



Church Talk

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 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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Baptism

"No one is born a Christian."

So says James White, past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and professor of liturgical studies at Drew University before his death in 2004.

"One becomes a Christian," White says, "through becoming part of a community with a distinctive way of life involving definite ethical and creedal commitments. This change in our being is marked by sacraments that proclaim what God is doing to bring us to faith."

Since it is the season of Easter, in worship this month I will be focusing the sermons on the sacrament of baptism—the rite of Christian initiation that marks our reception into the church.

From the earliest centuries, baptism has been associated with Easter. Tertullian in *On Baptism* (c. 200) says, "The Passover provides the day of most solemnity for baptism, for then was accomplished our Lord's passion, and into it we are baptized." At that time, people receiving baptism would be instructed for three years, followed by final preparations during Holy Week and baptism on Easter morning.

Baptism has many facets, so we will need several weeks to begin to unpack its meaning. We will use the epistle of 1 Peter as our guide, since it was most likely addressed to those who were new to the faith. In fact, some scholars even believe that the epistle is itself the text of a baptism liturgy.

We will look at the following topics:

- May 1: "My Water Broke!: Baptism as New Birth"
- May 8: "Gets the Stains that Others Leave Behind: Baptism as Forgiveness of Sin"
- May 15: "Buried in Water: Baptism as Union with Jesus Christ"
- May 22: "The Best Lego Collection Ever: Baptism as Incorporation into the Church"
- May 29: "Earth, Wind & Fire: Baptism as Reception of the Holy Spirit"

Most of all, we will explore how this sacrament is a powerful channel through which God has chosen to make grace available to us.

During worship on May 29, those who are baptized will have the opportunity to reaffirm their baptism, and those who are not yet baptized will have the opportunity to do so.

Come, and let us celebrate what it means to be a people who are water-washed and Spirit-born!

Grace and Peace,
Austin Hornyak, Pastor



May Birthdays 2011



Kenneth Drake Jr.	2
Fred Hildebrand	2
Timothy Friez	2
Brenda Spencer	3
Danielle Petronio	3
Benny Binenkorb	4
Kristen Wetmore	4
Gail Gratton	5
Bonnie Montalbano	8
Mary Brand	9
Jeremy Brewer	9
Grace Han	10
Linda Cowher	12
Shawn Maxwell	14
Kaitlyne Nicole Petronio	15
Dorothy Weber	17
Cathleen Perry	18
Kara Hartner	22
Patricia Spencer	23
Sue Clapper	23
Bea Crawford	24
Beth Agnew	24
Norma Wood	25
Sally Brinkhoff	26
Lauren Ellery	27
Judith Baker	28
Carole Pikulski	30

Scripture Readers



May 1 ~ Mary Brand
 May 8 ~ Dave Spencer
 May 15 ~ Dave Spencer
 May 22 ~ Open
 May 29 ~ Mary Brand

Children's Message Leaders

May 1 ~ Mary Brand
 May 8 ~ Open
 May 15 ~ Open
 May 22 ~ Kim Viehland
 May 29 ~ Open



Acolytes



May 1 ~ Eli Alfieri
 May 8 ~ Kaitlyne Petronio
 May 15 ~ Kendall Barry
 May 22 ~ David Han
 May 29 ~ Abigail Barry

Ushers — Team A

Ron Brand
 Nan Shoeib
 Tammy Conn



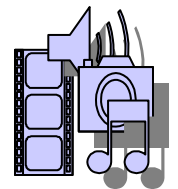
Greeters



May 1 ~ Harriet Fuller, Jeanne Mayo & Jane Glidden
 May 8 ~ Sue Irons & Sue Clapper
 May 15 ~ Harriet Fuller, Jeanne Mayo & Jane Glidden
 May 22 ~ Veronica Greenberg & Sue Clapper
 May 29 ~ Mary & Tom Kilgour

Multimedia Console Schedule

May 1 ~ Sue Clapper
 May 8 ~ Mary Kilgour
 May 15 ~ Kelly Kilgour
 May 22 ~ Justin Conn
 May 29 ~ Sue Clapper



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



For the past several months we have visited the various Women's Sunday School classes. From about 1956 to 1965 the Bethel class was very active. It included married and single men and women. It was a very well organized group with by laws and an official board. They met each Sunday morning in the room above the office and were fortunate to have as teachers, Dr. Felton and Dr. Porter among others. The membership of the class averaged about 40. The official board met twice a year for business and also to plan social events of which there were four a year. It was a very active and popular group. Unfortunately, it was also a time when families moved out to the "country" or were transferred out of town and the membership of the church was changing and the group disbanded. Perhaps in the near future a similar group could be formed???

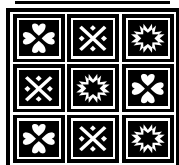


May Mission Opportunity

“Material Resource Ministry”

UMCOR Advance #901440

The May Mission Opportunity will be to support UMCOR, Material Resource Ministry, Advance #901440 with monetary donations. Your donations will help to purchase emergency response supplies and make a direct tangible difference in sustaining people’s lives. UMCOR’s mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster— with open minds and hearts to all people. UMCOR is working in 81 countries worldwide, including the United States, wherever help is needed. 100% of your donation will be used for this program. Please make your check payable to MAUMC and mark UMCOR Advance #901440 n the memo line or on your envelope.



WHAT IS A PRAYER QUILT?

Can you touch a prayer?

Can you pull it close and feel its comfort?

You can if it’s part of a prayer quilt.

The idea behind these quilts is simple, yet powerful. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers, and the ends are left free to be tied with a square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered for someone in special need — someone who has asked us to pray for them. The quilt is then given to that person. What makes each quilt so special is not the pattern, color or workmanship, but the fact that prayer is symbolically tied into each one. These comforters are a statement of faith, and a testimony to our belief in God and in the power of prayer.

A prayer quilt is appropriate for anyone who is experiencing physical, emotional, spiritual or some other life crisis and who feels they could benefit from being “covered in prayer,” with the quilt being that tangible sign of God’s ever present Grace, available to all of us.

How is a prayer quilt requested?

A “sponsor” requests a prayer quilt for someone in special need. The sponsor should be a regular part of the Mifflin Avenue Methodist Church congregation. The sponsor should contact Jeanne Mayo (412-242-0430) if a quilt is needed.

What are the sponsor’s duties?

The sponsor must ask the recipient if they are willing to accept a prayer quilt and what specific prayers are requested. Sponsors are normally responsible for delivering the quilt to the recipient.

Why not “surprise” the recipient with a prayer quilt?

A “surprise” prayer quilt is not appropriate. The recipient might not be comfortable being a “prayer focus” for a congregation or any large group of people. There is also the question of confidentiality. We need to know how much information the recipient wants to be shared about their situation and what prayers they would like offered on their behalf.

THIS IS A SERVICE OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

Please see the May bulletin inserts or call the church office to find out the requested food item/items for the month of May. We invite everyone to participate in this program. You may also donate any food/paper item during the month. If you would like to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to MAUMC and write Food Pantry in the memo line or mark your envelope. Every donated item or monetary donation to the Food Pantry will help someone in need. Our requested item/items for April were boxed/packaged mashed potatoes or fresh potatoes. Our goal was to collect 55 and we went over our goal and collected 58. We had a donation of 4 items during the last week of April to make our goal. We want to thank everyone who participated.

Thank you!
Outreach Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—RUMMAGE SALE

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th. Volunteers are needed to help with this sale. Please let Mary Kilgour know as soon as possible if you can help. Just a few hours would be very helpful. Volunteers are needed on:



Thursday—starting at 9a.m. to sort books
 Friday—starting at 9 a.m. to put items on tables
 Saturday—8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Day of Sale
 Sunday—starting at 2 p.m. packing away items not sold

Self-Directed Study

Liturgical Studies

Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church

By Laurence Hull Stookey

Abingdon, 1982, 208 pp., \$22.00 paperback



Few issues within the church are as controversial as baptism. By which method should it be administered? At what age? What if one changes denominations? Laurence H. Stookey sifts through the confusion and rhetoric to offer this practical, biblically sound guide to baptism. He examines the sacrament from historical, theological, and pastoral perspectives, and looks at how it has been altered through the ages. Dr. Stookey also suggests possible reforms, practices that need restoring, and proper occasions for the service.

Sociology

Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marrying

By Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker

Oxford University, 2011, 312 pp., \$24.95 hardcover

Premarital Sex in America combines illuminating personal stories and comprehensive research surveys to provide the fullest portrait of heterosexuality among young adults ever produced. Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker draw upon a wealth of survey data as well as scores of in-depth interviews with young adults from around the country, both in and out of college. Digging underneath stereotypes and unexamined assumptions, the authors offer compelling--and often surprising--answers to such questions as: How do the emotional aspects of sexual relations differ between young men and women? What role do political orientations play in their sexual relations? How have online dating and social networking sites affected the relationships of emerging adults? Why are young people today waiting so much longer to marry? How prevalent are nontraditional forms of sex, and what do people think of them?

BAKE GOODS NEEDED



The United Methodist Women will hold their bake sale during the Rummage Sale on May 14th. Bake goods are needed for this sale. Bake goods such as cookies, cupcakes, pies, brownies would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds go towards missions. You can drop off your donations on **Friday, May 13th** from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to the Church Secretary.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

God made a wonderful mother
 A mother who never grows old
 He made her smile of sunshine,
 And her heart of pure gold,
 In her cheeks he placed fair roses,
 In her eyes, stars that shine
 God made a wonderful mother,
 And that wonderful mother is mine.



**MIFFLIN AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Austin P. Hornyak, Pastor

905 Mifflin Avenue

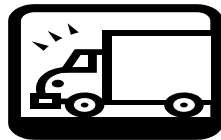
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

(412) 731-2511 FAX (412) 731-2517

www.mifflinave.org

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

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.

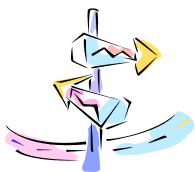
If there is an exception to my regular work hours (a special event, emergency, wedding, funeral, etc.), I may work on a Friday or Saturday as well.

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

Come join us on July 11th—July 15th from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. for Vacation Bible School! All children from ages 3 thru 6th grade are welcome! Our theme this year is "Inside & Upside Down on Main Street." Come and learn stories about how Jesus turned peoples lives inside out and helped everyday people with everyday situations! There will be friends, crafts, parables, treats, singing and tons of fun!! You can pre-register with the Church Secretary by calling the office at 412-731-2511. You don't want to miss out on the fun, call today!