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FOR what I received
I passed on to you as of first importance
THAT Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures
THAT **HE WAS BURIED**
THAT He was raised
on the third day
according to the Scriptures

BEACON

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4



WORSHIP SERVICE

at 10:45 A.M. Communion when we have a
Presbyterian, Lutheran, or Episcopal Minister.

Church Phone : 304-242-4407

Email: secretary@bupcwheeling.org

===Church Staff===

Music Director & Organist ~ Cliff Elliott

Custodian & Grounds Keeper ~ Dan Burns

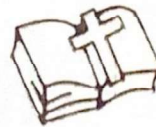
Treasurer ~ Eydie Garvin

Secretary ~ Sue Lane Johnson



"You've got to say, 'I think that if I keep
working at this and want it badly enough
I can have it.' It's called perseverance."

LEE A. IACocca
(1924-) U.S. businessman; former
chairman of Chrysler Corp.



April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast		
	1	5 p.m. Friendship Diners 2	3	4	5	6
10:45 a.m. Worship Service						
7	● NEW 8	9	10	11	12	13
10:45 a.m. Worship Service				8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:45 a.m. Worship Service	Passover Begins					
DEACON'S Mtg. after coffee	7:00 p.m. Session	○ FULL 22	23	24	25	26
10:45 a.m. Worship Service						
28	29	30				
					MARCH	MAY
					S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
					1 2	1 2 3 4
					3 4 5 6 7 8 9	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
					10 11 12 13 14 15 16	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
					17 18 19 20 21 22 23	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
					24 25 26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31
					31	

SESSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

An informal meeting of the Session of the Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) was held on Monday, February 26, 2024 in the Church library. The moderator was not present.

Bill Syphers opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 PM.
It was determined that a quorum was present.

ELDERS PRESENT: Bob Mengeu, Bill Syphers, Jody Werner, Sue Johnson, Bob Young
ELDERS EXCUSED: Eydie Garvin
TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's reports for January 2024 were not available.
MINUTES: Minutes of the January 22, 2024 Session meeting were presented for review.
There was no motion to accept, but the minutes were placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: OUR OFFERING TO GOD THROUGH SERVICE

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE: Eydie Garvin

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Bob Mengeu

1. Bob reported Dave's Plumbing will replace the toilets in the restrooms at a price of \$1702.83. The Session gave approval for the work to be done.
2. Jody asked about a new sink cabinet for the ladies' restroom. Bob suggested getting a new one at Menard's.
3. Jody is going to ask Dale Stanford to give us an estimate for painting the nursery and the library.

BY-LAWS: Committee is not active at this time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sue Johnson

1. Sue continues to insert things into *The Beacon*.

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Syphers

MISSION/OUTREACH: Bill Syphers

NOMINATING: Committee is not active.

PARISH LIFE: Jody Werner

1. There will be a breakfast before worship on Easter morning.

WORSHIP: Bob Young

CORRESPONDENCE:

CHURCH RECORDS:

Communion:	February 11, 2024	<u>15</u>
Home Communions:		<u>0</u>
New members, Baptism, Deaths		None

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bill presented a contract for lease of mineral rights. The Session decided that there was some unacceptable language on the contract. Bill will contact the representative from Southwestern Energy about getting the contract reworded.
2. Bill motioned to have Jody Werner added to the checking account at United Bank. Sur seconded and it passed.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER: Bill closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 PM. The date for the next regular Session Meeting is March 25, 2024 in the Church library.

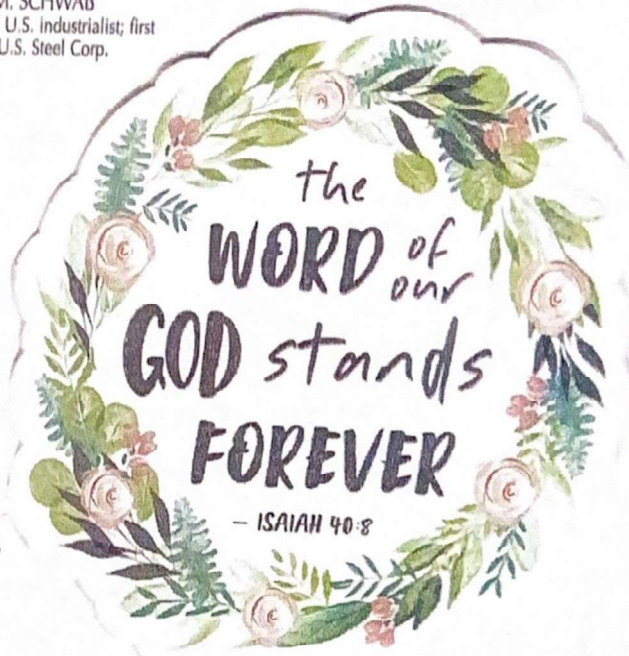
"A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm."

CHARLES M. SCHWAB
(1862-1939) U.S. industrialist; first president of U.S. Steel Corp.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS
APRIL 9TH WAYNE HISSAM
APRIL 13TH BRADY BOWIE
APRIL 15TH SARA STRAHL
APRIL 19TH DAN BURNS

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON
(1803-1882) U.S. poet, lecturer, and essayist.



General, Long-term, and Special Health Concerns

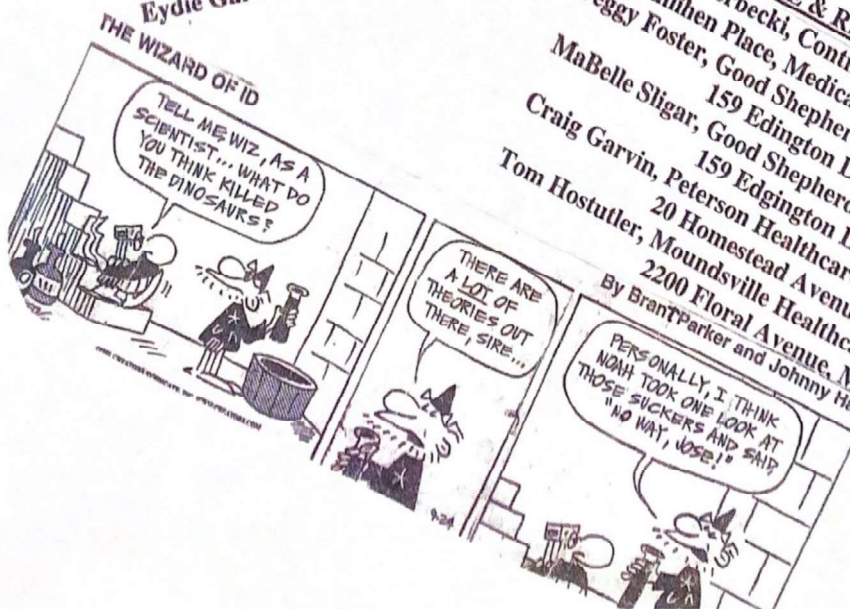
Dorothy Werbecki, health concerns
MaBelle Sligar, health concerns
Rev. Homer Harden, health concerns
Joellen McNeil, health concerns
Nancy Elliott, health concerns
Carolyn Dye, health concerns
Wayne Cunningham, health concerns
Gretchen Cunningham, health concerns
David Waites, health concerns
Camden Brown, eye/health concerns
John Adams, health concerns
Nancy K. Mumley, health concerns
Eydie Garvin, health concerns

IN OUR HEARTS & IN OUR PRAYERS



NURSING HOME & RETIREMENT HOME

Dorothy Werbecki, Continuous Care Center, Room 248,
236 Hullahen Place, Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003
Peggy Foster, Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling, WV 26003
MaBelle Sligar, Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Room 347B,
159 Edgington Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003
Craig Garvin, Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling, WV 26003
Tom Hostutler, Peterson Healthcare & Rehab Center,
20 Homestead Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003
2200 Floral Avenue, Moundsville, WV 26041
By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



WILL YOU HELP?

A couple places we support, where children are the main focus of the group, are listed below and hope you may be able to help:

THE LAUGHLIN CHAPEL

Martha Wright, Director, 304-232-3490, director@laughlinmemorialchapel.org is an excellent administrator. When we asked what was needed for our contributions, Martha shared this with us: Laughlin Memorial Chapel anticipates serving 1,500 snacks to children through our summer programs, including Energy Express. The Chapel provides for the SFSP program, which allows us to be reimbursed for breakfast and lunch, but not for a snack. We anticipate having 50 kids enrolled for 30 days—1,500 snacks!

Not all families can afford money for a child to buy snacks at the pool, (usually visited 3 afternoons each week). Parents are discouraged from sending money and we provide pool snacks to avoid problems with lost money or creating "have and have-nots", at the pool.

We will appreciate individual shelf stable snacks for the summer, such as Teddy Grahams, Goldfish, chips, pretzels, Famous Amos cookies, etc. are all good. We would also appreciate Capri Sun, Kool-Aid Jammers, and small bottles of water.

THE HOUSE of THE CARPENTER

From HOC, they stated they can always use personal hygiene products, diapers (any size) and wipes, underwear and socks (any size and gender). Special items that might be able to be found on clearance this time of year are warm coats and new toys that may be rotating with the season. If/when they receive winter coats, they store them until weather demands them. New toys can also be kept in storage and used to assist with their Christmas Kids program in December.

And they can always use pantry staples!

Any monetary gifts may be sent to Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church indicating which mission you wish- both really worthwhile.





MARCH PUZZLE: ANSWERS:

ADD A "J"

Each of these "mixed up" words is missing a "J" so see if you can unscramble the letters, add the missing letter, and find the answer from the clue.

1. Jericho ROHECI Its wall came tumbling down.
2. Joshua HOAUS After the death of Moses, he took over.
3. Jesus USSE He was also called the Messiah.
4. Jerusalem REELASUM You'd find the Mt. of Olives close by.
5. Elijah LAIEH He battled the priests of Baal.
6. Jonah HOAN He ran away rather than preach to Nineveh.
7. Judges DESUG This Bible book has the story of Samson.
8. Jael LOE 11th book from the end of the Old Testament.
9. Job BO All his children were killed in a storm.

BIBLE MATH

Follow the instructions given to solve this Bible math problem.

Your answer should be the same as the number of foolish virgins in Matthew 25.

1. Start with the number Jesus fed in Matthew 14:21.
2. Divide by the number of foolish virgins in Matthew 25.
3. Subtract the size of Gideon's army in Judges 7:7.
4. Divide by the number of the day on which God rested after Creation.
5. Add the number of sisters Lazarus had.
6. Subtract the number of tribes of Israel there were.
7. Divide by the number of friends Daniel had.
8. Multiply by the number in "no man can serve ____ masters."

10. James SAME

One of the "sons of thunder."

11. Jews SEW

The group of people God chose as his own.

12. Adonijah HAAINOD

The fourth son of David.

13. Jonathan THOANAN

David's favorite companion.

14. Joseph SHOPE

He went to prison unjustly.

15. Jasiah ASHIO

The temple was cleansed during his reign.

16. Jezebel BLEEEZ

She wanted Elijah to die.

17. Judah DAUH

He was the fourth son Leah and Jacob.

18. Jehu HUE

Known as a fast driver.

APRIL'S PUZZLE:

(the last in my little book of puzzles)

9. Subtract the number of spies who brought a bad report about Canaan.
10. Subtract the number of fish the little boy had in his lunch.
11. Divide by the number of disciples Jesus had.
12. Add the number of lepers who thanked Jesus for being cured.



STOP CLINGING. LET GO

Do not touch me [lit. Stop clinging to me], because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17).

Christ's Body is not where we expect. We imagine finding it in a secure, temperature-controlled environment.

Yes, we know its best days are in the past. We don't hope for any more great wonders. But we suppose we might at least slow the rate at which what's left crumbles away.

And yet. We come to where we expect to find Christ, and what we are looking for isn't there at all. We discover, like Mary, that Christ's Body has become far greater than anything we anticipated.

And then, just when we think we have a grip on things, Christ undoes us again.

Mary thought she knew what to expect. But in a few short days, Jesus was gone—forever, as far as she knew. So you can imagine her reaction when she suddenly realized that the one she had given up for dead was back. I'd grab hold and not let go, wouldn't you? But she wasn't clinging merely to her risen Lord. She was holding onto the way things had been before. You can hear that in her address: "Rabbi!" Back to the long walks. Healing lepers. Teaching the people. He'll be right in front, and she'll be by His side. Just like before.

But Jesus says no. That part of the salvation story to which Mary clung—that was over. New and greater things must happen. We can hardly blame her. It's natural for us, upon a loved one's return, to want them to stay. An Amy Grant song from decades ago captures this longing: Stay for a while. It's so good to see your smile, And I love your company. Stay for a while, and remember the days gone by. For a moment it can seem Just the way it used to be.

And if it's true in our relationships, even more in our life-changing relationships with Christ. They began with some particular

manifestation of Christ's Body. Whether it was summer camp, or an organ prelude, or the Four Spiritual Laws, the transforming moment didn't happen *generally*. Some certain form, some specific expression, captured us, and we found new life and hope. We want the feeling behind that expression to remain. How often do we hold on to what was, hoping things will return to how they once were? And when we do, can we hear Christ's voice telling us to let go, so that the Body might become what it needs to be?

As the world around us heaves once again in revolution, we cannot keep fixed in place the way we first encountered Christ's Body. Because *that "way" is not the Way*. It is not Christ Himself. Those forms, those particulars, are moments He used—*there and then*—to grab hold of our lives and bring us into relationship with Him.

In this world, where forms and expressions grow obsolete and give way to new ones, the Body of the Living One keeps in motion. Just as Jesus refused, so does the Church refuse to stay in a vault—well-stored, not decaying as quickly perhaps, but neither active and at work.

Instead, Christ's Body breaks forth, moving from one expression of salvation to the next. Christ goes ahead of us, paving the Way from the old life to the new.

And as we follow Him into that new life, He gives us a new charge. He commands us, like Mary, to go and tell. The apostolic work goes on. As another songwriter, Austin Miles put it a few decades before Amy Grant: I'd stay in the garden with Him, Though the night around me be falling. But He bids me go; Through the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling.

A blessed Eastertide to you. Somewhere along the Way—

FORREST

*The Synod of the Trinity, PCUSA
702 East Simpson Street Unit 87
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055*

"Grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
the courage to change
the things I can,
and the wisdom
to know the difference"
—Reinhold Niebuhr



There was a man who loved his lawn but hated dandelions. Every Spring and summer he it the driveway running with a spray can in one hand and a razor-sharp hoe in the other, determined to wipe out his vicious enemy, but the dandelions flourished under the fury of his onslaught. He consulted the county agricultural agent. He conferred with greenskeepers. He tried everything. Nothing helped. He was fighting a losing battle. He became frustrated, tossed fitfully in his sleep, developed an acid stomach. He became toxic and fit to be tied. He wrote to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His expensive dandelion campaign was bankrupting him, driving him crazy. The dandelions were winning.

Finally, he prayed the serenity prayer: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change." And God answered him: *What you have there is not a lawn. It's a garden. Treat the dandelions as flowers, not weeds. They want to be friends. Join them. Stop complaining. Be grateful.*

One day, he saw his eight-year-old son put dandelions in a planter in his room. So, one night he, too, arranged them in a centerpiece. He started eating dandelion greens. Then he made dandelion wine.

He began digesting, sleeping, and smiling again. He erected a sign in his front yard that said: "Dandelion Hill," and each evening walked out among them, glorying in the gold that even outshone and outlasted delicate daffodils.

• POSITIVE THINKING

WHY GO TO CHURCH

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for NOURISHMENT, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!