

Lent

Seasons come and go. Time passes so quickly by for many of us. Ecclesiastes puts it this way:

“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the
heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

This month the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. The Lenten Season consists of the six weeks before Easter and is a time of preparation, self-denial, and dedicated devotion to the Lord. It is one of the most important seasons of the year in the church.

Lent is an English word meaning “Spring.” The origin of the term Lent being used as a season of the church probably comes from the formal period of preparation for baptism. Baptism were often offered on Easter Sunday after a lengthy time of education and preparation of the candidates.

The earliest Lenten seasons included observances for prayer and examination of those desiring to be baptized. As time passed, Lent was eventually no longer associated with this baptismal training, but some of the same elements of preparation were used to revive church members in their faith with God.

Today Lent is a time of self-reflection, self-denial, taking on some new spiritual discipline

or giving up something for the season, and preparing our souls for Easter. It is a season of penitence and confession as well. The Lenten season is an opportune time to grow in one’s faith and take some new steps to strengthening our personal relationship with God.

Here at Stroudsburg UMC we are blessed to be in a Cluster of sister United Methodist Churches. Through this connection, we share in Wednesday evening worship though the Lenten season where we have the pastors preach in the different churches on this rotation. PUMA stands for the Pocono United Methodist Academy and includes a variety of small groups to help us grow spiritually. I hope you will get involved in these fantastic offerings this Lenten Season.

This season of Lent is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow spiritually and grow closer in our relationship with the Lord. Consider this season to be your personal growth season spiritually. Take on one new spiritual discipline and give something up for Lent to remind you of the penitential aspect of this season. Grow your faith over this season and Easter will be much different for you!



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

February 1
Matthew 15

February 2
Matthew 16

February 3
Matthew 17

February 4
Matthew 18

February 5
Matthew 19

February 6
Matthew 20

February 7
Matthew 21

February 8
Matthew 22

February 9
Matthew 23

February 10
Matthew 24

February 11
Matthew 25

February 12
Matthew 26

February 13
Matthew 27

February 14
Matthew 28

February 15
Mark 1

February 16
Mark 2

February 17
Mark 3

February 18
Mark 4

February 19
Mark 5

February 20
Mark 6

February 21
Mark 7

February 22
Mark 8

February 23
Mark 9

February 24
Mark 10

February 25
Mark 11

February 26
Mark 12

February 27
Mark 13

February 28
Mark 14

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!

FEBRUARY

To Serve You in February

Greeters	8:30
1	DeAnn Harris
8	Kirsten Lee
15	Irene Goforth
22	Janet Woolever
	11:00
1	Ed Whitaker
8	BJ Bachman
15	Deannie McDonald & Joyce Neil
22	Joni Singer
Ushers	8:30
Dick Everitt	
Carole Everitt	
Cliff Rogell	
Diane Rogell	
Ushers	11:00
C.J. Penwell	
BJ Bachman	
John Allen	
Ed Whitaker	
Counters	
Carole Everitt and Bob & Pam Cool	
Altar Guild	
Carole Everitt & Doris Philips	
Soup Kitchen	
Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm	
1	
8	
15	SUMC Youth Group - Vin Zelizo
22	B.P.W. - Carole Everitt

Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers	Everyone
Pastors	Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor of Church Growth	Gar Pollard
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Interim Choir Director	Jeanette Kuhns
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	Vin Zelizo
Handbell Director	Lynn Seip
Custodian	Matt Parton

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team

Chairperson, Sue Scarborough
admin@poconoymca.org

Worship

Chairperson, Pastor Bob Shank
bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com

Property & Building

Chairperson, Dick Seip relseip@ptd.net

Servant Resource Team

Chairperson, C. J. Penwell cjpen53@ptd.net

Stewardship

Chairperson, Carole Everitt
caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com

Missions

Chairperson, Alberta Weber
albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com

Membership & Evangelism

Chairperson, Peggy Stewart bpstew@juno.com

Lay Leader

Beryl Hellgren
bykoh@verizon.net

Youth Update

This February is shaping up to be our busiest ever! We begin a month long effort to fight hunger on February 15 when we host soup kitchen in SUMC. Since it is so close to Valentine's Day we will go with the theme "that's amore." We will serve up pasta, meatballs, and other Italian delights.

On February 22 the youth will lead worship at both the 8:30 and 11 am services. We are currently in the middle of our planning, but it should be a very unique worship experience. Our theme is "make hunger your fight."

Our month culminates with the 30 Hour Famine on February 27 and 28. As many of you know, this is our annual event to fight hunger at the global and local levels. The youth raise money to fight hunger, fast for 30 hours, participate in various activities to learn about hunger, and complete a service project.

Our service project during the Famine will be to clean the kitchen in SUMC. It is a big job but we will tackle a few different areas that will hopefully make a difference.

Our speaker during the Famine will be Frank Medero, the Founder and Director of Operations for Oasis of Love Food Pantry in Stroudsburg. Mr. Medero will share his story about starting the food pantry and offer his insights gained from fighting hunger in the Poconos.

The 30 Hour Famine will kick off with a musical performance by Charles Fears, Jr. Mr. Fears is a Gospel recording artist who has agreed to donate his talents to our cause. The entire SUM community is invited to join us in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm on Friday, February 27 for this musical experience. There will be no charge but we are requesting donations for the 30 Hour Famine.

Speaking of raising money, you will most likely be asked by one of our youth to donate to the 30 Hour Famine. Please prayerfully consider supporting this cause. Since the Famine began in the 1990's the number of children that die from hunger has dropped dramatically. Your support makes a difference! More information can be found at www.30hourfamine.org
As always, we thank you for your support!

If you have any questions please contact Vin Zelizo.

570-730-8331

vzelizo@hotmail.com



February Birthdays

- 2 Ben Principe
- 12 Diane Rogell
- 16 Art Schwedler
- 19 Amanda Cunard
- 22 Eileen Butz
- 23 Verna Thomas
- 25 Emily Stewart
- 27 Jean Warner

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office - 570-421-6020.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser for SUMC. We sold 51 kits for a total dollar amount of \$949.00. SUMC receives a profit of \$255.00. That may not seem like a lot, but every little bit helps! - Jackie

2015 Small Group Info:

Monday Tea Time started January 19 at 1:15 pm at the home of Nancy Haase. Current study, RED SEA RULES, a 10 week study of Exodus 14. We study about God taking the children of Israel through the Red Sea to the promised land. The study guides us from life circumstances which seem to have no solutions to our place of victory. Book with study guide provided. Need Bible, some homework and lots of discussion. Please call JoAnn Calkins if interested - 570-402-1210 or email: carotjce@ptd.net

Planning Ahead: We are depending on your interest response:

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH - Leaders Cliff Rogell, Diane Rogell and JoAnn Calkins. This group is planned for right after Easter. Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Image how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations and even good things if you knew God was in all of it and was planning to leverage for good. In other words, imagine what it would be like to just have increased faith in every area of your life - family, healing, finances, career, etc. Learn to build your foundation.

More Planning Ahead. Your response for interest and preferred time is required to complete the planning:

1. Current events and their application to Bible History and Prophecy. Current news discussions in biblical perspectives. Led by Dave Cook and a co-leader.
2. A study on learning to pray. Leader Dave Cottle and a co-leader. Text not chosen yet.
3. Couponing, learning to save by couponing. Leader Eva Knight and a co-leader.

STEWARDSHIP

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24	December 28
Needed	\$5,121.86	\$5,121.86	\$5,121.86	\$0.00	\$5,121.86
Envelope giving	5,843.50	3,807.50	3,378.50	3,579.55	4,610.10
Cap. Imp.	181.50	87.25	191.00	2.50	74.00
Lease (Rent)	105.00				
Plate	41.35	36.85	49.00	463.62	83.20
	+\$1,049.49	-\$140.76	-\$1,503.36	+\$4,045.67	-\$357.56

2014 End of Year Deficit = \$37,811.88

Elevator	\$1,710.00	\$140.00	\$155.00	\$45.00	\$618.00
Balance	\$57,940.69	\$57,800.69	\$57,645.69	\$57,600.69	\$56,982.69

2014 end of year giving statements have been emailed. Those statements not emailed have been available in the back of the sanctuary. Any statements remaining by the end of January will be mailed. If you have not received your statement or have a question about your statement please contact the church office. Thank you for your continued financial support of our church.

The Stewardship Committee asks for your prayers as we prepare for a new year as well as prayers for our church, its programs and its growth.

The Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Paul Edinger, Fran Harrison, Dan Butz, Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber, Sharon Cottle

I want to say thanks for all your prayers, cards, hugs and acts of kindness during our family's recent sorrow with the death of my Grandson Billy Baker.

I am the grandmother of 7 and I have my journey story with each of them, but I would like to tell you of my "love affair" with Billy Jim Baker. It began June 23, 1979. In those days, hospitals began a new marketing trend of having babies born in a "birthing room", moving from the sterile delivery room concept. Birthing rooms were elegantly decorated bedrooms where the birth took place with select guests invited to be present at the birth. I was there with Billy's parents when he came into this world, I rocked him while the parents enjoyed a steak dinner served by the hospital staff. I claimed the title, "Bonded Grandmother". Billy grew up at Higgins Lake, Michigan (one of the largest inland Michigan lakes), he grew up skiing slopes or lakes. I shared many special moments in his growing up years, like when he took his oath to become a member of the US Air Force. I was there when he graduated from boot camp at San Antonio, Texas. One special highlight of our adventures was when I went with his family to England to visit the base where he was stationed. We flew to Italy so they could ski the Matterhorn. One afternoon the rest of the family walked to the village and Billy and I took the rental car to scout out the territory. We soon found a rough, rocky, trail that went switchback fashion up the side of the mountain. It was October and we were below the snow line. Every few feet he would stop and say, " you need to get out, Grandma so I can drive over this rock" For an hour or more we traveled until the road ended at a ski station under construction, quite far up the side of the mountain. As we stood there appreciating the view, his cell phone rang and the message said "welcome to Switzerland" We were far enough up the Italian face of the Matterhorn to be in Switzerland! That day was filled with other adventures too great to detail here but a favorite memory. During "Enduring Freedom" he was a re-fueler for planes in flight, stationed in United Emirates. After his return discharge, he moved to Jackson Hole, WY where he became a winter employee of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in the Tetons and was a ski instructor. These last few years he taught 3-6 year olds and loved those kids. He began riding kites, including motorized ones, and then went to paragliding, a sport he practiced every day the winds were favorable.

Billy was a born again Christian during his high School years but when he moved to WY, he never established with a church family. Not long ago I gently chided him about that and he replied, "Grandma, when I am flying, I am nearer to God than I could ever be anywhere, that is my worship time".

On Wednesday afternoon, January 21st, he and a buddy launched off the summit, he soon discovered his rope line had a tangle in it, airborne, he tried to untangle it, lost control and winds blew him against a cliff. He was airlifted to Salt Lake City where he died of head injuries. He was an organ donor. Thank you for prayers for his parents, sister and all his cousins and our family. Saturday afternoon his Jackson Hole family held a Memorial service somewhere in the mountains. God has been so present and real during these few days. Our family was especially blessed with the gift of a Thanksgiving visit with Billy.

GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE. Psalm 46:1

Thanks JoAnn Calkins

Devotional on Psalm 23

-Karen Vaughn

Psalm 23:2 "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul." NKJV

The word "makes" makes me a little nervous. It seems out of place because it conjures up images of pressure and force. Webster's Dictionary gently states the word means, "to cause to occur" or "favor growth". The word "leads" means to guide by going ahead. "Restore" means to "bring back into existence". God causes me to grow when I slow down and rest. He goes ahead of me and there is nothing in store for me that He doesn't know about. He brings the parts of my spirit together into one.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank YOU for going ahead on the road and gently guiding my life. Help me remember that YOU provide me rest and YOU restore my broken spirit. AMEN

Cub Scout Pack 86 Presents Our

Valentines Day



Pancake Breakfast

Treat Mom to a Valentine's Day Surprise of Pancakes, Sausage, Juice, Coffee, and Tea Served by our Boys!

Saturday, February 14, 2015 • 8 to 11 a.m.

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

(please use Ann Street entrance and parking lot)

Adults \$5, children 6 and under eat for FREE



FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 1:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	2 1:15 PM Monday Tea Time - Nancy Haase's Home 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Holiday Market Meeting-Lounge 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	3 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Missions Meeting	4 10:00 AM Bible Study - Lounge 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	5 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	6	7
8 Scout Sunday 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 1:00 PM Private Baptism-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	9 1:15 PM Monday Tea Time - Nancy Haase's Home 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting	10 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Membership & Evangelism Meeting-Lounge	11 10:00 AM Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	12 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	13	14 8:00 AM Cub Pack Pancake Breakfast
15 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	16 1:15 PM Monday Tea Time - Nancy Haase's Home 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	17 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Fellowship Room 7:00 PM UMW Planning Meeting-Lounge	18 Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	19 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	20	21 8:00 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast-Dining Room
22 Youth Sunday 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	23 1:15 PM Monday Tea Time - Nancy Haase's Home 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	24 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	25 10:00 AM Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	26 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	27 Youth 30 Hour Famine	28 Youth 30 Hour Famine
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