



# The Courier

St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Indianland  
MARCH 2025



## THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we approach the Lenten season, a time devoted for us to a time of self examination and learning, we might look at that expectation as too much for us to be responsive to. "God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory". (United Church of Christ Statement of Faith—original version) This part of our faith heritage proclaims that God is calling us to accept the cost and joy of discipleship. Yet, as we look at costs, we want to know how much? What is it for? Do I and others really want to or have to buy into this cost? Discipleship is too hard for me, let someone else handle that for this church. I will do what is comfortable and pleasing to and for me.

If we take our budget and divide that by the number of members of the church rolls we might be able to define a dollar cost of discipleship for the church. However, there is more to discipleship than just our tithing of income or giving to a church budget, mission or project. There is a cost of our time. There is a cost of our talent. There is a cost of what we are not doing while we are being a disciple of Jesus, isn't there? Well, there should not be a cost like that because we are to be His disciples when, ALWAYS! That is a dramatic cost and might be a bit too challenging for us to contemplate, yet alone accomplish. Discipleship is a decision, as I see it, to be a follower of Jesus and to live into His teachings, all of them, even the one that seems to be the toughest — "Love your enemies." OUCH, dear Lord, that one is too difficult, always.

As we undertake this Lenten season, what are we willing to work on and at what cost? We might choose to eliminate a destructive habit or practice, or give up something that we do too often, a favorite food, activity or action. Whatever it might be, there is a cost and a benefit to giving it up. However, the benefit of following Jesus is far more spiritual than truly measurable for most of us. Yes, we can count the years, months, hours, minutes and seconds we serve in Jesus name. We might measure our discipleship by what we have done and what we will do. However, will we take up the cross this Lent and follow Jesus? That might just be too high a cost. Yet, if we want the church to prosper, we ourselves need to make a recommitment to our Savior, the One who actually was nailed to a cross for ALL of US! Not a select few, all of us as sinners and imperfect individuals were and are offered a new redemption because of Christ. His cost seems to be too much, yet he trusted God and went where God asked Him to go. We often drag our feet, find an excuse, look at our lives and say "That's too much!" We are faced with many decisions each day we breathe. We are challenged to love unlovable and selfish individuals. We are part of an imperfect institution that strives to do the best it can for one another and for the community around us, close and far away. And if it costs too much or we don't agree with something, we become disinterested in it fairly quickly. That is how we might define our discipleship, but thanks be to God that the first disciples took on the task and learned from the teacher and passed on those learnings, as they understood them!

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# Christian Education News

## CHRISTMAS PLAY

I would like to thank all the children who participated in our 2024 Children's Program. I would also like to thank all who helped with the play and Dawn Vilanova for taking time to organize and practice the chimes and bells with the children and AY Hughes for helping the children with their costumes.

## FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Each Sunday our children and a few adults meet at 9AM to learn more about our Faith and how we are to follow Jesus as our example in this world we live. We meet in the fellowship hall for approximately 15 minutes for a time of gathering in order to have community with one another. Our average attendance for December was 7 children and for January was 8 children.

## WEEKLY SUNDAY PROGRAM

**Just as a reminder:** If you or your child/ren are not able to attend the in person Faith Formation hour each Sunday, Pastor Nuscher does have a Faith Formation message on the St. Paul's Facebook page each week. **The online lesson is available after 9AM on Sunday mornings.**

## BIBLE STUDY

We continue to study the Bible in Chronological order using The Chronological Bible Workbook. We are learning and remembering things about the people and our God of the Old Testament. We meet in the Parish house the first and third Wednesdays at 10:00 am. **In March, we will meet on the 5th and 19th, at 10AM in the Parish House.**

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The confirmands will have sessions on **Monday, March 3rd and Monday, March 17th at 7:00PM** via the Zoom link that will be sent out for the month. Any questions, please contact Pastor Martin.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee will be giving our children Lenten Devotionals guiding them through the Lenten season with stories and activities. We will also be planning for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th, 2025. The committee is also beginning to plan the 2025 Vacation Bible school with a theme of "Women of the Bible." If you have any questions, please see Beth Sikorsky.

# NEWS From The PEWS

## FAITH FORMATION WINTER MISSION

Our mission for early 2025 is **"LoveAble Ferals"**

LoveAble Ferals is a No Kill shelter for the humane treatment and care for all cats and dogs by educating the community so that every cat and dog can be valued and protected in order to save their lives. LoveAble ferals is located in Cherryville, PA. **"We assists feral, stray, and homeless cats and dogs through hands on rescue. Advocating No Kill for the humane treatment and care for all cats and dogs by educating the community and veterinarians where every cat and dog is valued and protected."**

### Items Needed:

**Purina Cat Chow Complete 15 or 20 pound bags — dry food**

**Friskies canned food**

**9 lives canned food**

**Fancy Feast Creamy Delights—Variety Pack Canned Cat Food**

If there are any questions, please see Beth Sikorsky.

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Look at another word before the word discipleship in the Statement of Faith, JOY! Can we have joy during this time of penitence and self improvement? Certainly we can, but will we? That depends, of course, on our attitude and faith. It can be very joyous to follow Jesus, even as we head to Calvary, that place of physical death. Yet it is in that very place that our sins died too! Christ took them there and left them there as He rose from the depths of death into new and for us, eternal life. There are always going to be challenges for disciples of Jesus. Yet, there is hope, there is joy and there is forgiveness, something that we can seek out and accept for ourselves, yet withhold from others around us. So perhaps during this Lenten season, we look at praying for those enemies of ours, and ask God to work in their lives as well as in ours and leave the judgment to the Judge —Jesus Christ! After all, He is the one who paid the most so that we could gain everything!

Wishing each of you a Lent filled with new life, hope and joy as we remember, reflect and pray, for many, including our enemies! And I hope you can find some Joy in that process as well.

Pastor Martin

## PRAYER LIST

Please spend a few minutes and look through our prayer list on the next page of the Courier. There are many names that have been on the list for some time and may or may not be able to be removed. Pastor Martin has removed some of the names for this publication. While it certainly does not ever hurt to pray for people, no matter what their life circumstance is, it is also good to know that some folks have returned to stronger health. If you know that someone on the list has passed away or gotten better, please let the office or Pastor Martin know that. Thank you for your prayers for all of those who are currently on our prayer list. Thank you to those who have offered updates already!

# PRAYER LIST

## Current Need:

Emma Fritz	Pat Roberts	Brenda Usher	Kirsten Bickert	Dustin Miller
Sallie Weaver	Linda Hartzell	Mary Ann Miller	Steve Kovalchick	Donna Henninger
John Weaver	Marc Messinger	Joe Vandonya	Johnny	Sharon
Linda Baumgartner	Logan Krick	Carol Samuels	Ann Hurban	Robert Green
Carol and Angela	Debbie	Joan Cottier	Robert Henry	Kathryn Strohl
Eric Hantz	Robert Knot	Michelle	Audrey Blickensderfer	
Mike Hartman	Angie	Terry Carlton	Cheryl Rank	Mabel Bonner
Kim Mickey	Jimmy Hurstman	Mike Miller	Chrissy	Daruis
Robbie Moore	Judy Silnik	Evan Hantz	Andrea Coughlin	Zachary Long
Kay Bolus	Carol Williams	Beverly Henry	Danielle Bowser	Robert Moyer, Jr.
Harold Frable	Jeff Reihoff	Donna Whitman	Charles Wagner	Maria Miller
Nadia Cospier	Julie Gelfuso	Jessica Harris	Kayla Bartholomew	Jeanette Haram
Alyzah Borger	Sergio Nino	Jen Budnick	Nancy	Carol
Kathy Heist	Greg			

## Longer Term Need:

Debbie Budinetz	Theresa Carbonell	Darryl Wentz	Jessica Smith	Tina Rehrig
Janet Erickson	Marion Heffelfinger	Pat James	Mary Berger	Nancy Green
Brandon Snyder	Franklin Dorshimer	Joe & Deb McGeary	Mary Beatrice	Gary Kresini
Vicki Hall	Cole Ruch	Kevin Reilly	Nigel Mease	Ryan Holmes
Cindy Hogman	David Jones	Linda Barkley	Nancy Kovalchick	Becky
Russell Blakeslee	Deborah Peterson	Dawn Stattler	Karen Bet	Bob Bakross
Michelle Brosious	George Borger, Jr.	Marion Bossard	Sharlene Weaver	Shirley Cressman
Lori Rader	Susan Zachary	Ashley Henninger	Peter Rosales	Louise King
Stan Butz	Kim Rey	Sam Steinmetz	Clark Plummer	Edie
Jim Miller	John Hine	Darlene Hock	Anne Harrity	Melanie Hoderusky
Joanne Peters	Rose Lanus	Dorian Arnwine	Margo Roberts	Robert Custard
Vicki Eltz	Jeannie Yehl	Linda Becker	Laura Rannella	Gail Bauer
Noah Iucci	Lisa Dotson	Amber Steffie	Corey Doolan	

## Those who mourn:

The family and friends of Osmond "Oz" Mincarelli

The Bittenbender family.

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

People & Places

1 — Dylan Penchishen  
3 — Larry Carbonell  
4 — Jeanette Beltz  
5 — Cynthia Haydt  
Ellen Nuscher  
Donovan Gill  
7 — Rachel Prutzman  
8 — Nikki Miller  
9 — Joseph Langley  
10 — Daniel Fritz  
11 — Stacy Maynard  
13 — Raelynn Angstadt  
14 — Donna Henninger  
Matthew Niebell  
15 — Jean Shoemaker  
18 — Pearl Weber  
Thomas Bowman  
Tracey Hartzell  
19 — Jeffrey Hantz  
Shaelynn Laponuke  
22 — Wilson Putt  
23 — Pat Golden  
Kim Geiss  
Connor Carbonell  
Logan Carbonell  
24 — Brenda Usher  
Marlene Kriner  
Taylor Langley  
25 — Diane Cseve  
26 — Jules Field  
29 — Denise Koch  
30 — Shari Beagle  
31 — Linda Bowman  
Sabrina Heffelfinger

## Sensational 70's Club

04 — Jeanette Beltz  
18 — Pearl Weber  
Thomas Bowman  
19 — Jeffrey Hantz  
24 — Brenda Usher  
31 — Linda Bowman

## Exceptional 80's Club

14 — Donna Henninger

## Nifty 90's Club

15 — Jean Shoemaker  
22 — Wilson Putt

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

16 — Tina & Rodney Christman —  
29 years





# OUR MISSIONS

Noisy Offering for March is: Northampton Area Food Bank

## TOP 10

### MOST NEEDED FOODS

It's our goal at Second Harvest Food Bank to provide the most nutritious food to the neighbors we serve. This list includes foods that are both high in demand and nutritional value. While we accept all items, we ask that you focus efforts on the following list.

PASTA



LOW SUGAR CEREAL

(10 g or less added sugar)



CANNED CHICKEN



SOY MILK

(shelf stable, unsweetened, unflavored)

CANNED TUNA

(low sodium or water packed)



COOKING OILS



RICE



LOW SODIUM SOUP

(500 mg or less sodium)



PEANUT BUTTER



JELLY



Please donate products that are in boxes, cans, or plastic and do not require refrigeration. All items should be recently purchased and in good condition.

Want to make an even greater impact?

Make a monetary donation to stretch your dollars even further. We can purchase foods at a lower price, meaning more food for those in need.

 **Second Harvest  
FOOD BANK**  
*of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania*

You may bring items for the food bank to church at any time. Items will be dropped off at the food bank when there is a good amount to transport. Noisy offerings are sent to our mission as they are accounted and deposited. Thank you to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring this year which also supports the food bank.

Address: 1601 Canal Street, Northampton, PA 18067 Telephone: 610-262-8030.

# OUR MISSIONS

## March Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

### **SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.**

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays. But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



# Lay, Life and Work

Hello from the Lay Life and Work committee!! As we think spring and hope for warmer weather, St. Paul's looks forward to another busy season. We hope to see many familiar faces while meeting new friends. A heartfelt **thank you to all** those who supported the **soup and donuts sales** as well as **the Spaghetti dinner**. Even with several winter weather events, we have continued to fellowship and spend time with our church family during scheduled events.

**Exciting news first!! Family Game Night** is back and will be held in the fellowship hall on **Friday March 28th from 6p-8p**. Join us for a light meal, snacks and fun for all. This a simple event with fellowship among the generations. Bring a friend **or 3 to play cards, board games or have a friendly Twister competition (medical clearance needed!!)**. **The hope is that others will help with planning and opening the fellowship hall to share in the responsibility to again make this a monthly event.** Please see Dawn or a member of LLW for more information if interested in helping.

Next, **the Ham and Dandelion Dinner** is planned for **Saturday, April 5th from 3-7 pm**. The plan is for an eat-in or take out meal. This meal will have seating planned on the hour, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm; first come first called to confirm and takeout on the half hours. The meal will include ham, mashed potatoes, dandelion and/ or lettuce, bacon dressing, corn or green beans, roll, dessert and drink for eat-in meals. **The cost is \$13 per adult.** Please call the office for tickets at (610)767-4572.

**A Hot Bacon Dressing Sale** is planned in April as well as we prepare for Easter with pickup planned after church **11:30-12:30p on Sunday April 13th**. The price is **\$12/quart and \$7/pint and orders are due by Sunday April 13th**. The bacon fry will be announced for a Friday in March for anyone available to prepare the bacon.

Another **Hoagie Sale** is planned for **Tuesday April 29th**, pick up between 4-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. **Orders are due by April 20th** and a sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex or call the office. **Hoagies will be \$5 each** and the profit will benefit the Sunday School fund preparing for a Sight and Sound bus trip planned in November 2025 to see NOAH.

**It is also that time of the year to begin the collection of items for College Care Packages.**

Please place small items and goodies in the collection box in the Narthex. Thank you cards of appreciation from the recipients are received each semester and are displayed on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please contact Dawn Vilanova with updated addresses of students to prepare for delivery planned at the end of April.

Finally, the **Basket Social** is planned on Thursday, May 8th, Friday the 9th and Saturday the 10th. Please mark your calendars and plan on inviting friends/family. **Donations are always welcome and appreciated.**

**Just as a reminder the office phone number is (610)767-4572 and information regarding events will be available.**



# Worship Information

## March 2nd — Transfiguration Sunday

Flowers: The first vase is presented Mrs. Wesley Miller in honor of daughter Nikki's birthday on March 8th.

The second vase is presented by Pastor Martin, Max and Eli for Ellen's birthday on March 5th.

Bulletins: The bulletins are presented by Pat and Carl James to the Glory of God.

**OT** — Exodus 34: 29 — 35

**NT** — 2 Corinthians 3:12 — 4:2

**G** — Luke 9: 28 — 43

## March 9th — The First Sunday in Lent

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: The bulletins are presented by Pat and Carl James to the Glory of God.

**OT** — Deuteronomy 26: 1 — 11

**NT** — Romans 10: 8b — 13

**G** — Luke 4: 1 — 13

**The consistory for March is Jeff Hantz and Michael Petruska**

**There will be a communion service on Sunday, March 9th at the 10:30am service only. There will be communion served at the Ash Wednesday service at St. John's UCC on March 5th at 7:00pm.**

## March 16th — The Second Sunday in Lent

Flowers: None presented.

Bulletins: The bulletins are presented by Pat and Carl James to the Glory of God.

**OT** — Genesis 15: 1 — 12, 17 — 18

**NT** — Philippians 3: 17 — 4:1

**G** — Luke 13: 31 — 35

## March 23rd — The Third Sunday in Lent

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Tara, Terrence, Lilly, Brennan and James for Jules' 4th birthday on March 26th.

The second vase is presented by Janet Gaston for her daughter's birthday on March 24th.

Bulletins: None presented..

**OT** — Isaiah 55: 1 — 9

**NT** — 1 Corinthians 10: 1 — 13

**G** — Luke 13: 1 — 9

## March 30th — The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: None presented.

**OT** — Joshua 5: 9 — 12

**NT** — 2 Corinthians 15: 16 — 21

**G** — Luke 15: 1 — 3, 11b — 32

# More News from the Pews!

## LAY READERS

Now that we have upgraded our sound system and all of our microphones will carry over into the live streamed services, it is time to add some lay readers to the service. We are also willing to set up a reading area, on the Sanctuary floor, for those who do not feel comfortable managing the steps up to the Nave of the Sanctuary. Please let Pastor Martin or the office know if you would be interested in reading the Old and New Testament lessons on a Sunday and if you would desire to stay of the Sanctuary floor on come up the steps to the Nave. Thank you all for considering adding some other voices to our worship experience though the Words God inspired others with and each of us as well!

## MINISTRY OF CONCERN

St. Paul's has had a discretionary fund for the Pastor to use for many years now. Funds are available for people who demonstrate great need while facing an emergency situation. It is solely up to the Pastor whether to provide funds or not. Over the years we have been able to help with utility payments, heating expenses, food items and medical expenses. The Ministry of Concern fund has been funded by donations from the congregation and others. The fund had been depleted and Consistory and Pastor Martin are asking each of you to consider a special donation to the Ministry of Concern fund in order to continue helping people who are in need. A fund transfer was authorized by the Church leadership to add to the Ministry of Concern fund so that others may be helped. Thank you for your support of the Ministry of Concern fund which allows us to show Christ's love to many over the years and thank you to those who have made recent contributions which has amounted to **\$2,160.00** through 2024 and **\$90.00** through **Sunday, January 26th**. **There has been another need that has come to the Pastor's attention and we are working on helping someone out, so if you are able to continue to give to this fund, we greatly appreciate it.**

Pastor Martin

## Mark Your Calendars!!

### Townhalls scheduled for the Keystone Conference Constitution and Bylaws

Tuesday, **March 18 - 6:30PM** via zoom (hosted by Pennsylvania Southeast Conference)



Wednesday, **March 19 - 1:30PM** via zoom (hosted by Penn West Conference)

Tuesday, **April 1 - 6:30PM** via zoom (hosted by Penn Northeast Conference)

Wednesday, **April 2 - 2:00PM** via zoom (hosted by Penn Central Conference)

As the work continues to move toward the establishment of the Keystone Conference of the UCC, there will be opportunities to learn more about the structure of that Conference. The above town halls will be held via Zoom and you may get that link, by going to [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org), clicking on the News and Events tab, then the This Week in PNEC link and then one of the weekly editions. Currently, there are three Zoom links provided for the above meetings. The final meeting's link has yet to be provided as of February 20th.

# MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> The office hours vary. Please call the office to schedule an appointment if you need to. General messages may be sent to <a href="mailto:office@indianland.org">office@indianland.org</a> or call 610-767-5751. In case of emergency, please contact Pastor Martin Nuscher on his cell phone, 484-707-7006 or by email to <a href="mailto:pastor@indianland.org">pastor@indianland.org</a> . Church website is <a href="http://www.indianland.org">www.indianland.org</a> . Thank you.					1 <b>9:00A —</b> Making Donuts
2 <b>9:00A</b> — Faith Formation Online and In Person <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot <b>Donut Pickup</b>	3 <b>7:00P</b> — Confirmation Class	4 <b>4:00P to 5:30P</b> — Hoagie Pickup <b>7:00P</b> — Elders	5 <b>10:00A</b> — Bible Study <b>7:00P</b> — <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> at St. John's UCC — Howertown	6	7	8
9 <b>7:30A</b> — Contemporary Praise Service <b>9:00A</b> — Faith Formation Online and In Person <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	10	11	12 <b>7:00P</b> — Worship and Arts <b>7:30P</b> — Lay, Life and Work	13	14	15 <b>April Newsletter Articles are Due</b>
16 <b>9:00A</b> — Faith Formation Online and In Person <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	17 	18	19 <b>10:00A</b> — Bible Study <b>7:00P</b> — Consistory	20	21	22
23 <b>9:00A</b> — Faith Formation Online and In Person <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	24 <b>7:00P</b> — Confirmation Class	25	26	27	28 <b>6:00 to 8:00P</b> — Family Game Night	29
30 <b>9:00A</b> — Faith Formation Online and In Person <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	31					

St. Paul's UCC of Indianland

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Please note that the next Courier for publication will be the **April 2025 newsletter**. Please plan your submissions accordingly and submit no later than **March 15th**. If there are any questions or concerns please call the office at **610-767-5751** or email them to **office@indianland.org**. **Thank you very much.**

**Traditional Worship Service — Sundays at 10:30 am — in person, on-line, FM transmitter (.25 mile radius from church), streamed live on Facebook**

**Faith Formation Hour — Weekly lessons will be on Facebook at 9:00am. Formal class gatherings for all ages on Sunday morning 9:00 am.**

**Contemporary Praise Worship — in person only service on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30am.**

Please send any prayer requests to office@indianland.org or call and leave them on our answering machine at 610 — 767 — 5751. We love to **PUSH** — that is **Pray Until Something Happens**.

**In case of inclement weather**, please tune into Channel 69, WFMZ TV for cancellation or delay information. You may also check their website for cancellation information as well.

**Celebrating Our 277th Anniversary — 1748 — 2025**