



Henderson United Methodist Church

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 Erie, Pa. 16510
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Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45

Henderson Happenings

January/February 2016

Pastor's Message...

Growing up in the Roman Catholic Church we strictly followed several Lenten disciplines. We never ate meat on Fridays, only fish—yucky! We went faithfully to mass (church services) several times a week. We had to give up something for Lent—usually candy—oh geez! And we had to do extra chores around the house to raise money for charity.

Lent was one of those peculiar seasons that demanded a lot from Roman Catholics, but they were just something we did. It never even occurred to me that Lent was something I might actually benefit from or use it as a way of getting to know God better.

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for repentance and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter.

Protestant churches frequently add special Lenten Bible studies or prayer meetings so that their members would be primed for a deeper experience of Good Friday and Easter. Lent was a season to do something extra for God, not to give something up.

So, should we give something up for Lent? First, giving up something allows us to make a tangible sacrifice to the Lord. The act of sacrifice can remind us of our commitment to God and our desire to make God first in our lives.

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Second, by giving up something we usually enjoy on a daily basis, we may sometimes find ourselves yearning for that thing. Although I do not think fasting makes God love or bless us more, I do think it raises our awareness of how much we depend on other things in life rather than the Lord. I see how easy it is for me to set up all sorts of little idols in my life. Fasting, in some way, helps me surrender my idols to God.

Third, when we give up something we like and then feel an unquenched desire for it, we are reminded of our neediness as a people. And neediness, I believe, is at the heart of true spirituality. Jesus said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. . . .Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:3, 6

Of course feeling hungry for one of life's pleasures is not quite the same as hungering and thirsting for righteousness. But when I feel my hunger, when I sense my neediness for some other thing, I can use this to get in touch with my hunger and need for God.

Fourth, as I continue with my Lenten fast, I find myself less eager for the thing I have given up. I am also gratified to know that one of my little "idols" is being set aside in my heart, as I learn to depend more upon God. I am experiencing a bit of freedom that makes me gladly thankful for God's grace at work in me.

Fasting or giving up something for Lent is not a requirement for the season. However, if it helps you prepare for a deeper celebration of Good Friday and Easter, if it allows you to grow in God's grace, then by all means do it.

Instead of or in addition to fasting during Lent, you might add a spiritual exercise or discipline to your life. We are offering a Lenten Bible study this year. I encourage you to join this study. Or you may want to participate in some act of kindness.

I like to add something that I can do every day. It needs to be realistic, given my nature and patterns of life. So, for example, it would be a bad idea if I decided to get up at 5:00 a.m. to pray for an hour each day of Lent. This would stretch me so far that I would surely fail. But I could take on additional Bible reading. Some years I have read one chapter of a gospel each day of Lent, taking it in slowly and meditating upon it. Other years I have used a Lenten devotional to focus my thought.

So, as we enter the season of Lent, I am grateful for those who have gone before me, some of whom discovered the blessings of giving up something in Lent, while others grew in their faith by adding a Lenten discipline. No matter what you do during this Lenten season, I pray that God will draw us close, and prepare us for a fresh experience of Good Friday and Easter.

May God's peace be with you!

Pastor Mary

February BIRTHDAYS

Feb 2 – Matthew Retzer
 Feb 2 – Walter Porter
 Feb 6 – Barry Drew II
 Feb 10 – Barry Drew III
 Feb 15 – Ja Vaitae Williams
 Feb 18 – Danielle Johnson
 Feb 19 – Hope White
 Feb. 20 – Marquise Bridgett
 Feb 22 – Deanna White

March BIRTHDAYS

Mar 4—Brit Holmberg
 Mar 6 – Elly Drew
 Mar 6 – Bryah Jordan
 Mar 7 – Kumain Page
 Mar 8 – Noah Owens
 Mar 12 Tabatha Miller
 Mar 15-Dorothy Gilkey
 Mar 17- Shalin Snider
 Mar 18-Kate Drew
 Mar 18-Samantha Shields
 Mar 21-Kalae Harden
 Mar 23-Josh Granger
 Mar 27-Shaherah Tate
 Mar 29-Ana Jimenez

****IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY OR JUST PLAIN GOT IT WRONG, LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!**

Worship Assistors:**February**

Announcer – Melissa
 Scripture – Sandy S.
 Greeter – Ruby
 Ushers- Walter and Youth
 Counters – Mary & Kathy

March

Announcer – Wanda
 Scripture – Michelle
 Greeter – Margaret
 Ushers- Walter and Youth
 Counters – Wanda & Sandy S.

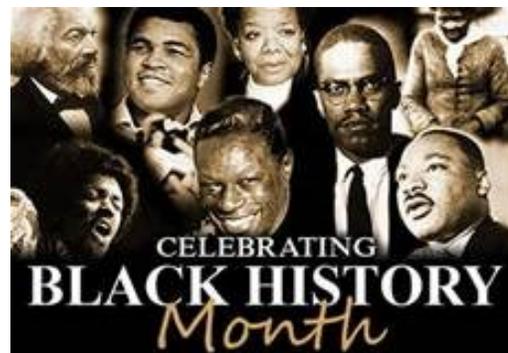
**FOR:**

Cynthia Drew, Carei,
 Sandi Williams, Ruby Hull, Kate Drew
 All victims of violence
 Pastor Jane Myers at Fairview Manor
 Kathy Fuller
 Drew and Carpenter families who have lost loved ones recently

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” (Mark 11:24)

District News

OVERFLOW SHELTER UPDATE – The Erie-Meadville United Methodist churches will staff the Overflow Shelter for two weeks at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant (250 W. 7th St.). We are thrilled that so many have committed their support to this project, stepping out in faith to serve the homeless community. A few time slots remain open – volunteers are still needed for Feb. 2, 8, and 10 from 3 to 7 a.m. Please visit www.euma-erie.org to sign-up.



Random Thoughts

I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in; naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Matthew 25: 36, 37



True Devotion

Written by Sue Cachon (Jane Hackenberg's sister)

I watch him as he walks away,
Bent low to reach the handles,
Pushing my mother's wheelchair
To her birthday cake with candles.

She's turning eighty-six now
But a stroke has left her weak.
I know she would thank my husband
If it were easy for her to speak.

His devotion to my mother,
His attention to her needs...
My husband is so humble
He denies he is doing good deeds.

I know what Jesus said on earth,
What love should really be.
"When you help the least of my brothers
You are really helping Me."

I wonder if my husband realizes
How my soul perceives this thing,
That when he bends low over the wheelchair
He is bowing to God the King!

~submitted by Jane Hackenberg



The Church Mouse



2016 is a month old already and not a word has been written by me. It's not because nothings been happening around here but as big as my ears are I am just not hearing it. I can tell you though that 2015 went out with a boom. There were Christmas parties and a community dinner in the remodeled center at San Juan. That was a real story of a community of volunteers coming together to help others. Some volunteers from General Electric came for a few repairs at San Juan and it just snowballed into something beautiful. Once that work was done the community center was put into immediate use with another group of volunteers catering a wonderful meal and giving gifts to area children. God works in mysterious and wonderful ways to show his love for his children.

Yes we are all children of God; brothers and sisters, red, yellow, black and white. We are ALL precious in his sight.

February is Black History Month and regardless of what you might hear, I believe it is still necessary to celebrate the accomplishments of black men and women in history and also black youth.

By her 15th birthday on March 22, 1965, Lynda Blackmon Lowery had been arrested nine times for demonstrating so that black adults like those in her family in Selma, Alabama could vote. Lowery is the author of a book called "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom," chronicling her experiences growing up during the civil rights movement.

Our first black president Barack Obama said, "Our responsibility as citizens is to address the inequalities and injustices that linger, and we must secure our birthright freedoms for all people."



Keep hope alive!

Lenten Bible Study—The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name.” This Lent we will experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam Hamilton’s six-week, DVD-series, John: The Gospel of Light and Life. You’ll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.

Session titles:

- The Word Made Flesh
- The Miraculous Signs of Jesus The “I Am” Sayings of Jesus
- The Farewell Discourse
- The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King

Eternal Life

The study will be offered on Tuesdays, February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22 at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Participants can attend either time selection. Please let Pastor Mary know if you are planning to attend so she can order you a book.

United Methodist Men’s 2016 Lenten Communion Breakfasts—8:00 a.m.

The following churches have agreed to host the breakfasts for our district. The host church will provide the program/meditation, followed by communion, concluding with breakfast. A freewill offering will be received during breakfast. Reservations should be called in to the host church the Wednesday before each breakfast.

February 13	Fairview UMC John Gerber, Pastor 4601 Avonia Road Fairview, PA 16415	Phone:	474-3612
February 20	Simpson/Cascade UMC Don Hullenbaugh, Pastor 2113 Sassafras Street Erie, PA 16502	Phone:	452-2870
February 27	Girard UMC John Gerber, Pastor 4601 Avonia Road Fairview, PA 16415	Phone:	774-3069
March 5	Weis Library UMC Frank Hodges, Pastor West Heidler Road Fairview, PA 16415	Phone:	833-3225
March 12	Park UMC Eric Leonard, Pastor 30 North Lake Street North East, PA 16428	Phone:	725-4105
March 19	San Juan/Henderson UMCs Mary Stewart, Pastor 1430 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16503	Phone:	881-9141

FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Helpers : Announcer – Melissa Greeter – Ruby Scripture – Sandy Usher- Walter and Youth Counter – Mary and Kathy	
Office hours are M – W- F 10 am to 2 pm & Emergency Food non-food-week 12 – 1pm	
1st Monday	
2nd Tuesday	Ground Hog Day
3rd Wednesday	
4th Thursday	
5th Friday	Food pick up Second Harvest 9 am Girl Scouts 5pm – 7pm
6th Saturday	Finance meeting 10 am Memorial for Ron Drew
7th Sunday	Sunday services 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am
8th Monday	
9th Tuesday	Food Pantry volunteer meeting 10 am
10th Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Pick up perishables 9:30 am Food distribution 12 -2
11th Thursday	
12th Friday	Food pick up 9 am Girl Scouts 5-7
13th Saturday	United Methodist Men's Lenten Breakfast Fairview UMC 8 am Nurture meeting 10 am
14th Sunday	Valentine's Day Sunday services 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am
15th Monday	President's Day
16th Tuesday	Lenten Bible Study Noon and 7pm
17th Wednesday	
18th Thursday	
19th Friday	Food Pick up 9 am <i>Two in One with Carl Williams</i> 10 am Girl Scout 5 -7
20th Saturday	Ad Council meeting 10 am U M Men's Lenten Breakfast Simpson/Cascade 8 am
21st Sunday	Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am
22nd Monday	
23rd Tuesday	Food Pantry volunteer meeting 10 am Lenten Bible Study Noon and 7pm
24th Wednesday	Pick up perishables 9 am Food distribution 12 -2
25th Thursday	Senior Food Box 10am – 2 pm
26th Friday	Food pick up 9 am Girl scout Daisies – Brownies 5-7
27th Saturday	U M Men's Lenten Breakfast Girard UMC 8am
28th Sunday	Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am
29th Monday	
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