



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

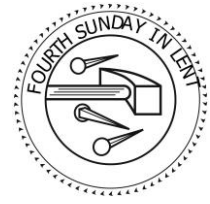
724-863-6858

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry



March 6, 2016
4th Sunday of Lent

WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Nellie Wiancko 10:45 - Dawn Capecci

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

“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”

LENTEN CANDLE CEREMONY

Simon Peter (Paul Kingston), Thomas (Tom Lehner)

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.

P: **Everything old has passed away. Everything has become new.**

L: this newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

P: **Rejoice and be glad! Everything has become new.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. For far too often, things seem as they have always been: old habits die hard, difficult situations linger, failures from our past linger. We look for your promised newness but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation. Open our eyes to its presence in our lives. Call us forth to claim this newness, that we may be healed and made whole. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

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

ANTHEM 8:15 – “Hungry I Come” - Missy Andrison

10:45 - “Hungry, I Come” - Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Joshua 5:9-12

PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Finding Grace"

***DOXOLOGY No. 87, v.4**

These gifts we now bring, these presents, these tokens,
These words can convey it, the joy of this day!
Then grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
This song we now offer in honor and praise!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

Forgiving God, we are grateful that you receive us as beloved children. Like the father in Jesus' parable of the lost son, you rejoice when we repent and return to you. Thank you for not holding our sins against us. Help us to welcome each person as someone you love. Use our offerings to support ministries that encourage people as they live into new life in Christ. We pray in his precious name. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 297 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

The Altar is open during the hymn.

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

***SCRIPTURE (NRSV) 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SACRAMENT

All are welcome. Please follow the directions of the ushers.

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 383 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"**

MUSIC OF PARTING "Trumpet Voluntary"

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship – 28 Sunday 8:15 – 74 10:45 – 100

SERVING YOU SUNDAY, March 6th

GREETERS: 8:15 – Ed & Helen Wertz

10:45 – Lee Stewart & Lois Kuhn

USHERS TEAMS: 8:15 – Virginia Ives 10:45 – Tom Lehner

SOUND TEAM: 8:15 – Nellie Wiancko, Fritz Runser

10:45 - Josh Burger, Penny Brant

NURSERY: Our Child Care Center (birth through age 5) will be open today during the 10:45 service. The attendants today will be Kyle & Katrina Bryan.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers today are presented in memory of Charles Greene from his wife Mary. It has been 5 years since he passed away.

Please return the plastic flower vases when you are finished with them.

REMINDER...NEXT SUNDAY IS CAMP SUNDAY! That means you get to wear your camp clothes to church - just don't bring that sleeping bag! We will be hearing about our three United Methodist Camps, what's new this year and how you can register. Plan on stopping by the parlor after the service for some s'mores, hot chocolate, coffee and bugs on a log (eeeeech!)



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, Sunday, March 6
4th Sunday in Lent/Communion
8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
12:15 Sonshiners
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

Monday, March 7
Dartball – Make-up Games

Tuesday, March 8
6:15 TOPS
6:30 Witness
7:00 Trustees
7:30 NA

Wednesday, March 9
11:30 Mid-week Lenten Service
(United Church of Christ, Main St)
6:00 Fellowship Night
7:00 Yoga

Thursday, March 10
Annual Church Audit -
Office closed until 1:00 PM
6:15 C Bells
7:00 Disciple
7:15 Choir
8:15 LLS Choir

Friday, March 11
9:00 Food Bank Truck – help needed
Gym Closed

Saturday, March 12
9:00 Food Bank - help needed
11:00 LLS Full Cast
6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, March 13
5th Sunday in Lent
Camp Sunday/Coffee Hour
8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
12:15 Sonshiners
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

2016 Community Mid-Week Lenten Services ***“Fruits of the Spirit”***

Sponsored by the Men’s Prayer Fellowship at First United Church of Christ, 400 Main Street, Irwin, PA
Hymn singing - 11:30 AM Worship - Noon
Song Leader: Hervey Steiner Pianist: Jimmie Ruth Caughron Signer: Connie Bridgeman

Wednesday, March 9
Topic: Faithfulness Speaker: Dr. Ronald Wakeman

Wednesday, March 16
Topic: Self-Control Speaker: Rev. Al Kimmel

Wednesday, March 23
Topic: Peace Speaker Rev. Ron Durikz

***Lunch is provided by Colonial Grille at 12:30 for a fee.**

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.

“Irwin VFD Ambulance Service:” 2/28 - \$186.00

Lent/Easter Quiz

(Monday – Friday during Lent)

http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/lent-quiz-test-your-knowledge-of-the-season?_ga=1.201395857.1823834676.1454675431



February 29 - How long is Eastertide?

March 1 - What was the most popular food Twitter users gave up for Lent 2015?

March 2 - Why do some churches hold Easter sunrise services?

March 3 - What is another term for Palm Sunday?

March 4 - True or False? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Today is the last day to order Easter Candy! Order forms were included in your March newsletter, or there are extras in the narthex if needed. Orders will be in by Palm Sunday. All checks (payable to First Um) and order forms can be left in the church office door slot.

Thank you for your continued support!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Two attendants are needed each Sunday to look after the children, ages 0 – 5 years (some a little older), so that their parents may enjoy the 10:45 AM worship service. It is not necessary for you to be in the nursery every week. You can either be added to the roster as part of the rotation, tell Kim when you are available to cover, or just be considered an "alternate" for last-minute needs. With several volunteers available, there is a rotating schedule so you may only be in the nursery a few time throughout the year unless you request to be there more often.

Volunteers working with children in our church are required by law to have clearances on file in the church office. The forms are on the desk in the office and there is no charge for volunteers. If you are interested in helping as a Nursery attendant, either on a regular basis or just to fill in when someone can’t be here, or have any further questions, please contact Kim Platt at 724-863-6838 or kmplatt331@comcast.net.

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER: Yard signs are in the assembly room near the Pastor's office. Please be sure to ask permission before posting on someone else's property. Placement near stop signs or lights are best, since people have time to read the information. Pocket posters and large posters are also available.

RACE FOR GRACE: The ninth annual *Race For Grace* will be held Saturday, April 2nd. Our church is a silver sponsor! Please contact Anne Osborn at 724-744-7278 or annegiannetti@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out with our FUMC team. Race details can for found at their website www.reflectionsofgrace.org – hope to see you there.

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 (3/20). Any questions and/or concerns,

please contact Anne Osborn at 724-744-7278 or annegiannetti@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of these local families.

A Simple Truth:

You Are Loved!

You are invited to hear the story of God's great love for you, followed by our annual Egg Hunt on Palm Sun., Mar. 20th, 9:30-10:30 am, starting in the Elementary Dept. Remember the wonderful story of Holy Week/Easter & talk about Christian symbols. The egg hunt follows in the gym with terrific treasures that relate to the story. All ages 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 20th!

Prepare Yourself! Holy Humor Sunday is April 3. Take time now to design your hat for that Sunday! *This year we will have our traditional worship services that day, with a pot-luck, Holy Humor luncheon after the 10:45 AM service.* Everyone please bring a dish to share with about 10-12 people. THE CATCH IS – It needs to be a Holy Humor dish. It must be edible. It might look funny, or it might just have a funny name. Green eggs and ham, anyone? Be creative! Plates, cups, plasticware and beverages will be supplied. During the lunch we will have a hat fashion show so you can show off your creation. Come and extend the joy of the Easter season.

Lent/Easter Quiz Answers

Feb 29: Easter is the festival day celebrating the Resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion. The season of Easter, like that of Christmas, lasts longer than the initial day. Eastertide is seven weeks or 50 days, including Ascension Day or Ascension Sunday and concluding with Pentecost Sunday, which celebrates the birth of the church.

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. – Acts 1:9 (CEB)

Mar. 1: Twitter users voted for chocolate as the first food/drink in the survey (#2 overall, School was #1!), followed by alcohol, soda, sweets, fast food, meat, junk food, coffee, chips, and pizza. Giving up something for Lent reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ. It can also serve to remind us of the access many of us have to these kinds of luxuries. Consider saving the money you would spend each day on that which you have given up. Then on Easter, donate the money to a ministry that provides food, water, and other necessities to people in your neighborhood or the other side of the world.

Mar. 2: There are a variety of stories about the origins of Easter Sunrise Service. Jesus is sometimes called the light of the world. The women are said to have come to the tomb early in the morning. Easter prayer vigils were often ended as the sun rose. As the women went to the tomb early on the first Easter Sunday morning, so too many United Methodists will gather for worship before sunrise. These Easter Sunrise Services are filled with symbolism of light, renewal, and resurrection. Many Easter Sunrise Services are held near water or on hillsides, making it easier for the congregation to see the sunrise. Others are held in cemeteries, a reminder of Jesus' victory over death and the resurrection to come.

Mar. 3: *The correct answer is believed to be Passion Sunday. The answer was printed incorrectly on the website. We are waiting for the correct answer and will provide it next week.*

Mar. 4: The correct answer is True. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. This "mini retreat" offers you a chance to reflect on the 40 days of Lent.

Camp Sunday - March 13th

