



Church Talk

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church is a community of Christian disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to sharing our love for God through Worship, Prayer, Fellowship, Education and Service as we minister to the church, the community and the world.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Birthdays	2
Acolytes, Readers, Ushers, Multimedia, Greeters & Message Leaders	2
U.M.W. Luncheon	2
Rev. Hornyak's Schedule	2
Mission Opportunity	3
Ash Wednesday Service	3
Women In The Church	3
WCM Food Pantry	4
"Curb Appeal" Workshop	4
Self-Directed Study	4
Meals on Wheels	5
Rummage Sale	5
Angel Food Ministries	5

"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:5-7).

Welcoming

Since I arrived at the church building on February 15th as your newly appointed pastor, I have been warmly welcomed by the people of Mifflin Avenue UMC. In fact, I had been welcomed informally a few days before, since I had the chance to come and worship here. I have received a wonderful poster made for me by the children (which now hangs in my office), and I enjoyed eating a piece of cake (okay, two) that was ordered for the reception that followed my first official Sunday worship service. I've met lots of people, shaken lots of hands, and even managed to remember some names (I'm working on it). I thank you for making me feel at home here.

Many people have offered to help me get settled. Again, thank you. Here's what I would like: while you help me get settled, let me help you get unsettled.

That is, I would like you first to welcome all people who walk through our doors the same way you have welcomed me. Our building is big, and it's easy to come here on a Sunday and never really get close to anyone—literally and figuratively. Get to know the people around you. Sit beside some people you don't know. Learn their names. Mingle. Offer to help visitors find the bathrooms, the nursery, the coffee. Don't pressure them into coming every week, joining a committee, or becoming a member—that's inhospitable. Give our guests every reason to speak well of their time with us.

Second, I would like you to have a reason to invite visitors to come here in the first place. What is it that you love about this place, these people? Let's build on that. As your pastor, I'll do my part to provide pastoral care and leadership. I'm committed to offering everyone in our congregation and community an opportunity to be a part of the much-needed work of the church: engaging in ministry with the poor, stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally, and developing principled Christian leaders for the Church and the world. When people have found a place where they can plug into this transformative work—where they feel that they *belong*—they will return to that place. And I can guarantee you that that place—and those people—will look different than ever before.

I don't care who it is that steps up to do this work. Regardless of a person's clothes, skin color, beliefs, social status, age, education, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or any other defining characteristic that makes them who they are—they are welcome to be a part of our congregation, our worship, and our work. When we as United Methodists promise to have "open hearts, open minds, and open doors," we promise to be open to all people. And all means *all*.

I am among you as one who serves you and leads you. I am also servant and leader to the people of this community. I pledge to plant and to water, and I pray that God will give the growth.

Are you excited? I am. I say let the welcoming continue. Let it never stop.

Grace and Peace,
Austin Hornyak, Pastor

March Birthdays 2011



William Cowher, Jr.	1
Kay Maxwell	5
Jacqueline Morris	6
Jack Merchant	9
Robbie Petronio	11
Nicholas Comer	12
Steven Cummings	12
Lindsey Brand	14
Marjorie Gensler	15
David Morgan	15
David Spencer	18
Jodie Sabol	19
Diane Morton	20
Lisa Nacey	23
Mary Wetmore	25
Alice Wetzel	29

Scripture Readers



March 6 ~ Mary Brand
March 13 ~ Barbara Thaw
March 20 ~ Barbara Thaw
March 27 ~ Mary Brand

Children's Message Leaders

March 6 ~ Kim Viehland
March 13 ~ Mary Brand
March 20 ~ Kim Viehland
March 27 ~ Kim Viehland



Acolytes

March 6 ~ Abigail Barry
March 13 ~ Gracie Han
March 20 ~ Eli Alfieri
March 27 ~ Kaitlyne Petronio



The United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will hold their monthly meeting on March 10, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. in the John Wesley Room. Please bring a sandwich, dessert will be provided.

Ushers — Team A

Ron Brand
Nan Shoeib
Tammy Conn

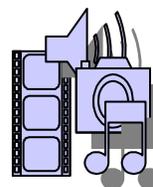


Greeters



March 6 ~ Sue Irons & Sue Clapper
March 13 ~ Veronica Greenberg & Sue Clapper
March 20 ~ Harriet Fuller, Jane Glidden & Jeanne Mayo
March 27 ~ Mary & Tom Kilgour

Multimedia Console Schedule



March 6 ~ Mary Kilgour
March 13 ~ Sue Clapper
March 20 ~ Kelly Kilgour
March 27 ~ Justin Conn

Rev. Hornyak's Schedule and Availability



My work hours are Sunday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. When there is an evening meeting, I will work 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. I may or may not be in the church office during work hours. If there is an exception to my regular work hours (a special event, emergency, wedding, funeral, etc.), I may work on a Friday or Saturday as well. I am happy to meet with you by appointment, preferably during work hours. Sunday afternoons are made available for meetings and visitation. Please contact me during work hours by office phone (412-731-2511), cell phone/text (724-766-6483), e-mail (pastor@mifflinave.org), or Facebook. If I do not answer the phone, please leave a message. If there is an emergency (something that cannot wait until the next work day) during non-work hours, please do not hesitate to reach me by cell phone/text.

Thank you!
Austin Hornyak, Pastor

MARCH MISSION OPPORTUNITY “OPERATION SAFETY NET”



Our March Mission Opportunity will be to support Operation Safety Net. In 1992, Dr. Jim Withers, an internal medicine physician, began providing medical care to the unsheltered homeless population directly on the streets of Pittsburgh. He partnered with formerly homeless individuals and, initially dressing as a homeless person, began to make nighttime street rounds in the alleys and under the bridges of the city. From this initial outreach service other clinical volunteers joined in and **Operation Safety Net** was born. He made “house calls” to people in Pittsburgh who were homeless, wherever they may call home—in door and alleyways, along river banks, or beneath bridges and highway overpasses. Today, outreach workers search out and offer services to homeless individuals on the streets, in drop-in centers, soup kitchens and on a medical van. At least 30 volunteer medical clinicians, case managers and outreach workers provide quality medical services to the uninsured and homeless through a well—coordinated system of street outreach and mobile medical van sites. Please support this organization with a monetary donation. Make your check payable to MAUMC and write “Operation Safety Net” in memo line, or use a pew envelope.

Thank you,
Outreach Committee

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

The United Methodist Women’s is open to all women of the church. They meet the second Thursday of the month and after a light lunch, a short business meeting is held followed by a speaker. Unfortunately their numbers are few. This was not the case when in 1968 a new charter was adopted and signed by over 150 women of the church. At that time the group was divided into five circles. Three met once a month during the day and two met in the evening. At a once a year conference our church won first or second prize in the scrapbook competition. There are three of these in the History Room. They included articles not only what Mifflin Ave. Women had done for that year, but also what women had accomplished on the state, national and international level. Year Books from the past can also be seen in the History Room. This years project are Prayer Quilts. A “sponsor” requests a Prayer Quilt for someone in special need. Please contact Jeanne Mayo (412-242-0430) if a quilt is needed or you wish further information on this special group.



Ash Wednesday Worship and Lenten Sermon Series: *unChristian*

You are invited to worship at 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday, when we will begin the season of Lent together with the imposition of ashes and an opportunity for repentance.

Lent is a period of spiritual self-examination and penance in preparation for Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout Lent, I will be sharing material from David Kinnaman’s book *unChristian*. The book explores what a new generation of young adults thinks about Christianity. Published in 2007, it is based upon extensive research from the Barna Group. I will use the results of surveys conducted with young adults outside the Church as a tool for critical self-examination for those of us who call ourselves Christian. Right or wrong, what this new generation thinks about us should matter to us.

Kinnaman says, “The research shows that Christians are best known for what they are against. They are perceived as being judgmental, antihomosexual, and too political. And young people are quick to point out they believe that *Christianity is no longer as Jesus intended*. It is unChristian.”

I will focus on the following themes as we explore how to live faithfully in ways that just may help to transform Christianity’s image problem:

- Ash Wednesday (March 9th): Hypocritical
- 1st Sunday of Lent (March 13th): Judgmental
- 2nd Sunday of Lent (March 20th): Too focused on getting converts
- 3rd Sunday of Lent (March 27th): Antihomosexual
- 4th Sunday of Lent (April 3rd): Too political
- 5th Sunday of Lent (April 10th): Sheltered

Austin Hornyak, Pastor

FOOD ITEM/ITEMS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH FOR THE WCM FOOD PANTRY



Wilkinsburg Community Ministry has requested pancake mix and syrup for the month of March. Our goal will be to collect a total of 50 of these food items. In the January Church Talk, the Outreach Committee outlined the new program within our current Food Drive program. There was a list that you could put on your refrigerator as a reminder of what we are asking for and you would mark the upcoming item to donate. Now is the time to mark “pancake and syrup” for the month of March. The Outreach Committee invites everyone to participate in this new program within our current food drive program, by either bringing in the requested items or by making a monetary donation. Make your check payable to MAUMC and writing Food Pantry in the memo line. In addition to our goal donations, we accept all food/paper donations during the month. Every food item donated to the Food Pantry will help someone.

Thank You,

Outreach Committee—Mary Kilgour, Norma Wood, Elizabeth Carter, Zeta Thomas, Larry Viehland, Kim Viehland

Self-Directed Study

Social Justice

A worker Justice Reader: Essential Writings on Religion and Labor

Compiled by Interfaith Worker Justice

Orbis, 224 pp., \$24.00 paperback



The national organization Interfaith Worker Justice had gathered together key writings that identify and explain essential labor and economic issues from the perspectives of a variety of faith traditions, including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim.

The readings are organized in five parts: 1) Crisis for U.S. Workers, 2) Religion—Labor History, 3) What Our Religious Traditions Say about Work, 4) Theology and the Ethics of Work, 5) The Religious—Labor Movement Today.

For those concerned with contemporary issues facing labor and the role religious traditions play, *A Worker Justice Reader* offers a wide range of data and detail for study, reflections, and action.

Autobiography

Hannah's Child: A Theologian's Memoir

By Stanley Hauerwas

Eerdmans, 308 pp., \$24.99 hardcover

A loving, hard-working, godly couple has long been denied a family of their own. Finally, the wife makes a deal with God: if he blesses her with a child, she will dedicate that child to God's service. The result of that prayer was the birth of an influential—some say prophetic—voice. This is the story of Stanley Hauerwas, once named by *Time* magazine as the “best theologian in America.” In this compelling memoir he gives a frank account of his own life interwoven with the development of his thought.

The story of Hauerwas's journey into Christian discipleship is captivating and inspiring. With genuine humility, he describes his intellectual struggles with faith, how he has dealt with the complex reality of marriage to a mentally ill partner, and the gift of friendships that have influenced his character. Throughout the narrative shines Hauerwas's conviction that the tale of his life is worth telling only because of the greater Christian story providing foundation and direction for his own.

“CURB APPEAL WORKSHOP”

Please join us on Saturday, March 19, 2011, as Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church will host the “Curb Appeal Workshop.” The Regent Square Civic Association, the Greater Park Place Neighborhood association and Neighbors Unite Wilkinsburg are participating once again with the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh to put on the 4th annual home improvement workshop.

The FREE workshop is open to area residents and friends, this year focusing on the front of your house and what gives it character and appeal. Presentations and vendors will help you identify what style your house is, what features and colors will enhance it, and what materials are available to help you do it right. In addition, if you bring photos of your house, volunteer architects from the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh will meet with you for a brief consultation and make suggestions that you are sure to find helpful. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. with presentations from 10 to 11 and consultations from 11 to noon. In addition, tours of the church sanctuary and its stained glass windows will be available between 11 and 12. Please come and support this event at Mifflin Avenue UMC.



Thank you,

Outreach Committee

**MIFFLIN AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Austin P. Hornyak, Pastor

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MEALS ON WHEELS

Wilksburg Community Ministry (WCM) has a Meals on Wheels service, Monday-Friday during lunch. If you are a senior in Wilksburg and in need or our Meals on Wheels delivery we will be glad to serve you! Also, WCM is always in need for volunteer helpers or drivers. If you would like to receive meals or have the rewarding experience of delivering the meals, we would love to hear from you, please call 412-241-8072 for more information.



What is Angel Food Ministries? With a heart to help others and a generous spirit, Joe and Linda Wingo founded Angel Food Ministries in 1994 to provide food for friends and neighbors who were struggling financially. Today, they are still doing the same thing. The Angel Food program now is helping provide food relief to more than 50,000 families each month. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and contributing to benevolent outreaches in communities throughout the United States. There are no qualifications, minimums, income restrictions, or applications. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Orders and distributions are handled by church host sites. Orders are collected by the host sites during the first part of each month. These orders are the turned in to the Angel Food main office in Monroe, Georgia, on a predetermined date.

Several days later, in the same month, food is delivered to the host site by a pre-arranged delivery mode. The food is "restaurant grade" meats, frozen vegetables, fruits, dairy products, etc. which we acquire through our involvement with only the best producers/vendors of high quality, "name brand" foods. Never "seconds" or "day old" type products are involved. You can order as many regular units as you would like. To better help families in need, Angel Food Ministries participate in the Food Stamp Program. This program is designed to help low-income families buy the food they need for good nutrition.

Angel Food Ministries
www.angelfoodministries.com
WCM
www.wcm15221.org



Spring 2011 Rummage Sale Saturday, May 14, 2011 9a.m. to 3 p.m.

We need donations! We need new items, household items, small working appliances, lamps, jewelry, watches, books, picture frames, furniture, holiday decorations, puzzles, glassware, pots, baskets, dishes, working televisions, Tupperware, purses, pots & pans, board games, video games, VHS tapes, Steelers/Penguins/Pirates items, collectibles, greeting cards, material, yarn, Red Rose figurines, craft items, children's books, sport items, children bicycles, toys, tools, working phones, working cameras, linens, music, CD's, DVD movies, and just about anything BUT NO CLOTHING, NO CHILD CAR SEATS, NO CHILD SWINGS, NO OLD EXERCISE EQUIPMENT and NO LARGE APPLIANCES. If you bring your donations in on Sunday, please put them on the floor by the bulletin board inside the Whitney door entrance or if you are able, you may take them down to the gym and put them by the coat rack. The deadline for bringing in donations is May 8th. We are also looking for volunteers. Whatever time you can give would be very much appreciated. We need help on these days:

Friday, May 13th—starting at 9 a.m.— putting items out on tables
Saturday, May 14th—8:30 a.m.—day of sale
Sunday, May 15th—2:00 p.m.—packing items away

Please see or contact Mary Kilgour (412-271-7170) to let her know that you can help or if you have any questions about the rummage sale.

Thank you,
Mary & Tom Kilgour