



**Conyngham United Methodist Church**  
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**March 2025**

#### PASTOR'S PEN

As a freshman music major in college (near the close of the last century), I was required sing in the bass section of the university chorale.

For our final concert of the semester, we performed Benjamin Britten's Cantata *Saint Nicolas*. It is a highly dramatic work that narrates the life of the fourth century saint from his birth, to his call to ministry, to his miracles, to his death.

After Nicolas's death in the final movement, the orchestra fades away and the organ brings the choir and audience to join in singing the famous hymn "God Moves in a Mysterious Way." The first verse begins softly, building a sense of encouragement and reassurance.

*God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform;  
he plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.*

Twenty-six years later, those words came to mind as I reflected on how I've come to be your pastor. Because just six months ago, I had no anticipation that it was even a possibility.

But four months ago, when I learned of Pastor Sheena's resignation, I knew that God was calling me to offer my service to the church in this way — even though I did not think that I was necessarily up to the task.

In the intervening months, it has become very clear through many conversations — with our District Superintendent, Rev. Hun Ju Lee; with the members of our Staff Pastor Relations Committee; with other members of the congregation; and with others — that this was indeed the work of God, moving in a mysterious way to provide for our church.

Which leads me to the final verse of the hymn. It concludes the cantata, showcasing the organ at full volume with the choir and audience singing triumphantly over booming percussion:

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take! The clouds ye so much dread  
are thick with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.*

Over the past year, as we've gone through two pastoral transitions, two months of supply pastors, and a necessary but significant reduction in pastoral hours, there certainly have been feelings of fear, of uncertainty, of consternation, regarding the future of our congregation.

And while I do not know what the future holds, I do know that the promises of God are true. They are a source of deep encouragement to me and, I hope, to you as well.

So as I begin my pastoral work here, that is what I want to remind you all:

God moves in a mysterious way. Even when we don't understand what he is doing, even when we feel overshadowed by clouds of fear and uncertainty, we can trust that he is full of mercy and blessing.

He is the Lord, and he will provide.

(PS: If you want to hear the music I referenced above, try searching for "Saint Nicolas: IX. The Death of Nicolas" on YouTube. The recording by the Britten Sinfonia conducted by Stephen Cleobury is excellent. The first half of the piece may be a bit difficult to listen to, but the second half is, to me, awe-inspiring.)

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01 Mar Beth Yost  
04 Mar Ron Hofmann  
04 Mar Keelyn Radzwich  
06 Mar Autumn Radzwich  
08 Mar Janessa Malenovitch  
09 Mar Bradley Young  
20 Mar Elizabeth Flaim  
27 Mar Charlie Lingenfelter  
31 Mar William Pursell

## March Anniversaries

None



## April Birthdays

01-Apr Beverly Hilliard  
01 Apr Joyce Boyle  
02-Apr Benjamin Young  
05-Apr Aaron Radzwich  
08-Apr Eileen Schuetz  
08-Apr Hazel DeBalko  
09-Apr Ellena Cara  
10-Apr Nancy Cromley  
15-Apr Kate Flaim  
20-Apr Sadie DeBalko  
25-Apr Olivia Racho  
27-Apr Craig Bicking  
27-Apr Roger Legg  
29-Apr Heather Groce  
30-Apr Robert Stark, Sr.  
30-Apr Karen Lingenfelter

## April Anniversaries

23 Apr Carl and Kate Flaim  
30 Apr Rich & Paula Piacenti

## MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

### March 02

Greeter: Rodney Hawk  
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok  
Liturgist: Karen Lingenfelter  
Children's Message: Kate Flaim  
Acolyte: Malcolm Wiley

### March 09

Greeter: Rodney Hawk  
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok  
Liturgist: Tammy McCauley  
Children's Message: Carrie Wiley  
Acolyte: Freddy Jacob

### March 16

Greeter: Rodney Hawk  
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok  
Liturgist: Barry Jones  
Children's Message: Heidi Klein  
Acolyte: Joey Dretzel

### March 23

Greeter: Rodney Hawk  
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok  
Liturgist: Jean Luchi  
Children's Message: Billie Shaffer  
Acolyte: Hazle DeBalko

### March 30

Greeter: Rodney Hawk  
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok  
Liturgist: Billie Shaffer  
Children's Message: Kate Flaim  
Acolyte: Malcolm Wiley

## Flowers for the month of March



03/02—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

03/09—OPEN

(See Heidi if interested)

03/16—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

03/23—Judy Whitaker will have flowers in memory of Mike and their Anniversary.

03/30—OPEN

(See Heidi if interested)

# Lectioary

## **02—March**

### **Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 34: 29-35

Psalms 99 (UMH 819)

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

## **05—March**

### **Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17 (UMH 766)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## **07—March**

### **World Day of Prayer**

## **09—March**

### **1st Sunday in Lent**

Scouting Ministries Sunday

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

## **16—March**

### **2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27 (UMH 758)

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

## **23—March**

### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

Psalms 63:1-8 (UMH 788)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

## **30—March**

### **4th Sunday in Lent**

UMCOR Sunday (Offering)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32 (UMH 766)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## **Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List**

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

**Kayla Baucum, Edee Boyer, Kaylee Barbush, Edie Boyer, Joanne Mumie, Robert Burger Family, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Fred Palmounter, Irene Healey, Cristina and David Mattey, Carol Siewell, Jacqueline Walker, Marie Waschko, all cancer patients, our military personnel, as well as leaders of our country, families of addicts, Jay Wetzel, Edie Larsen, Madelyn Lawson, June McCauley, Larry Generose, Mary Nora Wallace, Henry Parks, Amy Kock Bergstrom, Pat Shenyo, Gretchen Brightaupt, Carl Roberts, Maureen Susa, Jimmy Tempest, Marie Waschko, Sandy Zamba, Karen Smith, Collette Eskin, Ryan Grill and Tom Schultz.**

**Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Hazleton Enlarged Ministry, Heartwood Center, Emmaus Road Travelers and Drivers and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection.**

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Ashes to Go

**Ashes to Go, drive through our parking lot and receive ashes and a blessing.**

**Wednesday, March 5th**

**7:30-9:00 am and 3:00-5:00 pm.**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 5TH AT 6:30 PM

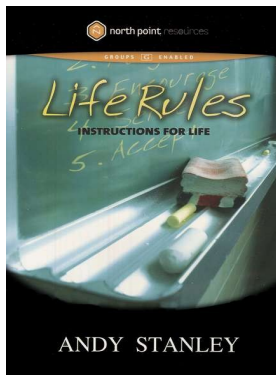


Sisters will begin again on Tuesday March 11th at 10:00 am.

They will begin a 6-week study by Andy Stanley.

Half the fun of being a kid is misbehaving without getting caught. But adults know that there's nothing amusing about breaking *Life Rules*. In this 6-part series, Andy Stanley outlines God's principles for improving your current relationships---and mending damaged ones. As you learn to forgive, accept, serve, encourage, and submit to others, you'll discover positive changes in *everything* you do.

Come and bring a friend!



## VALLEY FOOD PANTRY NEWS!

We are collecting YAMS for our Valley Food Pantry Easter Baskets. We will need 50 cans of YAMS/SWEET POTATOES.

Deadline is April 6th.

Place your items in the shopping cart in our Social Hall.



**LENTEN**  
**LUNCHEONS**

**with Devotions**

**CONYNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**411 Main Street**

**March 12 - Pastor Phillip Smith**

**March 19 - Pastor Chip Fairchild**

**March 26 - Jon Weaver**

**April 2 - Pastor Melvin Mundie**

**April 9 - Pastor Cindy White**

**April 16 - Pastor Phillip Smith**

**Keyboard: Pat Derr**

**Soup, Bread, Coffee, Dessert, Devotion**

**Noon to 1 PM (?) - \$5**



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR "SUPERBOWL FOOD COLLECTION CONTEST" THE EAGLES TABLE CLEARLY HAD THE MOST FOOD ITEMS!

OUR VALLEY FOOD PANTRY IS VERY THANKFUL FOR DONATIONS.

**HEM Hoagie Sale, \$6 each, orders are due by March 11<sup>th</sup>.** Sign up sheet in the Social Hall. Orders must be picked up on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Black Creek UMC. All proceeds go directly to Local Missions including the Summer Day Program.



FRIENDS NIGHT OUT  
JOIN US ON MARCH 28TH  
AT FRATELLI'S FOR 6:00 PM  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
GREAT NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP!

**SECRET SISTERS DINNER  
BOOTY'S PLACE  
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH  
AT 6:00 PM.**

**PLEASE LET PRUDENCE KNOW IF YOU  
ARE ABLE TO ATTEND.**

**SECRET SISTER,  
THINKING OF YOU WITH  
AFFECTION AND SENDING  
THIS GREETING TO SAY...  
GOD BLESS YOU,  
GOD LOVE YOU,  
GOD GRANT YOU  
A HAPPY AND WONDERFUL DAY**



# Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



## **FREELAND COMMUNITY CHOIR PRESENTS "FROM SILENCE TO SONG"**

APRIL 13TH AT ST. JOHN'S IN FREELAND AT  
3:00 PM.

APRIL 27 AT FAITH UCC IN HAZLETON AT 3:00  
PM.

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!**

**Adult Faith Formation, Lent 2025:** Saint John Bosco Parish will offer sessions based on the Sunday Readings during the Lenten Season. Tuesdays, beginning on March 4 at 9:15 am or 6:30 pm. Please call to register at 570-788-1997.

**Christ UCC is holding an Easter Crystal Sale,** only \$14.00 per box. Order by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Pick up is April 12 from 10-Noon. Call Barb @ 570-788-3246 to place an order.

**March Madness Soup Sale at Christ UCC,** Ham & Bean, Southwest Chicken, Italian Wedding, Beef Vegetable, and Chili. \$12/Quart or \$6/Pint. Haluski is \$10/Quart or \$5/Pint. Taking orders until March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pick up is Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 behind the Church in Smith Hall basement. Call 570-788-1964 to order.

**Welcome Spring will be held at Christ Lutheran Church!** March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM until 2 PM. We offer crafts, vendors, yard sale, lottery tree raffle, and a bake sale.



## March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Zumba 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Zumba 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday 7:30am Ashes to Go 10:00am Religious Studies 3:00pm Ashes to Go 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>6</b> 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Zumba	<b>11</b> HEM Hoagie Orderd Due Today 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba	<b>12</b> 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Lenten Lunch with Pastor Phil Smith	<b>13</b> 10:00am Plastic Mat Ministry 6:00pm Secret Sisters Dinner at Booty's	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 11:00am HEM Hoagie Pick Up at Black Creek 12:00pm Youth Group Game Day
<b>16</b> 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Zumba	<b>18</b> 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba	<b>19</b> 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Lenten Lunch with Pastor Chip Fairchild	<b>20</b> 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Heartwood Center	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Zumba	<b>25</b> 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba	<b>26</b> 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Lenten Lunch with Jon Weaver	<b>27</b> 10:00am Plastic Mat Ministry	<b>28</b> 6:00pm Friends Night Out at Fratelli's	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service	<b>31</b> 6:00pm Zumba					