



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

www.irwinfirstumc.org

irwinfirstumc@comcast.net

Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Zaq Phillips – Youth Minister

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

March 15, 2015

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING & WELCOME

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor.

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

8:15 - "Be Thou My Vision"

10:45 - "Be Thou My Vision" - Temple Bells

LENTEN CANDLE CEREMONY

Simon Peter & Thomas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: From the east and the west, ...

P: ... from the north and the south, ...

L: ... we come to dwell in God's steadfast love.

P: God's love heals, forgives, and welcomes all!

***UNISON PRAYER**

Gracious and loving God, we have come to this place to be your faithful disciples. On this Lenten journey, help us grow in our faith and in our relationship with you. Open our hearts to your love. Open our eyes to the light of your Son. Open our hands to the work of your Holy Spirit. Help us share your grace and follow the ways that lead to new life. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 378**

"Amazing Grace"

Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

*(Our Children's Collection this morning will be used for the "One Great Hour of Sharing"
Please see the announcement for more details.)*

ANTHEM 10:45 "Come To the Cross" - Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE READING No. 830

"Psalm 107"

PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Offertory on 'St. Christopher'"

***DOXOLOGY No. 95**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below:
praise Him above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

God of grace, though we know we do not deserve it, you love us so much that you give us precious gifts. We tend to give gifts cautiously, to give gifts of minimal value, to give gifts from what remains after lavishing gifts on ourselves. You gave your only Son, so that in believing, we would have eternal life. Our gifts today seem so small, but you can multiply them through hearts that have been warmed and softened, and with them, you can change the world. Change us, the givers, in the process. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 504 “The Old Rugged Cross”

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN

SERMON SCRIPTURE (NRSV) Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 365 “Grace Greater than Our Sin”**

The Altar is open during the hymn.

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “Postlude on ‘Irish”**

***Those who are able, please stand.**

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, Sunday, March 15

4th Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 Prayer Time
- 8:15 Worship
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:30 Confirmation Class
- 10:45 Worship
- 1:00 Norwin Lions Cupcake Wars
- 2:00 FISH & CHIPS
- 2:30 LLS Cast Rehearsal
- 4:00 Temple Bells
- 4:45 SonShiners

Monday, March 16

Office Closed

- 7:00 Dartball –A

Tuesday, March 17

- No Men’s Work Group
- 5:30 Gym in use
- 6:15 TOPS
- 7:30 NA

Wednesday, March 18

- 11:30 Mid Week Lenten Service
@ United Church of Christ, Main St., Irwin
- 7:00 Yoga

Thursday, March 19

- 6:15 C Bells
- 7:00 Disciple
- 7:15 Choir
- 7:30 UM Men
- 8:15 Living Last Sumner Choir

Friday, March 20

Confirmands going to the Conference Center

Saturday, March 21

- 8:30 District Meeting
- 10:30 Gym in use
- 6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, March 22

5th Sunday in Lent

Newsletter Deadline

- 8:00 Prayer Time
- 8:15 Worship
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:30 Confirmation Class
- 10:45 Worship
- 2:00 FISH & CHIPS
- 2:30 LLS Cast Rehearsal
- 4:00 Temple Bells
- 4:45 SonShiners

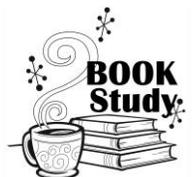
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S COLLECTIONS: The Children’s Collection today will be given to the *One Great Hour of Sharing*. For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR’s ministry of relief and hope. Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover our costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs. UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist. Because we keep operating costs under 10% of our total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR’s administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they’re most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

Meals on Wheels: 3/8 - \$255.50

THE NEXT WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY is a book by Max Lucado called "*Before Amen*" and it looks really good! We'll begin on March 25th at 7 pm up in the Youth Room, and the study will last at least 4 weeks. Max is an excellent teacher and writer so you know it's certain to be a good study! You will need to purchase the book (not the study guide). It is available at www.christianbook.com for \$11.99 (as of March 8th), and also at Family Bookstore for a higher price.

All ladies are invited! The only requirement is that you come ready to learn and share with each other. Hope to see you there!





SOUP LUNCHEON: Today's the Day! Join us for soup, sandwiches and cake after the second service today. A free will offering will be collected and all proceeds will benefit the Outreach Committee's many projects.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: All articles for the April 2015 newsletter are due in the office by Sunday, March 22nd. Please email your articles to fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net or drop a hard copy of it off in the office. Articles received after March 22nd will be printed in the May newsletter.

**Spring!
New Life!
God's Great Love for Us!**



All ages are invited to our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 29th**, 9:30 to 10:30 am, starting in the Elementary Dept. Let's remember the wonderful story of Easter & talk about some Christian symbols. An egg hunt follows in the gym with terrific treasures that relate to the story. Adults welcome!

Teens/Preteens, we need your help hiding the eggs! Of course, you will receive treats for helping & you should also meet at 9:30 in the Elementary room to assist. (Tiny tots meet in Mrs. Weber's toddler room across from the nursery for a mini-hunt.)

Friends are always welcome!

**Kick off Holy Week by hearing the story of our Christian faith in one exciting session!
Hope to see you on March 29th!**

EASTER BASKETS: Check out the poster in the Narthex and take a few post-it notes to help us fill Easter baskets for local families. In addition to providing food for an Easter meal, we will be providing baskets for the children of the family with fun treats! This holiday we are supporting both Sheridan Terrace backpack families and the neediest of the food bank clients. Donations are due back to church on Palm Sunday (3/29).

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY is April 12. We will continue the celebration of the joyous Easter season at both services with Holy Humor Hat Day. Start planning for your creative headpiece to wear during the services.

This year there also will be a potluck luncheon in the gym after the 10:45 AM service. Everyone should bring a "humorous" dish to pass (enough for 10 – 12 people). This could be a silly variation on a "normal" dish (green eggs and ham?) or a normal dish with a humorous name (name cards will be provided) or presented in a humorous way. Use your imagination. The church will supply plates, cups, plastic ware, and drinks. During the luncheon we will have a hat fashion show of all your creations.

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER publicity materials (yard signs, poster and "pocket posters") are available in the narthex (entrance hall). If you post your poster or yard sign on someone else's property, please be sure to ask permission first and remove the material after the performances.

SUMMER CAMP NEWS... Camp Brochures are in! Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny and Jumonville offer new camps each year. Pick up a booklet in the narthex for information on any of these three UM Church Camps and submit your registration form to the church office.

SAFE SANCTUARIES 2015

The changes in PA law that you need to know.

Earlier this year, Governor Corbett signed into law House Bill 435 to increase protection for children and youth in Pennsylvania. There are several aspects to HB 435 that will affect the local church.

CORRECTION: Due to the complexity of the new PA laws surrounding HB 435, there was incorrect information initially provided. Clearances need to be obtained for volunteers beginning at age 18 (not 14). The clearances needed are the State Police criminal background check (Act 34) and the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Childline, Act 33), and possibly the FBI Record check if the individual has not been a PA resident for at least 10 year.

If you volunteer or are involved with the children of the church you may need to update your clearances. There is a binder in the office with the names and dates of the clearances we have on file. Please check the binder, if you are in the gray area you will need to up date your clearances. There will be forms available in the office. Please use the envelope provided and place the completed clearance forms in the office door slot. The church will pay the fees. The completed forms have your personal information on them. Please do not leave the completed forms lay on the desk or in a mailbox.

2015 Community Mid-Week Lenten Services

Promises, Promises, Promises: God Redeems Us

Sponsored by the Men’s Prayer Fellowship at

First United Church of Christ, 400 Main Street, Irwin, PA

Hymn singing starts at 11:30 AM – Preaching starts at Noon – *Lunch starts at 12:30PM

Pianist: Jimmie Ruth Caughron – Signer: Connie Bridgeman

Wednesday, March 18 – Topic: The Mosaic Covenant Speaker: Rev. Ron Durika

Wednesday, March 25 – Topic: The Davidic Covenant Speaker: Sherri Pridle

Wednesday, April 1 – Topic: The New Covenant Speaker: Dr. Ronald Wakeman

***Lunch is provided by Colonial Grille – Cost - \$6.00**
