circuit Rider Article DEADLINE	16
17 "Pocket Change ^{for} a Purpose" 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9am Kid's Chimes 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream) 5:00pm Youth Halo Choir 5:30-7:30 Youth 180 & Kick Rock join for Activities & Fun! (Fellowship Hall)	6:30nm Centering	19 9:30am Adult Bible Study (Library) ™eGospelofLuke Session #4 "The Sermon on the Plain" 6:00pm Finance & Stewardship (Fellowship Hall)	20 6:30pm Church Council (Fellowship Hall) moved from the 27 th this month ONLY	21 10am-1pm 12-Step (Fellowship Hall) 6pm Chancel Chanters 6:30pm Adult Bells 6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22	23
24 Jalm Sunday 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9am Kid's Chimes 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream) 12:30pm Youth 180 Day Trip ^{to} Jumonville Cross	25 5:30pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)	26 9:30am Adult Bible Study (Library) ™GospelofLuke Session #5 "Jesus and the Disciples"	27	28 Description 8:30am Circuit Rider Assembly Team (Church Office) 10am-1pm 12-Step (Fellowship Hall) 6:30-8:30pm Women's 12-Step (North Hall) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship (Santuary)	29 Cood Friday Church & Office CLOSED 11:30am (see pg.4) Way of the Cross 7:00pm Good Friday Worship (at Otterbein UMC)	30
31 Saster Sunday 6:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9 am Kid's Chimes 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (Sanctuary) (also via livestream)						

First United Methodist Church of Greensburg 15 E. Second Street Greensburg, PA 15601

March 2024 Circuit Rider

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