



the Cornerstone

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST | MARCH 2018

“A Lent That Blesses”

As orders were being taken for our February hoagie sale, a question was raised: “Do you have a non-meat option?” The question was born not out of dietary concerns or some new health trend. Instead, it came out of a spiritual desire to journey with Christ to Calvary’s cross and the love of God poured out upon the earth that first Good Friday. To think that a hoagie could stimulate such profound spiritual thought!

Many of you, like me, grew up with an understanding that Lent is a season about sacrifice. The teaching being, Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross for us, therefore we ought to show our thanks, appreciation, or even our unworthiness, by sacrificing something of our life during the 40 days and nights of Lent. In this people have given up “meat” on Fridays, fasted on other days, abstained from chocolates and other sweets, or in other ways have ‘sacrificed’ something in recognition of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

But coming back to the hoagies, one might be apt to ask why a person sacrificing meat cannot eat a slice of Lebanon bologna on Friday, but tuna is okay? And the statement, “because fish isn’t a meat” just doesn’t make sense. (Or at least it doesn’t make sense to me.) And though one could ignore the oddity and simply rest in the assurance that the church doesn’t always make sense, to do so would steal away the true riches of this profoundly spiritual practice.

The tradition of eating fish, instead of other meats on Friday, was begun with the intention of providing a means for families to save money in order to feed the poor. At the time, fish was the cheapest of meats that there was. As such families were asked during the season of Lent (and even at other times of year) to not merely enter into an act of sacrifice for their own sake of identifying with Jesus. Instead the church, the people of God, sought for ways in which Christ’s act of love on the cross could be lived out in their own lives as a blessing for others. Thus, more than a practice of spiritual piety, the ‘sacrifices’ of

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Church Events

- March 6-8 Shoo Fly Pies
 - March 11 Daylight Savings
 - Scout Sunday
 - March 15 April Newsletter
 - Articles Due
 - March 25 Palm Sunday
 - March 29 Maundy Thursday
 - March 30 Good Friday
 - March 31 Holy Saturday
 - April 1 Easter Sunday
 - April 3-5 Apee Cakes
 - April 21 Beautify Birdsboro
- Mission: Birdsboro 5k

A Lent That Blesses

...continued

Lent were lived enactments of God's love that brought tangible blessings to the lives of others.

How much richer would our experience of Lent be if our focus was not merely in on ourselves, and our own personal relationship with Jesus, but also focused outward as we sought to embody Christ's love for the sake of others? In this we have so much to learn from our past as we seek to be a people who don't just profess a saving faith in Jesus, but who follow in the way of the Savior with our lives.

May your journey through Lent birth blessing both within you and within the lives of others.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Joe

Worship Schedule

March 4th, 9:30am –

3rd Sunday of Lent:

Pew Communion, Children's Message

March 11th, 9:30am

**4th Sunday of Lent / Scout Sunday
(rescheduled)**

Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade), Luncheon Fellowship provided by the Scouts to follow the worship service

March 18th, 9:30am

5th Sunday of Lent:

Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

March 25th, 9:30am

Palm Sunday:

Children's Message

March 29th, 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

(details to the right)

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Sunday, April 1st

6:30 & 9:30am Easter Worship Services

Flowering Cross

(details to the right)



Maundy Thursday

This experiential worship invites individuals to physically remember Jesus' last night with his disciples. Through sharing in Jesus' acts of washing the disciples' feet (in our case hands), and receiving the Lord's Supper in a meal time setting, before following Jesus to the cross, we journey with the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world.

Individuals of all ages are welcome to this night of worship. Parents please note that this service is roughly 2 hours in length with the last part occurring in the Sanctuary with extended periods of silence and darkness. Some parents have found it best to participate in the worship up to the candlelight procession to the Sanctuary in order care for their children's needs. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to discuss them with Pastor Joe.

Flowering Cross

Bring Your Flowers

On Easter Sunday, April 1st, bring your spring flowers (if any have arisen by that time) to the 9:30am worship to become part of Christ's flowering cross. The flowering cross is a reminder of how, in the resurrection, life overcomes death and we are brought to rejoicing in God. Flowers will also be available at the worship service (provided by Helping Hands) so that everyone can participate, as we place the flowers on the cross during communion.

Lenten Coin Boxes

One of Lent's gifts is providing a defined time period in which we deepen our daily communion with God. As such the congregation provides coin boxes to use throughout the season of Lent as a means to daily call to mind the sacrifice and love of Christ for each of us. For households with children it is a wonderful way to teach about Jesus and the many blessings we have in our lives. For others, it is a daily reminder to slow down and to remember that our salvation is a gift of Christ. Be sure to pick up a coin box or Lenten giving envelope at the church entrances throughout the season of Lent.

Beautiful Church, Beautiful Steeple, Open the Door, Beautiful People

By Pat Babel

Betty Millard—On a warm summer evening, in 1955, Betty and her sister were sitting on their front porch, enjoying the breeze and watching passersby. A young man caught their attention when seen coming down the street. Surprise crossed their faces when he climbed the steps to their porch. “Would you be interested in a movie?” he asked Betty. “What’s playing?” she responded. It turned out that ‘Snow White’ was the movie playing. As Betty watched the Seven Dwarfs make their way across the movie screen, she enjoyed this first date with Charles (Chap) Millard. She was unaware that she was sitting next to her future husband.

Betty Eisenhower was born on September 4, 1930 to Nora (Glass) and James Eisenhower. She grew up on Bear Hill, just outside of Exeter. Betty’s family lived with her Grandparents. Rebecca, Betty’s grandmother, taught her how to sew. Betty’s grandfather, Henry, made smoked sausage in the family’s Bear Hill kitchen. Betty’s face lights up when she recalls the ‘good meals’ the family shared and the love of her grandparents.

Betty had two sisters, Ruth, the oldest, Shirley, the ‘baby’, and she had a brother, Paul. Betty was the second oldest sibling. Betty and her sisters liked to visit the carnival when it came to town. They also enjoyed going to Stonersville Fire company to play Bingo. Delighted amusement crossed her face when she relayed that “Here, we were known as the ‘Bingo Girls’.” At this time, Betty hadn’t met the young man who climbed the steps.

Chap proposed to Betty just two weeks following that first date. He knew he had found the right girl. After their marriage, the couple lived in various places throughout Berks county but eventually settled in their Birdsboro home. Their son, Jeffrey, was born in 1958. Betty’s step daughter, Sandy, came to live with them, in their

First Street home, when she turned 18. During this time, Chap worked at the Steel Mill as a Pattern Maker and Betty worked at a few sewing industries including Berkshire Knitting Mill, Ship and Shore, and the Flag Company in Birdsboro. Betty is pleased to say that Chap volunteered for both the fire department and driving for the ambulance. She points out his skill in cabinetry as you pass through her kitchen. His extra stairs to guard against steep steps and his handles in doorways to protect against falls are all left behind signs of his love.

While Chap was volunteering or working as bartender at the Keystone in Birdsboro, Betty could be found cooking in the fire company’s kitchen. She enjoyed spending time with the other women and was content to be near her husband. She enjoyed cooking chicken pot pie for Chap. One of her other specialties was making fasnacht doughnuts.

When asked how she occupied her time while Chap was doing carpentry work around the home, Betty motioned to be followed into the next room. There, on the bed, was a lovely soft white quilt finished with hand embroidery. Flowers and their petals followed the border and highlighted the center portion. In the same room as this beautiful tapestry were curtains that Betty had sewn. While Betty cheered Chap’s many talents, she humbly shared the embroidery work she had displayed about her home.

Betty concluded her story by mentioning people, important to her life. She has two grandchildren, Eric and Brittainy, both adults now. Her nephew, Terry and his wife, Judy ‘care’ for Betty and “are always there when she needs them”. They are a source of great comfort.

These days, Betty is unable to attend St. Paul’s UCC but recalls her time of attendance with pleasure.

Mission: Birdsboro 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run

Fitness Minded??

If you have a fitness goal to complete a mile or 5K, you want to sign-up for this inaugural event. The 5K will take you through parts of east and west sides of Birdsboro while challenging yourself at different elevations, then ending with a downhill finish. The 1 Mile will take you through some streets on the west side of Birdsboro, and by Birdsboro Elementary Center. Participants will be able to enjoy events happening around town with Beautify Birdsboro, either while witnessing them on the course or afterwards. All participants will receive a goodies bag, and 5K participants are guaranteed t-shirts with registration by March 31st. Near the start of the races, there will be free children's activities and tables from sponsors.

Race day activities start at 8:00am with the 1 Mile starting at 8:30am and 5K at 9:00am. Registration fees: 5K only \$25, 1 Mile Only \$10 or both races \$30 until Mar. 31st; after 5K only \$30, 1 Mile Only \$15 or both races \$45. More specific registration fees/details and course(s) information can be found at

<http://stpaulsbirdsboro.org/5k-run--fun-walk.html>

In addition, the Union Masonic Lodge will be hosting a community all you can eat, full breakfast on race day from 7-11am. Regular cost will be \$8. All runners will receive a \$3 discount by showing your bib. The lodge is located just north of the starting line on Washington.

Volunteer Minded??

If you have been waiting for the right event to volunteer for, Mission: Birdsboro 5K and 1 Mile FUN Run is it! You can help inspire people to achieve their fitness goal through volunteering. We need volunteers for all of the following areas: race application distribution, obtaining sponsors, race packet creation, directing participants to parking, packet pick-up, race day registration, race day setup, race day breakdown, water stops, and finish line assistance. We are evaluating the best electronic, centralized format for signing up. In the meantime, contact Holly Bretzius via phone: 484-754-6907 or email: holly.bretzius@gmail.com with your area of interest.



Mission: Birdsboro 5K And 1 Mile FUN Run

First Annual Race Presented by St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro, PA

April 21, 2018

Mission Trip Birdsboro:

Applications for Assistance Being Received

In the last 4 years, Mission Trip Birdsboro has provided support and care to over 60 homeowners in our local area. And we are looking to grow that number this year! If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the handy work of caring congregational members and community volunteers, please complete the included application (also available for completion online) and return it to the church.

Some examples of the help provided through Mission Trip Birdsboro include: landscaping, gardening, fence work, cleaning/clean up, painting, light cement work, light roof repairs, plumbing, and other projects that generally do not require permits. There are no fees associated with these services. The main criteria are:

1. live within a 15 minute radius of the church
2. own and live in the home assistance is sought for
3. have an expressed need for the services provided by our volunteers

Once your application has been received, a Site Selection team member will follow up with the homeowner in order to schedule a visit to discuss the request in more detail. Final selections, and the scope of work approved, will be communicated to all applicants by the first full week in July.

Please be aware that all **applications are due by May 15, 2018**. Additionally all work is to be completed during the mission week of July 18-21, weather permitting. For questions or more information, call the church office or visit our website at www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ales & Nails:

Adult Faith Discussion Group

This adult series focusing on Jamie Blaine's book, *Midnight Jesus*, will be held each Tuesday, March 6th – March 27th, from 6:30-7:30pm at Island Pizza, 3060 Limekiln Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508. Individuals are to order their books in advance and have the first 60 pages read for the first gathering. (Be sure to mark and highlight your book for points of interest and conversation you want to bring to the gathering.)

If you were to have any questions, contact Pastor Joe who will be facilitating the group discussions. Can't wait to see you there!

Box Tops

Thank you for continuing to help us make a difference at our school by collecting Box Tops! In January we collected \$5.60 of Box Tops

Remember, you can find the donation box on the side entrance table. It is completely covered in Box Tops. Also, talk with your family and friends to see if they will collect Box Tops for you. The more we collect the greater difference we make for our school.

Thank you! And Keep on Collecting!

-Natalie and Olivia Motz

Daily Bread Devotional

The March/April/May addition of the Daily Bread is now available. These devotions, purchased each quarter by the Helping Hands, are a great way to help center your life in God. With daily scripture readings and inspiring stories, they are sure to make an impact within you. Free for your personal use, these devotionals can be picked up at the church entrances or by contacting the church office.

Highlights of Consistory

January 2018

- Approved Budget to be presented at January Congregational Meeting
- Approved Pastor Joe's Housing Allowance for 2018
- Received an update regarding Coaching
- Worship cancellation procedures verified and amended as necessary
- Trying to reschedule Rev. Worley for October 28, 2018

Adult SS Class:

"God Behaving Badly" by David T. Lamb

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying the scripture verses used in each Sunday's worship. This study will be ongoing until Easter Break, April 1, 2018.

When class rejoins on 4/8/18 (and continuing until spring break), we will be discussing David T. Lamb's book, "God Behaving Badly" as described in the excerpt below.

"The Old Testament seems to portray God as capricious and malevolent, wiping out armies and punishing enemies with extreme prejudice. But alongside troubling passages of God's judgment are pictures of God's love, goodness and slowness to anger. How do we make sense of the seeming contradiction?"

Come to Sunday's class, beginning April 8th at 8:30, and help us unpack the complexity of the Old Testament as we explore the character of God. David T. Lamb's book "God Behaving Badly" will be used in this class and is available on Amazon for \$13.98. You can contact Pat Babel for free shipping orders.

One Great Hour of Sharing

If you watch the news, it feels like there is a crisis somewhere nearly every day within this world. Be it here in the United States or in countries half way across the world, it is hard to miss the truth that people are daily living in need – often times out of no fault of their own. Though it is easy to become overwhelmed, Christ calls us to be people of compassion and mercy.

Providing health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives, throughout this country and across the world, One Great Hour of Sharing is making a daily difference in the lives of countless people. Through partnerships with local organizations OGHS offerings are directly connected to those in need and are administered by those who best understand the issues facing a local community. Therefore, throughout the month of March, let us support this life-giving ministry that is all about serving people with the tangible love of Christ.

Summer Camp:

Registration is Open

If you want to make a life changing impact on a child's life, send them to a week of Christian Camp. There is no question about the power and transformation that is possible when youth are intentionally centered in fun and faith for a week, right alongside their peers, in an environment where they can discover what it means to be loved by God!

To ensure that families can afford this opportunity, St. Paul's provides scholarship assistance (up to half tuition) for any member/member's child interested in attending camp. Applications for the scholarship are available through the church office.

Additionally, summer camp doesn't need to be just about teens and youth, but can be about your family or grandparents as well. Check out the amazing opportunities provided at the Hartman Center in Milroy PA www.hartmancenter.com – an ACA accredited UCC camp, Bear Creek in Wilkes-Barre www.bearcreekcamp.org – an ACA accredited Lutheran, or any of a number of other amazing Christian Summer Camps.

Community Closet

Help Us Get the Word Out!

The Clothing Closet at Birdsboro Nazarene Church is in need of spring clothing, Infant to Adult sizes. They should be clean and only slightly used. We are able to take some winter clothes for storage for next year, but no coats for now.

We also need household goods and decorations. For example: toasters, coffee pots, pots & pans, utensils, Rubbermaid, pictures, decorations, toys, jewelry, bathroom toiletries, etc. Thank you so much for all your help in serving the needs of our community.

Sherri Riegel

Closet Organizer

Birdsboro Nazarene Church

715 East Third Street

Birdsboro, PA 19508

P: 610 582-4700 F: 610 582-9003

Email: bnc@birdsboronaz.org

3-Part Series:

50 Ways To Take Church To Community

From the Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Embrace an Expansive Concept of Community

1. Learn to regard your community as an extension of your congregation. A church's mission field goes beyond its membership to include all the people God calls it to serve. You are connected to individuals who never set foot in your building.

2. Know that what's happening within the church — preaching, worship, music, Bible study — is no longer enough to attract people in an age when church attendance is no longer a cultural expectation.

3. Don't sit in your church building waiting for people to come. Be prepared to meet people where they are.

Prepare Spiritually

4. Acknowledge the synergy between the Great Commandment in Matthew 22 (*love your neighbor as yourself*) and the Great Commission in Matthew 28 (*go and make disciples*). Evangelistic outreach expresses our love of others.

5. Remember that Jesus primarily engaged people through everyday encounters, rather than in the Temple or synagogues. He fed people, met their everyday needs, and enjoyed the fellowship of others.

6. Express love and compassion for your community in big and small ways. Avoid judgmentalism.

7. Pray regularly for your neighbors and lift up community concerns.

8. Attend to the faith formation of existing members. Willingness to share faith and reach out to others develops as one grows in faith and discipleship.

9. Prepare spiritually for the transformation that creative, risk-taking outreach will bring.

Get to Know the Community Surrounding Your Church

10. Review demographic data from public, private, and denominational sources, but don't assume that statistics alone will tell the whole story.

11. Get out in your neighborhood. Walk the streets. Map the area, and record your observations. Note how the community is changing.

12. Assess community needs and assets. What are the needs of your context? Who are your neighbors, and how can you serve them?

13. Be attuned to where God is already at work in your community.

Coming in April's Issue:

Listen & Learn (14-18)

Build Authentic Relationships (19-25)

Reach out Through Community Events (26-34)

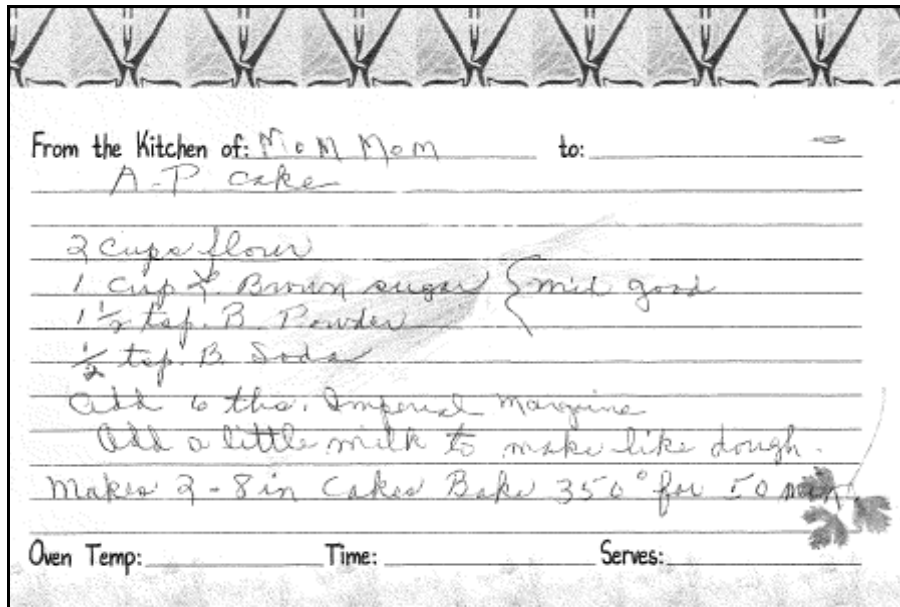
It's a reason to celebrate!

On March 21, 2018, Curtis Hafer will mark his
70th year of membership
at St. Paul's. Curtis truly is a saint of our church!

Memorial Gift Donations

Thank you to the following people who generously gave donations in memory of *Mary Jane Doaty* to St. Paul's Memorial Fund.

Richard & Lynn Wolf	Mary Ann & Roy	Linda & Chris Derr	M. Smith
Groth Family	Millard	Eloise Stevens	Valerie & Roger Wertman
Miriam Fletcher	Barb Jacoby	Ruth Grant	Judith & Gerald Reazor
Daniel Fletcher	Jean Frey	Sandi Swavely	Tom & Janeen Adil
Linda Oxenreider	Esther Rimby	John Marquet	Donald Hadley



From the Kitchen of: Mom Mom to: _____
A-P cake

2 cups flour
1 cup Brown sugar { mid good
1 1/2 tsp. B. Powder
1/2 tsp. B. Soda

Add 6 tbs. Impurel margarine
Add a little milk to make like dough.
Make 2-8 in Cakes Bake 350° for 50 min.

Oven Temp: _____ Time: _____ Serves: _____

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To become more actively involved in the life and ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in our mission to celebrate the living presence of our Lord, contact a ministry team leader or contact Pastor Motz to see where you might begin.