

ST. MATTHEW'S UCC WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

Sunday Services

9am Worship

CIA Class

start at 10:30am following
worship services.



April 2024

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsucckunkletown.com

Diann Bittenbender

Council President

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Treasurer

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Dan Smale

Music Director

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's UCC

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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LETTER FROM LINDA

Dear Friends in Christ,

Harry and I try to walk every day. We have a regular route we travel along our development road but then it goes on to a main highway for a little ways. I am appalled at the amount of trash that has accumulated since last fall when I picked up a garbage bagful. It's even worse along roads more heavily traveled.

I don't understand the mentality of someone who has to consciously open a car window and throw out a Dunkin' coffee cup, a can of Coors Light Beer, a cellphone or a bag full of McDonald's hamburger wrappers, French fries box and used napkins. Don't they have garbage cans at home? Why is it necessary to litter?

The Bible does not say, "Do Not Litter" in so many words.

But it does say, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," Matthew 7:12. Imagine strangers coming onto your lawn and emptying their kitchen trash can and then walking away. Would you be okay with that? Would you joyfully wave goodbye to them as you started picking up their litter? Of course not. We don't want to find other people's trash where it doesn't belong. We should not throw our trash where it doesn't belong, either.

Years ago there was a TV commercial of a proud Native American staring out over the landscape and sees the pollution and litter that corrupted its beauty. Slowly a tear falls down the cheek of Iron Eyes Cody, then known as The Crying Indian, to signify his sadness over the disrespect we show our country. That's a picture that is burned into my memory forever. Maybe it should be shown again for the generations that has never seen it.

Every April 22 we celebrate Earth Day, since 1970, bringing awareness to environmental issues of our planet. Littering is one of those issues. Most communities form groups of people to adopt a road and pick up the trash. And for a little while, those beautiful wild flowers that bloom alongside our roadways look happy and cheerful in their clean environments.

Public parks, roadways, and nature trails belong to everyone. So, if we throw trash there, we are littering on someone else's property just as much as if we threw our trash in their front yard. Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." A person littering does not look out for the interests of others. Littering is a selfish act of short-term convenience and devoid of responsibility. It is illegal in all fifty states. So, then you could say the Bible stands against the practice of littering.

We humans, like all nature around us, are born pure and pristine. But humans sin and err...trash and garbage litters our lives. I think of God like The Crying Indian, sad at the littering of His children and imagine the tears He sheds over the ugliness of His beautiful creations. What a despairing thought.

But then God sent His dearly beloved Son, Jesus, to help us understand that even though we throw out trash thoughtlessly, Jesus teaches us to pick up our trash (sins) and dispose of all garbage (repent), giving it all to him, so we will all be washed clean again.

Letter from Linda continued on the next page.

Letter from Linda continued:

Maybe the next time we see litter alongside the road, we should think about what is the garbage we are littering our lives with? Maybe we all need to carry a garbage bag in our cars and stop and pick up a little of the eyesores on our roads. Correct a wrong.

Maybe as we pick up discarded bottles, cans and papers, we ask Jesus to forgive each of our sins so we can feel clean again.

It sounds like a Win-Win for both our earth and our souls.

Faithfully yours,

Linda

Staci's Stuff

By Staci Gower, Coordinator of Christian Formation

Welcome April! We're ready for springtime adventures.

Our next Faith & Family Night is April 12, 6-8 p.m. in the social hall. Miss Gabby will lead a lesson about spiritual renewal. We will make a spring collage using various art supplies, have an outdoor scavenger hunt for spring items, and play Bingo. Please invite friends!

Sunday School meets April 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the classroom. Our end of the year party will be held May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the grove.

Children's Church meets each week during worship, from 9:15-10 a.m.

Please see me if you're interested in helping to staff the nursery or assist with Children's Church during worship. You can volunteer once or as often as you'd like. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

Ring, ring ... it's Camp Firelight VBS calling you into our grove July 15-19. We are seeking students ages 3 to 12, youth helpers ages 13 to 17 and adult leaders to join our team. VBS will be held 9 to noon daily, and includes Bible storytelling, crafts, science experiments, snacks, games, music, fellowship, and making new friends.



Income for February 2024

2/4/24—76 attending—\$2,235.00

2/11/24—77 attending—\$3,227.00

2/14/24—42 attending—\$176.00 (Ash Wed.)

2/18/24—49 attending—\$950.00

2/25/24—69 attending—\$2,273.00

Total \$8,861.00

Income for February 2023

2/5/23—68 attending—\$3,560.00

2/12/23—92 attending—\$3,503.00

2/19/23—71 attending—\$1,548.00

2/22/23—40 attending—\$902.00 (Ash Wed.)

2/26/23—72 attending—\$1,335.00

Total \$11,398.00 (including \$550 Paypal)

THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

How do we know there was a creation? How do we know the universe had a beginning, and how do we know that the beginner was God?

These are the questions presented during the second portion of the online class I participated in this spring with Dr. Frank Turek who wrote the book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. One of the common arguments for the existence of God is called the Cosmological Argument. Turek explains, "The Cosmological Argument is the argument from the beginning of the universe. If the universe had a beginning, then the universe had a cause." (pp. 74-75)

The most prominent form of the argument (often called **the Kalam Cosmological Argument**) is defended by Dr. William Lane Craig with the following syllogism:

Premise 1 – Everything that begins to exist has a cause.

Premise 2 – The universe began to exist.

Premise 3 – Therefore, the universe has a cause.

In the first premise, we have the Law of Causality, which is the fundamental principle of science. If you deny premise 1 then you deny rationality.

Premise 2 argues that the universe is not eternal but has a beginning. Over the past century, the amount of evidence we acquired about the universe overwhelmingly supports the premise that the universe began to exist. In the book, Dr. Turek uses the acronym SURGE to help remember the evidence for the Big Bang and the beginning of the universe. (pp. 83-84)

S = Second Law of Thermodynamics: The universe is running out of usable energy and one day the energy will be gone and the universe will die. If the universe existed from eternity past it would have already run out of gas...therefore, the physical universe is not eternal, it had to have a beginning.

U = The Universe is Expanding: Albert Einstein and Edwin Hubble confirmed the universe continues to expand at an ever-increasing speed. If you reverse this timeline the entire universe returns to a zero-point where nothing existed. *Something* would have to come from *nothing*.

R = Radiation from the Big Bang: Scientists predicted if the Big Bang occurred, we would be able to identify and measure the leftover radiation. In 1965, scientists at Bell Labs stumbled upon this radiation putting to rest the speculation the universe always existed.

G = Great Galaxy Seeds: The ripples left over from the Big Bang showing slight variations in temperatures were confirmed in 1989. The Cosmic Background Explorer project leader, George Smoot called them the "machining marks from the creation of the universe" and the "fingerprints of the maker."

E = Einstein's Theory of General Relativity: Einstein's discovery was the beginning of the end for the idea that the universe is eternal because demands an absolute beginning for time, space, and matter that they are interdependent. In other words, you can't have one without the others.

Therefore, the universe has a cause that is outside of time, space, and matter. Turek concludes, "There must be something *outside of nature* to do the job. That's exactly what the word *supernatural* means." The cosmological argument, based in scientific fact, points strongly to God as the first uncaused cause of the physical universe.

Soli Deo gloria,
Dan Smale (dlsmale@gmail.com)

ST. MATTHEW'S TOWN HALL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH AT 6:00PM

SOCIAL HALL

PLEASE ATTEND TO GET ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVANGELICAL

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ANSWERED BY:

EC DISTRICT FIELD DIRECTOR

EC STATIONING ELDER

EC LAY DELEGATE FOR OUR REGION

EC PASTOR MIKE COULSON

****FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR QUESTIONS THAT EVENING OR WRITE THEM DOWN BEFORE THE MEETING AND PLACE THEM IN THE BOX PROVIDED IN THE NARTHEX. YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE SENT TO PASTOR MIKE IN ADVANCE.**



SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST

BISHOP RANDY SIZEMORE WILL BE OUR GUEST PREACHER

HE WILL REMAIN AFTER THE SERVICE TO ANSWER ANY FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS THAT YOU DIDN'T ASK AT THE TOWN HALL MEETING OR THAT CAME TO LIGHT AFTER THE MEETING.

REACH OUT



Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Edith George, Gladys & Ray Smith—Scenic View Personal Care, 1305 Church Rd, Palmerton PA 18071

James Borger—Moravian Village Health Ctr, Rm 142, 634 E. Broad St, Bethlehem PA 18018

Larry Hahn—Gracedale, 2 Gracedale Ave, Nazareth PA 18064

Joyce Smale, Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360

Leah Jane Sterner—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Kyle Fable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Velma Silfies—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Jesse Ziegenfus—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

Joann Hunsicker—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Prayer Concerns

Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Alexander Wunder | 22 James Borger |
| 4 Diane Bonser, Kaitlyn Delbertis, Renee Rapa | 23 Marc LoMonaco |
| 5 Melanie Frantz, Alexander Greenzweig | 24 Josh Adams, Drew Meckes, Jaxon Gower |
| 6 Doris Krechel | 25 Marjorie Borger, Janet Smith |
| 7 Terri Meckes | 26 Jennifer Kratz |
| 8 Leonard Ash | 28 Stella Jean Christiansen, Tracy Smith |
| 11 Sara Warner | 29 Mark Andrews |
| 14 Desiree Kresge, Steven Maas | 30 Diann Bittenbender, Robbin Eckhart,
Megan Scimeca, Suzanne Brooks-Cope |
| 15 Gladys Meixsell | |
| 19 Dennis Rundle | |
| 20 Larry Anewalt, Roy Bollinger | |
| 21 Delphin George | |

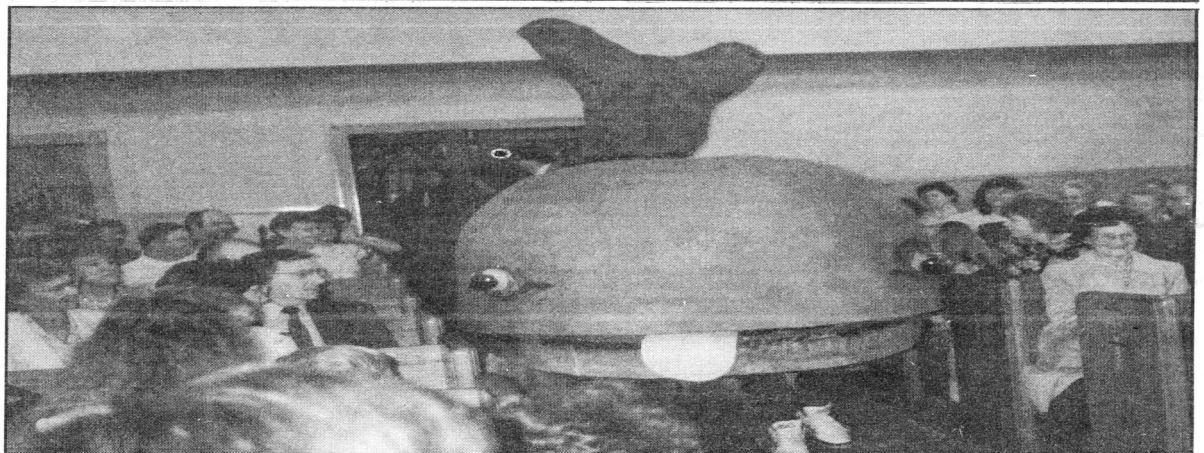


A
LOOK
BACK
TO
1992!!!
THANKS
JACK
LOVEWELL

Nov-DEC 1992

The Penn Northeast Connection Page 3

Of Our Folk



A huge whale danced down the aisle at St. Matthew's UCC in Kunkletown earlier this year for the musical production "Oh Jonah," which was directed by pastor Rev. Anne Ferruglio. Musical director Marsha Beers led the senior choir and played accompaniment. Cast members included Mark Bittenbender as Jonah, Magen Bittenbender, Crystal Kleintop, Mary Reph, Becky Koehler, Erica Breinich, Lindsey Moretz, Tori Schneider, Zachary Scheller, Josh and Kevin Engler, Jack Lovewell, Kara, Colette and Kyle Frable.

CIA COOK'S CORNER

Frozen Bread Sticky Buns—Devoe Breinich

Nuts, raisins or coconut if desired	2 or 3 tbsp milk
2 loaves frozen bread (partially thawed)	cinnamon (optional)
2 sticks of butter or oleo (melted)	1 cup brown sugar
1 large or 2 small Cook & Serve vanilla pudding (do not use instant)	(light or dark)

Instructions:

- ◆ 9 x 13 pan—spray with Pam or grease pan
- ◆ Sprinkle nuts, raisins, or coconut on the bottom of pan (if desired)
- ◆ Next break up 1 loaf of bread and place in bottom of pan
- ◆ Combine and cook: butter, brown sugar, pudding mix and milk. Pour over bread. Sprinkle with cinnamon (optional)
- ◆ Take the other loaf of bread and break it up. Fill in open spaces.
- ◆ Cover and let rise for 2 1/2 hours (set in a warm place)
- ◆ Bake at 275 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes until golden brown.
- ◆ Turn out on aluminum foil covered cookie sheet



April 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>2</i> Krispy Kreme Pick up 11am—4pm 5:30pm— 6:30pm	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Search Committee 6:30pm Council 7pm	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Groovin" at The Grove 6pm—8pm	<i>13</i> BBB 9am CLEAN UP DAY
<i>14</i> Sunday School Town Hall 6pm	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Laymen's Fellowship 10am	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Guest Preacher Bishop Randy Q & A after church	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				