



Church Talk

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 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.*

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EASTER

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

~ John 20:1

And so begins the Fourth Gospel's account of Jesus' resurrection.

But the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb falls in the middle of a larger story—a series of Jesus' miraculous signs and the growing threats to his life precede it, and post-resurrection appearances to his disciples follow it.

And this, in turn, is part of an even bigger story: the narrative of God's people being chosen to be a blessing to the world. And no matter how many times those people mess up along the way—whether it be the ancient Israelites in the wilderness doubting God's provision or the present-day church in North America declining in numbers and being split apart by polarizing issues—the most amazing thing is that God remains faithful to God's people and never ceases to show them unbounded love.

This is the mystery of God's grace.

At Easter, this grace is on full display, reminding us that “God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us,” and that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Easter reminds us also of God's power. I am thankful that the resurrection occurred in the middle of the night, when there were no people around. Because if it had happened any other way, we might try to claim for ourselves the work that God alone did on our behalf. The resurrection occurred after we, in our human weakness, had betrayed, denied, abandoned, and killed our God. And by the time we discovered that the most amazing thing in human history had occurred overnight, it was too late for us to do anything about it except believe.

So this Easter, God invites us again to re-claim our place in this story of love, grace, and power. Rather than trying to earn love and rely on our own power, we can instead be freed of this burden, receive the full acceptance of the One who is love, and rely on the power of God to overcome all our fears.

“Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Grace and Peace,
Austin Hornyak, Pastor

April Birthdays 2011

Lianne Greve	2
Dale Weber	3
Brenna Leavitt	5
Dai Morgan	7
Kenneth Friez	8
Robert Pounds	8
Evajeane McDowell	9
Catherine Moffat	10
Ronald Bodycomb	11
Elizabeth Kilkenny	12
Kenneth Drake, Sr.	13
Lacey Kickler	14
Susan Scarborough	15
Oliver Brewer	18
Mary Gardner	19
Diane Bostedo	21
Nick Slobodnyak	23
Rachel Thaw	24
Libby Alfieri	26
Megan Brand Holmberg	27
Joseph Han	30
Larry Viehland	30

Scripture Readers



April 3 ~ Larry Viehland
 April 10 ~ Larry Viehland
 April 17 ~ Kay Maxwell
 April 24 ~ Kay Maxwell

Children's Message Leaders

April 3 ~ Kim Viehland
 April 10 ~ Barbara Thaw
 April 17 ~ Mary Brand
 April 24 ~ Open



Acolytes

April 3 ~ Kendall Barry
 April 10 ~ David Han
 April 17 ~ Abigail Barry
 April 24 ~ Gracie Han



The United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will hold their monthly meeting on April 14, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. in the John Wesley Room. Please bring a sandwich, dessert will be provided.

Ushers — Team B

Sam Harper
 Fred Hildebrand
 Richard James



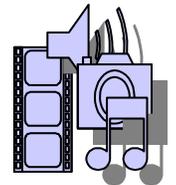
Greeters



April 3 ~ Sue Irons & Sue Clapper
 April 10 ~ Veronica Greenberg & Sue Clapper
 April 17 ~ Harriet Fuller, Jane Glidden & Jeanne Mayo
 April 24 ~ Tom & Mary Kilgour

Multimedia Console Schedule

April 3 ~ Sue Clapper
 April 10 ~ Kelly Kilgour
 April 17 ~ Mary Kilgour
 April 24 ~ Justin Conn



WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Two other women's groups were very active in the life of the church over the years. The Friendship Circle and the Dorcas Class both are listed on Sunday School records as early as the late 1920's. Their membership over the years averaged between twenty and forty members. Both groups contributed generously to the needs of the church. The Friendship Circle sold various household items and held luncheons. The Dorcas Class were well known for their rummage sales, for many years under the direction of Bea Crawford. These two groups continued to meet up until the past few years. Much that we today take for granted around the church, painting, furnishings and kitchen equipment were made possible by the dedication and hard work of the women of the past.



April Mission Opportunity “Mongolia Mission Initiative Advance # 00209A”

Our April mission opportunity will be to support the Mongolia Mission Initiative , Advance #00209A. This advance supports church planting and evangelism through community ministries. Mongolia is located between Russia and the People’s Republic of China. Ulaanbaatar is the capital. Mission in Mongolia began in 2002 with the hospice ministry. Today, the United Methodist Mission has grown with development of the mission center as well as congregations in and around Ulaanbaatar. This project will continue to enable us to strengthen our mission work particularly in the following areas: congregational development, Christian education, resource development, outreach ministries, after school program and program/strategy development. If you would like to support this advance, make your check payable to MAUMC and write Advance #00209A or April Mission Opportunity in the memo line or on your envelope. 100% of each gift reaches this Advance project.

Thank you,
Outreach Committee

Holy Week Worship Services

Holy Week is the high point of the Christian year, as worshipers journey with Christ through the drama of the final week before his death and resurrection. You are invited to participate in the following worship opportunities in celebration of these events that revealed (and continue to reveal) God’s story of salvation.

Sunday, April 17th, 11:00 AM: Palm Sunday

Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem where he is declared a king by the people



Thursday, April 21st, 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday

Jesus’ last meal where he gives a new commandment (*mandatum*) to “love one another”

Friday, April 22nd, 7:00 PM: Good Friday

Jesus’ trial and death by crucifixion

Sunday, April 24th, 11:00 AM: Easter Sunday

Jesus’ resurrection from death

Also, the Wilksburg Ministerium invites everyone to attend a worship service at 12:00 noon on Good Friday, where meditations will be offered on each of Jesus’ “seven last words”—the final statements Jesus made from the cross before he died. The service will be held at South Avenue United Methodist Church at 733 South Avenue, Pittsburgh 15221 (Wilksburg).

Let us journey together with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Austin Hornyak, Pastor

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



Wilksburg Community Ministry has requested boxed/packaged mashed potatoes or fresh potatoes for the month of April. Our goal will be to collect a total of 55 of these items. We invite everyone to participate in this program by either bringing in the requested item/items or any food/paper donations or by making a monetary donation to the food pantry. If you would like to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to MAUMC and write WCM Food Pantry in the memo line or mark that on your envelope. Every food/paper item donated to the Food Pantry will help someone in need. Thank you for your donations of pancake mix and syrup for the month of March. Our goal was to collect 50 and we collected a total of 65 items.

Thank you!
Outreach Committee

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The members of the United Methodist Women are pleased to announce that the first prayer quilt was dedicated in the church service on Sunday March 13th and given to Kim Slobodnyak. The second prayer quilt, for Norma Wood, is now in the Narthex ready for the knots to be tied by members of the congregation. If you are interested in having a prayer quilt made for a loved one who is in need of prayer for physical, emotional or spiritual support, please see Jeanne Mayo or call her at 412-242-0430.

**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

Self-Directed Study*Missiology*

Touch: Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World

By Rudy Rasmus

Thomas Nelson, 258 pp., \$14.99 paperback



Before God touched his heart and transformed his life, Rudy Rasmus was a businessman running a "borderline bordello" in Houston. But thousands now know him simply as "Pastor Rudy"—with a downtown ministry at St. John's Church that he and his wife Juanita started to reach out to those who Jesus called "the least of these." *Touch* is the amazing story of Rudy's life and ministry of grace that is changing lives daily. The church has become one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country with people from every social and economic background, including the homeless, sharing the same pew. Pastor Rudy's message to touch the lives of those in our own communities has a lesson for us all.

Biblical Studies

The Death of the Messiah

By Raymond E. Brown

Yale University; Vol. 2, 912 pp., \$35.00 paperback; Vol. 2, 752 pp., \$35.00 paperback

Over his illustrious career, Raymond E. Brown, S.S., Ph.D., was internationally regarded as a dean of New Testament scholars. He was Auburn Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He received over thirty honorary degrees from Catholic and Protestant universities worldwide, and was elected a (Corresponding) Fellow of the British Academy and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In addition to serving as president of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Society of New Testament Studies, two popes appointed Father Brown as the sole American on the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Some of the best known of his more than thirty-five books on the Bible are three volumes in the "Anchor Bible" series on the Gospel and Epistles of John, as well as the Anchor Bible Reference Library volumes *The Birth of the Messiah*, *The Death of the Messiah*, and *An Introduction to the New Testament*, winner of the 1998 Catholic Press Association Award for Biblical Studies.

**MIFFLIN AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Austin P. Hornyak, Pastor

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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.



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.



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

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



Thank You!

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for recognizing my birthday last month. The gifts, prayers, and birthday wishes were much appreciated, and I look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with you!

Austin Hornyak, Pastor

