



St. John's United Methodist Church

Our Mission: That all may know Jesus and grow in God

March/April 2019

Pastor's Notes:

Last November, my nephew Alex died of an overdose when he relapsed after completing a Teen Challenge program. We at St. John's were privileged to hear Alex's testimony just a couple of weeks before he died. I received a note from his mother that was addressed to you, the brothers and sisters of St. John's. I have printed it below in its entirety.

To the Saints of St John's UMC,

I am sorry this note is coming late to you. But after the homegoing of my son, Alex, there was much to do and emotions were running high.

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for making my son feel welcome in your midst to tell his powerful story of redemption. He truly loved Jesus, and his goal was full time ministry telling his story and helping others. Yours was a safe and loving church to tell his story for the first time.

He was nervous for sure. It is a hard thing to tell strangers about all your mistakes, especially about heroin addiction. He went on to tell his story again with greater confidence after launching off at St. John's. A third invitation never got met as he had gained entrance to Heaven.

Your prayer support as he was at Teen_Challenge was invaluable. He was baptized there and dove deep into God's word. He came home a very changed young man; secure, confident and yet humble. He told everyone he met about Jesus. He truly was joyful. Unfortunately, he had great difficulty coping after the death of his best friend Cody and turned to old coping mechanisms. I believe that God is absolutely sovereign, that He makes no mistakes! He took Alex home that beautiful November morning. Alex is now perfect. No addictions, no bipolar, no OCD. Just soaking in the presence of his Father. What more could a mother ask for?

May God abundantly bless each of you.

Chris Adams

Alex's Mom

Alex's testimony is still on our YouTube channel which can be found by searching "St. John's UMC Grantville" on YouTube.

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On March 3rd, my sermon will include an overview of the decisions made at the special session of General Conference, taking place from February 23-26, 2019. This Conference is only focused on Human Sexuality and the church and may greatly affect the future of the United Methodist Church. There has already been much confusion and misinformation about all that has taken place, therefore, I urge you to come that day and hear about the results.

(The Bishops of the Northeast Jurisdiction have asked us to increase our prayer for this General Conference on Human Sexuality from February 23-26. February 23rd will be devoted to prayer and you may follow along and pray with them by going to www.umc.org. Please continue to pray throughout the remainder of the conference.)

2019 Lenten Season

When I think about what to give up for Lent, it reminds me of my New Year's resolutions. What about you? That vow to go easy on desserts— did you even make it until Ash Wednesday?

This year I made the same resolutions - with predictable results. So, looking ahead to Lent, I asked myself: what if I gave up something less tangible?

- What if I gave up being irritated at the person who cut in front of me while I was waiting to get my coffee?
- What if I gave up being annoyed because the same person told me the same story for the 10th time?
- What if I gave up being frustrated because I couldn't get my computer to obey my commands on the first try?

In my thinking, these nontangible sacrifices are more difficult than giving up chocolate, but they certainly help my blood pressure!

And what if I Added something for Lent?



- Praying for people in my circle of friends while I am waiting for something—a staff person to arrive, standing in line for lunch to be served.

- Mentally making a list of things for which I am thankful. In other words, "Counting my blessings."

- Writing notes of appreciation and thanks to friends and loved ones.

- Looking for the best in someone I have trouble getting along with.

ting along with.

All in all, giving up chocolate sounds easier than being gracious when I don't feel like it. But traveling with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem is not an easy one. Fortunately, we do not travel alone.

Prayer: Give us the strength and courage to try something challenging this Lenten season, O God. And keep us mindful that no matter where we go, you are with us. Amen. - Melanie Silva

Reprinted from HomeTouch



The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday, March 6. Service will be held at St. John's UMC at 7:30 PM. A meal will be served prior to the service at 6 PM. If you will be attending the meal please sign up on the sheet in the north narthex so we can plan accordingly.

The Community Lenten meals and services will be held at 6:30 and 7:30 PM respectively. The locations are as follows:

March 13	Faith UCC
March 20	John's UMC
March 27	Shell's Lutheran Church
April 3	St. John's UMC
April 10	Faith UCC

Because we will be entering the season of Lent and will have meals before the services, we **will NOT be having Thankful Thursday meals during March and April.** Our church will be hosting 2 of the 5 Lenten meals so we hope to see everyone come out to those meals instead.

UMCOR SUNDAY

UMCOR Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. There will be a special offering on March 31.

Vision: As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR strengthens and transforms people and communities.

Mission: Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

UMCOR's work can be categorized into three major areas: 1) Humanitarian Relief / Disaster Response 2) Sustainable Development 3) Global Health (in collaboration with Global Ministries)



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 14

Maundy Thursday Service at St. John's at 7:30 PM , Holy Communion
Good Friday (Time to be announced)

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Hollywood Casino and 7:45 & 10:15 Services at St. John's.



Eileen	Cheryl Beachler	Bob Brandt
Pat Cavanaugh	Tracy Christoffer	Gloria Coldwell
Alice Darrel	Ryan Eith	Gene Espenshade
Norma Eyster	Edna Fanus	Ken Forshey
Mary Forshey	Andrew Gardner	Korynne Gillette
Dan Grow	Molly Gumphier	Linda Haugh
LaDonna Hoffman	Clarence Hitz	Rick Hoffman
Dave Hull	Barbara Junker	Donna Katzmire
Kawich Family	Janet Kline	
Georgette & Kurt Kreamer		Cliff Kreiser
Dale Lebo	Barb Lindsay	Virginia Miller
Pastor Brian Moyer	Warren Rhoad	Lisha Robertson
Janet Sandy	Glen Shaffer	Albert Shirk
Denise Snyder	Jody White	Willow
Barbara Wolf	Angelica Zander	
Tiffany Zimmerman	Jacquie Zona	

Military: All those serving home and abroad and their families; Jo Kuhn's nephew on SEAL Team

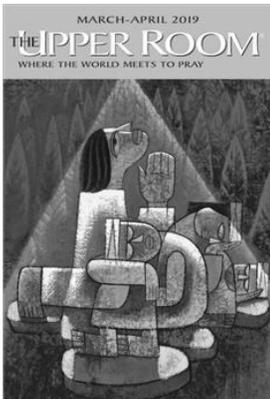
Other: Pastor Saffa Jengo & the Kwellu Church in Sierra Leone, Bria Griffin and her campus ministry, students and teachers

Mallory Anspach	Todd Sherwin	Family of Dora Weaver
Family of Aleeta Krick		Dundore Family

General Conference

Join St. John's Prayer Chain

You can join St. John's prayer chain through your email or telephone calls which are done by Nancy Shaffer. You may contact Nancy via email, happynancy@comcast.net or call 717-469-7167. Please join our prayer chain. The more prayers that go up to God, the more power is at work here on earth.



Spend some time in prayer each day with these resources from The Upper Room. The March April Upper Room is available in the north narthex in both large and small print.

UMW News

The first United Methodist Women meeting of the new year is set for Sat., March 2 in the church social hall. All women are invited. There will be a program followed by the meeting. Upcoming activity for all women in the church is an afternoon tea to be held later in March. Stay tuned.



Save the Date - Women's banquet will be held at Derry Presbyterian Church on April 27. As always all women are invited to join us in any of our meetings and activities.

UMM News

The United Methodist Men meet the third Saturday of the month. A Bible study begins promptly at 6:30 AM in the choir room down stairs. Immediately following is the breakfast meeting at 7 AM. All men are welcome to join in the Christian fellowship.

Special Note: Thank you to all who purchased subs and soup in the recent fund raiser.

You Can Make A Difference

We will be collecting the following for the Grantville Area Food Pantry
March—toothpaste and toothbrushes,
April—soap.

Thank you for your donations.



History in the Making

On Feb 1st, all across the Nation and right here in Grantville PA, young ladies joined together to form new troops in Scouts BSA.

The scouts in these new female troops will experience all of the challenges, fun and adventure offered by Scouts BSA.

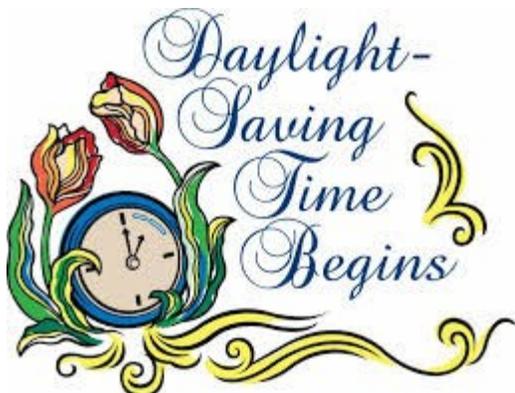
This is a very special time in these young ladies lives and we are so thankful that St. John's decided to sponsor them.

We have had an outpouring of support from youth and adult leaders to teach the girls new skills, their Troop has already been tested in their first

Klondike Derby where they placed 7th out of 24 Patrols and they are already working hard to improve for next year. Thank you everyone for your support!

For more information contact Michele LaVerdiere Scoutmaster for Female Troop 262 at mlaverdiere@comcast.net.

Photo above: Scouts and leaders on Scout Sunday, Feb. 3. The Scouts lead the congregation in worship that day.



Sunday, March 10



It's time to clean out those closets and junk drawers and donate your unwanted items for the 9th Annual Hub Yard Sale. Please contact Carol Adams (469-2489) to talk about how to donate your items. This year's Yard Sale will be held in the church basement