

The Disciple



The Good News of St. John soars like an eagle!

*St. John's United Church of Christ
Allentown, Pennsylvania*

Volume 22 Issue 9

February 26, 2021

The Other

In Herrnhut Germany there is a silver bowl with hundreds of slips of paper, each with a verse from the Old Testament written on it. A slip of paper is drawn for each day of the year. Later, persons from around the world select a New Testament verse as a companion to the one chosen. In North America, someone else chooses a hymn verse that compliments each of the Bible verses and then composes a simple prayer as a conclusion. And that become the Moravian Daily text--365 Old Testament verses, randomly selected two years in advance for a given day of the year.

I am often intrigued and challenged by the scriptures or hymn verses that appear for a given day.

For March 1, 2021 the Hebrew Bible text is Genesis 37:14: "Jacob said to Joseph, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock.'" We know that when Joseph, in his technicolor dream coat, made his inquiry, his brothers rose up against him. Thus began the journey that would become the fulfillment of the vision that God gave to Joseph; that his brothers would eventually honor him.

The New Testament text has a broader focus. It comes from Philippians 2:4: "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." We know that Joseph's life was filled with examples of caring for the interests of others. The Apostles similarly engaged in ministries of healing and caring as did Jesus.

Our calling is today is no different from the work of Joseph or the Apostles or Jesus. Focusing on our own interests, being self-centered in our life and work, will lead, at best, to isolation, and at worst, to violence and destruction. But looking to the interests of others changes our point of focus. We look outward, not inward. We look and see the one is not like us. We see “the other” and their need.

In this Lenten season, may we remember “the other.” May we shift our perspective to see “the other.” And may we look not to our own interests, but to the interest of “the other.”

Rev. Dr. David H. DeRemer

Our Ministry with Central Elementary School

Read Across America to be held on March 2nd

How would you like to read a story to a classroom from the comfort of your own home? This year you can, as a part of *Read Across America*, celebrated annually on Dr. Seuss' (Theodore Geisel) birthday on March 2nd. It has always been a colorful and exciting day, with multiple guest readers visiting each classroom to read a book of their choice. You even might see a Cat in the Hat walking down the hallway. Many of the teachers, staff members, and the readers would dress up as a character from a favorite book.

While we won't be "in-person" this year, the pandemic isn't stopping Central Elementary School from joining schools across America in showing their students how much fun reading can be! They are celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday virtually this year, with guest readers jumping into virtual classrooms and reading a story to the children. So, come on! You can come, too! Or do you have something better to do?

To find out more or to sign up to be a reader, please email, text or call Wendy Williams at windwend1@gmail.com or 484-225-6708. Alternatively, you may email Central's Community School Coordinator, Anant Agnihotri at agnihotria@allentownsd.org and cc: Wendy Williams

This month, we are continuing to give toward the purchase of:

- basic school supplies needed by each child, while they're learning from home
- winter jackets that some of the children are without, in these below freezing temperatures.

To donate, either send a check into the church office, marked *Central School Supplies* or *Central Jacket*, or go to our website and click on the *Donate* button. Listed under Central Elementary, you will find a column for *school supplies* and another for *jackets*.

A huge "thank you" to everyone who has or is making a contribution!!

March Special Mission Offering

Our Special Mission Offering for March is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). One Great Hour of Sharing is an all church offering of the United Church of Christ that focusses on the short, and long term, needs of people at home and abroad. This year's offering has three foci. The first is Hunger, a long-term problem here and abroad that has only been made worse by the pandemic. The second is disaster relief for disasters such as Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the recent winter storms in Texas. Finally, long term development projects such as the digging of wells and providing of startup monies for local economic development. We are reminded of God's promise "... they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them and by the springs of water will guide them." (Isaiah 49:10)

Won't you please prayerfully consider facilitating God's promise by including a donation to OGHS with your weekly offering by whatever means you may use? Thank you.

Pastoral Care during our Interim Time

Allan Kramer-Moyer will be providing pastoral care for our members during this interim time. If you have a request or know of someone who requires pastoral care, please call him at home 610-434-0534 or text him on his cell phone 484-695-4108.

Important Dates:

Sundays in Lent

Sermon Series: Beliefs that Matter

Mar 7 – Listening and Responding

Mar 14 – Rev. William Falla, Guest Speaker

March 21 – Forgiveness and Reconciliation

March 28 – Giving and Receiving

Holy Week Worship

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Worship (pre-recorded)
Sacrament of Holy Communion

April 2 – Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

This will be a live worship service where we will gather by Zoom or by phone. We will hear the stories of 8 people whose lives were effected by the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. You are invited to have a lit candle for our worship time together.

April 6 – Easter Sunday Worship (pre-recorded)
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lenten Small Group ZOOM Bible Study

You are invited to join in a small group for a Zoom Bible study during March. There will be two topics presented. Each will have a choice of 6 different days and times to when you can participate. Click the link to complete the sign-up form (or copy to your browser to access) <https://forms.gle/hm1UQNH8Nfc6oadN7>

If you are unable to access the registration form, call or email the Church Office to sign-up

Topic 1 –DISCOVERING OUR HUNGER (Psalm 107: 1-9)

Choose one group day & time that works for you

Tuesday Mar 2 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Wednesday Mar 3 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Thursday Mar 4 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Tuesday Mar 9 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Wednesday Mar 10 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Thursday Mar 11 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Topic 2 – DISCOVERING BARRIERS TO HEALING (John 5:1-17)

Choose one group day & time that works for you

Tuesday Mar 16 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Wednesday Mar 17 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Thursday Mar 18 7:00 to 8:00 PM

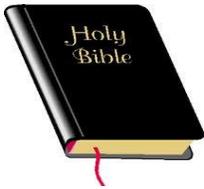
Tuesday Mar 23 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Wednesday Mar 24 7:00 to 8:00 PM

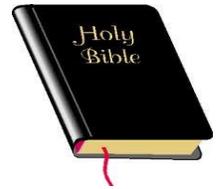
Thursday Mar 25 1:30 to 2:30 PM

ADULT FORUM RETURNS! (ZOOM— style) on March 28, 2021

The last Sunday of each month will be designated for Adult Forum Bible studies, beginning at 9:45am and ending at 10:30am. Claudia will email a ZOOM invite for these sessions. If you have any questions about logging on to ZOOM, contact Claudia (610-433-0146).



Lectionary Readings for March 2021



March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent –

Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent –

Number 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10;
John 3:14-21

March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent –

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrew 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 28 – Sixth Sunday in Lent –

(Liturgy of the Palms)

Psalm 118-1-2; 19-29; Mark 11:1-11;

(Liturgy of the Passion)

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

Celebrate Palm Sunday Weekend!

Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021

**Combination Drive-up Palm Cross Distribution and/or
Contact-less Delivery Fundraiser (see order sheet below)**

Soup/Chili (frozen) and Muffin/Cupcake Sale

Event will take place from 10 AM and 12 noon in St. John's parking lot.
Orders with payment may be mailed in or dropped off via the church office mail slot.

.....

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Chicken Soup with Barley and Kale:

_____ # of pint containers x \$5.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of quart containers x \$10.00 each.....= \$ _____

Vegetable Beef Soup:

_____ # of pint containers x \$5.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of quart containers x \$10.00 each.....= \$ _____

Mild, Vegetarian, 3 Bean Chili:

_____ # of pint containers x \$5.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of quart containers x \$10.00 each.....= \$ _____

Corn Muffins:

_____ # of muffins x \$0.50 each.....= \$ _____

Chocolate Cupcakes/Vanilla Buttercream Frosting:

_____ # of cupcakes x \$0.50 each.....= \$ _____

Vanilla Cupcakes/Strawberry Buttercream Frosting:

_____ # of cupcakes x \$0.50 each.....= \$ _____

Total Cost: \$ _____

Exact payment is due with order to facilitate contact-less pickup.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS 03/20/2021.

March 2021

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No one that we know.
Did we miss someone?
Please let us know.

3 – Julian Pyle
5 – Felicia Knerr
6 – Barbara Silfies
7 – Cole Heffelfinger
11 – Priscilla Bowersox
18 – Everett Heffelfinger
Avery Heffelfinger
20 – Kelly Garrigan
21 – Paul Quinn
22 – Shekira Pyle
23 – Gretchen Kent
25 – Keith Nash
Jacob Pyle
27 – Maverick Rissell
30 – Caryn Bronfenbrenner
Alexis Gillenwater

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7pm Elders	9am Prayer Call			
7 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	8	9 7pm Consistory	10 9am Prayer Call	11	12	13
14 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship Spring Forward DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME	15	16	17 9am Prayer Call St. Patrick's DAY	18	19	20
21 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	22	23	24 9am Prayer Call	25	26	27
28 Adult Forum 9:45 am 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	29	30	31 9am Prayer Call			

Visit us at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

Like us on Facebook at St John's UCC Allentown