



# ‘ARISE’

## Williamsport District Supervisory Area Monthly News March 2024

### WHAT DOES YOUR JOURNEY TO THE CROSS LOOK LIKE?

We are almost a month into Lent! What are the temptations that you are facing in your wilderness? In scripture, we know that after the baptism of our Lord, Jesus was led into the wildering solitude by the Holy Spirit where he experienced everything that we experience in our own lives.

He became hungry and he was tempted to derail. Scripture attests to that fact. **“After Jesus had gone without eating for forty days and forty nights, he was very hungry.” Matthew 4:2.** Jesus was physically hungry like any of us. The difference between Jesus and us is that we don’t only get physically hungry, we get spiritually and even morally hungry.

After his temptation, Jesus regained his divine power to come down from the mountain and start something new. He began the formation of his disciple-making team. Jesus along the way directed the disciples to **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19.**

You and I have become who we are today because of this Great Commission. We have been called into discipleship. The challenge we face today is looking inside of ourselves, checking into our hearts and souls, and evaluating ourselves if we truly are fruitful in our own disciple-making process. Do our engines function properly? Have we our bearings in place? Do we even have the gas to run our Jesus engine?

Living in such a time as this, challenges are thrown at us every day of our lives. Temptations have become the order of the day. Our world is broken, and it has become a breed of uncertainties. The good news is that in times of our trials and tribulations, the Lord stands with us and strengthens us.

James, a servant of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, boldly proclaims that **“God will bless you, if you don’t give up when your faith is being tested.” James 1:12.** What are your plans for the coming days and weeks as we journey through this season of Lent? During Lent, we apprentice to Jesus in his forty-day sojourn in the desert. As we journey through Lent, the Spirit takes us into our personal desert. We are going to be hungry, thirsty, challenged, frustrated, burned out, angry, uncomfortable and we will be **tempted**. Will you stay strong, counter misinformation, speak truth to power, set the records straight and fight evil power that is swallowing you up?

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are warned to **“Put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself.” Ephesians 6:11.** This Lenten season as you journey through your wilderness, I encourage you to get yourself ready, pray at all times, love your enemies, feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, give drink to the thirsty, cloth the naked and most importantly, become a true disciple of Jesus Christ by making disciples for the transformation of the world. It’s only when you act this way that you will make Jesus the element of your experience.

My prayer for you: **May the season of Lent fill you with the Holy Spirit and blot your transgressions. May you be led in the right direction to gather vital and fruitful resources for the betterment of humanity. May you live in peace with one another. Amen!**

**Always Keep your head up!** Kadie and I are praying for you, and we ask that you pray for us also as we all endeavor journey to the cross.

Stay Blessed!

**Paul**



## UPCOMING BOUNDARIES TRAINING

Clergy, CLM, and Church staff in pastoral roles

A boundaries class is being offered as part of the CLM and Local Pastors schools. It is open to others who need to take or renew their Boundaries class. (required every four years) this will be held on **March 15, 2024** at Wesley Forest - 58 Wesley Forest Ln, Weikert, PA 17885 from 1 - 7 pm with a working supper. You may bring your own dinner or eat dinner at Wesley Forest. You will be asked to pay \$9 for the meal.

## ELEVATOR INSPECTION & TESTING

In addition to regular maintenance, elevators are subject to state-required inspections every six (6) months and hydraulic tests every three (3) years.

## A SUMMER TO REMEMBER AWAITS!

We are so excited to share that REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the 2024 event year! You can register online through our website or by paper registration form.

## 2023 JOURNAL NOW AVAILABLE

The 2023 Susquehanna Conference Journal is now available in online PDF and printed format.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Mrs. Joan Wertz         |
| 2  | Pastor Dwayne Nichols   |
| 3  | Rev. David Trostle      |
| 7  | Rev. Cheryl Houser      |
| 11 | Rev. M. Thomas Shatto   |
|    | Mrs. Theresa Bardo      |
| 12 | Rev. James Wenrich      |
|    | Rev. Dr. Lori Betsworth |
| 13 | Pastor Michael Hill     |
| 14 | Pastor Travis Allshouse |
| 15 | Mrs. Kathy Brown        |
| 17 | Mrs. Michelle Reeve     |



- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 20 | Rev. Eric Shafer          |
| 21 | Mrs. Shirley Ogden        |
| 25 | Mrs. Carol Wanck          |
| 24 | Mrs. Betty Westlake-Reist |
| 26 | Julie Wagner (CLM)        |
| 27 | Rev. Ed Prowant           |

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 11 | Pastor Kenneth & Kathy Brown (20 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| 15 | Pastor Brian & Jerrie Moyer                      |
| 27 | Mrs. Betsy (CLM) & Steve Huels                   |
| 30 | Pastor Kevin & Letty St. Martin                  |
| 31 | Rev. Dr. Lori & Brian Betsworth                  |

## March 2024 SUSQUEHANNA LINK IS NOW AVAILABLE

The March issue of the Susquehanna LINK is now available to view online.

## GOD'S CALL ONLINE WORKSHOP - MARCH 16

*Sensing a call to ministry? Discerning where God might be leading you? Ready to explore and discern with other people in a similar stage?* Join us in March online to explore various pastoral ministry paths, discern the next steps in God's call for you in small breakout groups, hear call stories from around our conference, and gain resources - all from the comfort of your home. The event will take place via zoom on **March 16** (9 am-2 pm). Email [rwong@susumc.org](mailto:rwong@susumc.org) with any questions.

## SAVE THE DATES FOR THE 2024 "REFRESH" SERIES

The Grow and Equip Teams of the Susquehanna Conference will excitedly offer two top-tier learning experiences as part of the new 2024 Refresh Series.

1. **Refresh Your Generosity: Monday, March 18** (6:30-8:30PM) - This webinar will bring together Matt Miofsky, Rodrigo Cruz, and Scott McKenzie to discuss how to think strategically and creativity around financial stewardship, multiple revenue streams, capital campaigns, and budgeting in the church. There will also be an opportunity for Q&A and a breakout room with each presenter.
2. **Refresh Your Innovation: Saturday, October 19** (9AM-4PM) - This hybrid event will have virtual and in-person options to attend and will include live content on how the church can innovate in today's world from Rev. Dr. Candance Lewis, Paul Nixon, and Luke Edwards. *Registration for this event will be open later this year.*

## CALLING ALL YOUTH AND YOUTH LEADERS!

The Young People's Ministry Council will be hosting a Youth Leadership Retreat, Lead From Your Strengths, **Friday evening, April 12th through Sunday, April 14, 2024, at Wesley Forest, Weikert, PA!** This is an opportunity for youth and youth leaders to collaborate, be empowered and improve leadership skills as a connection of people and ministries! Youth and adult leaders from around the conference will guide our sessions. Get excited for team building activities, worship, large group time, bible study, campfires and so much more. This truly will be a formative leadership experience that youth and youth leaders won't want to miss! **\*\*Knowing that some may need to leave early because of responsibilities on Sunday morning, that is perfectly acceptable. Please just make a note of this in your registration.** Cost for the weekend \$50.00 for youth; Adults, free of charge. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Cindy Weaver at [cweaver@susumc.org](mailto:cweaver@susumc.org) or Brien McChesney at [youthministry@lakewinolaumc.org](mailto:youthministry@lakewinolaumc.org)

## YPMC MISSION TRIP TO MCCURDY MINISTRIES

The Young People's Ministry Council (YPMC) is co-sponsoring a mission trip to McCurdy Ministries in Espanola, New Mexico this year! This trip is open to youth, youth workers, and other persons interested in experiencing a deeply meaningful mission opportunity and learning how to lead mission trips and groups at the same time. This is a very special avenue to serve and grow in leadership. The trip dates will be August 3-10. The subsidized cost is only \$500 which covers airfare also.

## VARIETY SHOWCASE TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

My name is Kelton Raymond and I am 16 years old. I am a sophomore at Northeast Bradford High School. I am holding a Variety Showcase to raise money for my team to help support the American Heart Association. This will be my fifth year taking part in their walk at Binghamton University New York through Southern Tier American Heart Association Heart walk program. I am a member of the team Lub Dub and the Beat Goes On, Guthrie's Cardiology Team out of Sayre Pa. Our Captain is Dr. Sudhakar Sattur. Each year I set a goal of what I want to do to raise money to help bring awareness and help kids like myself and thankfully with the help of family and friends I have been successful. Last year I was able to raise over 12,000. This year I have definitely challenged myself and set my goal at 15,000.

Allow me to explain why the American Heart Association is so dear to me and why it is so important that I am able to raise this money. I was born with a congenital heart defect called Supraventricular Tachycardia, also called SVT. SVT simply means at any moment your heart can speed up to a rate exceeding 280 beats per minute. It can last for seconds, minutes or hours. There is no real reason as to why and you never really know when it will happen. It was a long road to get to that diagnosis. My first year of school did not go well. I would miss a lot of school due to my heart. When I had an SVT episode it would take a lot out of me and when I was tired I was not able to do my best so my teacher didn't understand why I would miss school. My mom would have to drive me just so I would go. We did not receive an official diagnosis until eight years old when they were finally able to capture it on one of the many Holter monitors. SVT is considered one of the more common arrhythmia disorders, but it is also one that is more difficult to diagnose. I underwent a heart ablation to correct my arrhythmia when I was eight, Two days before my ninth birthday. I was finally able to feel like a normal kid and not

run down from a rapid heart rate. Not that I had let that stop me during this time. I was and still am a very active person. I played football, I now wrestle again and am a state, national and an international karate champion. The AHA is not only close to my heart because it is hereditary in my family but also because my late Sensei Scott Wilcox who we lost a few years ago in a plane crash had a form of heart disease.

You see I want to raise as much awareness and of course money to help families like mine with kids like me who are born with heart disease. People hear heart disease and they think it is an older person's disease. It's not. It affects all of us. I am very grateful for this community and the amazing people I have been able to meet here at the **North Orwell Union Church**. I will also be holding a couple kick-a-thons to help reach my goal. I have been studying karate since I was five years old at The Edge Martial Arts in Towanda. I met many remarkable men who have helped me become the person I am today. Sensei John Filer from Dallas Pa where I also will be holding a kick a thon, Sense Stephen Terescavage who now owns and operates The Edge where I study my art. Also, my late Sensei Scott Wilcox.

1 in 2,500 children are born with Supraventricular Tachycardia. SVT is congenital which means it is present at birth. The onset and severity can vary. For the majority SVT can be managed with medications, however if there is already heart damage SVT can cause unconsciousness or in severe episodes cardiac arrest. The AHA recommends 150 minutes of brisk walking every week. As one of my mentors has recently said that's boring, let's do something fun. Why not 150 minutes of what we Love, and for me that would be karate each week. Keep moving and keep your heart healthy. I'm hoping I can have your support in getting my story out there. Also getting the awareness out there about heart disease.

That's why the heart walk is so important to me. I have been participating in the Heart walk for the past 5 years.

The first year that I did it; it was a virtual walk. I still made sure I walked. Allow me to tell you why I chose to walk. I walk for myself firstly because I was born with SVT and because it is hereditary. I told you briefly earlier. My grandmother Mary Ann Allis Asher also had SVT. She had a heart ablation in 1989. She was one of the very first to have it done and it was still considered experimental. She must have been scared; I know I was. So, I walk for her and how brave she was. Although we cannot prove it now, we believe my great grandfather also had this arrhythmia disorder. I didn't get the chance to meet him. He died before I was born; I'm named after him. SO, I walk for the grandfather that I didn't get to meet because he died from heart disease. I walk for my entire family, close family, and my extended family members I have yet to meet. Those who are in my family tree who go undiagnosed with this condition. I walk for them. I also walk for kids with heart disease who are scared every day, but like me they continue to push forward with a brave face, determined not to let their situation define them. I also walk for my Grandpa Lorenzo Reeve who has heart disease and fights it every day. I hope with each step I am making you proud of me. These are just a few of the important people in my life that I walk for and will walk for every year. I want to thank you for listening to my story and for helping me help others.

I'm sending this letter to you to invite you to join in the Variety Showcase whether as a performer or as a spectator. **The Showcase will be held on April 6th at the North Orwell community hall at 6p.m** So if you have a hidden talent that you would like to share with us please contact me at; [kelton.ahafundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:kelton.ahafundraiser@gmail.com) Let me know what you'd like to do, I want to make this a fun family night that brings awareness to heart disease. I'm looking forward to you joining us and helping make this event a success.

Yours Sincerely,  
Kelton Raymond

## FAREWELL GATHERING

We are planning a service of celebration and thanksgiving for Paul's ministry among us:

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**  
**Wellsboro UMC, 36 Main Street, Wellsboro, PA 16901**  
**Service at 3:00 pm**  
**Reception to follow**

This farewell gathering for Paul and Kadie is **open to everyone** (please register below). Please share this invitation with your church(es). If a church would like to contribute a monetary gift for Paul and Kadie as an expression of thanks, they can be sent to Jill at the District Office (address below). (If you want to make a check out to me (Jill Johnston) I'll cash all checks and put the money together for them.) Thank you!

If you have any questions, please call or email Jill at the District Office (570-323-7452 / [williamsport@susumc.org](mailto:williamsport@susumc.org).)

Blessings,  
*District Superintendency Committee*

**CLICK TO REGISTER:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O3JtP1KY\\_qQUIO9Ha5SgbiZjzpXGfpkYLqc59BM5DtU/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O3JtP1KY_qQUIO9Ha5SgbiZjzpXGfpkYLqc59BM5DtU/edit)



## SW CHRISTIANS HELPING HONDURAS FUNDRAISER

Please see attachment for details for the next South Williamsport UMC fundraiser for their mission work in Honduras...

## MISSIONS BENEFIT DINNER

Saint John's- Newberry, Heshbon Park, Saint Paul's-Calvary and Faxon-Kenmar will be sponsoring a missions benefit dinner at: Saint John's-Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport

### Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

**4 PM until 7 PM**

Tickets: \$10.00 in advance / \$12.00 at door

Children 6 and under \$5.00

Take Out Available

Benefits: Sojourner Truth Ministries & Penn College Student Food Insufficiencies

## CHOIR DIRECTOR

Choir Director for Saint John's – Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport. Part time position to direct an adult and youth vocal choir and oversee other aspects of music ministry. Salary negotiable and commensurate with experience. Employment application required. Application and job description are available by contacting the church office 570-326-5569 Monday through Thursday or visit the church website [www.stjnumc.com](http://www.stjnumc.com). PA state clearances and FBI fingerprint clearances required.

## CREATIVE ARTS WORSHIP DIRECTOR

The role of the Creative Arts Worship Director is to provide leadership, vision, and oversight in the areas of contemporary worship. You will work closely with the Pastor and partner with and recruit music teams, sound/media teams and other programming. Leading worship on Sunday mornings is a must. This is a part-time position. View full job description at [www.pinestreetumc.org](http://www.pinestreetumc.org). Resumes accepted at 441 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA or [office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org). Please contact Pastor James Wooster @ (570) 323-4604 with questions.

### Williamsport District Supervisory Area Office

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### DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Closed Fridays



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