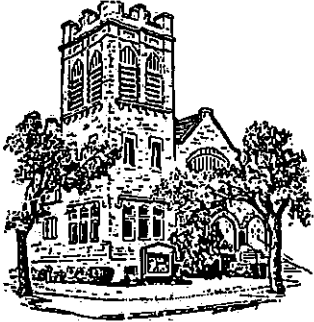
 **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KITTANNING PA 16201
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

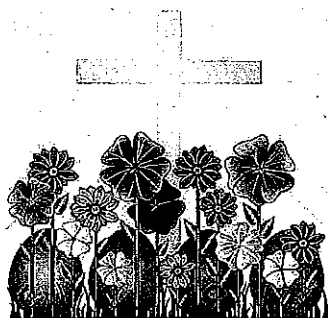


Monthly Messenger

Each Day
only
comes *Once*
in a
Lifetime

MARCH 2018

**APRIL
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE,
TUESDAY,
MARCH 20, 2018**



CHURCH STAFF
PASTOR: Pastor Wade Berkey
CHURCH SECRETARY: Audrey Green
PIANIST: Emily King
SEXTON: Valerie Kachur
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda Beers
NURSERY ATTENDANT: Linda Powell
MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:
Carolyn Gallaher, Sally Krozely
June Pollard, Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe,
Kathy Coleman

WORSHIP: 11:00 AM
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312 **PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808**
E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net **WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com**
FAX: 724-548-5157 **RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569**



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 PM

March 2018



Once upon a time, on the General Board of Global Ministries website, there was an article that was entitled *Lent as a Journey*. Elliott Wright wrote it. Mr. Wright wrote—

Jesus is almost always on the road in the New Testament Gospels, first traveling around Galilee, preaching, healing, and teaching his disciples the lessons of faith; then in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, he makes a prolonged journey to Jerusalem.

In Luke, Jesus moves from Galilee south to Samaria, where in chapter 9:51 he “set his face to go to Jerusalem” and he knew it would be no picnic there. In the continuing trip, he encounters friends and opponents, interacts with followers, and tells many of the parables that hold truths about God. In chapter 19, Jesus and his band entered into Jerusalem, and the rest of Luke is about the trials, tribulations, and final victories in the city for whose peace he prayed.

On the road, Jesus prepares himself for the humiliation of execution, and attempts to prepare his disciples for both his death and life beyond death.

Lent is the time of the year that we set our faces toward Jerusalem with Jesus. As we journey with Christ, we take the time to focus on our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is a time of preparation—preparing for the resurrection of Jesus. In this preparation, we are called to humble ourselves before the great power of God that brought Jesus out of the tomb. As we look at what has become a priority in our lives, we are called to allow God’s power to reorient our life according to His purposes. We do this through the use of daily disciplines—prayer, fasting, spending time in solitude with God, forgiving ourselves and forgiving others, reading the Bible. While this is not a complete list of disciplines, you begin to see the purpose and focus of Lent—getting closer to God, or moving toward God.

The journey of Lent always leads up a hill to a cross. There is no other route. Lent is a time to test our willingness to walk boldly with Jesus; to give up distorted goals; to *die* to old ways and reject new temptations; to steadfastly look beyond the cross, confident that God’s love in Jesus Christ *lives* in us, and through us, and takes hope into the future. Place your hope in the Power that raised Jesus out of the tomb. That same Power is waiting for you, NOW!! Claim it!

Christ is Indeed Risen!

Pastor Wade

MARCH WORSHIP

Third Sunday of
Lent
We Reform

March 4, 2018
11:00 AM, Communion
Hebrews 2:14-18

Sermon Series: **The Easter Experience!**
Sermon Title: **My Pain is Understood!**

Fourth

SUNDAY
IN LENT

March 11, 2018
11:00 AM,
Matthew 7:7-8
Sermon Series:
The Easter Experience!

Sermon Title: **My Life Has a Plan!**

Fifth

SUNDAY
IN LENT

March 18, 2018
11:00 AM,
James 2:8-11

Sermon Series: **The Easter Experience!**
Sermon Title: **I Have the Promise of Eternal Lif**


Palm
Sunday

March 25, 2018
11:00 AM,
1 Corinthians 15:50-58
Sermon Series:

The Easter Experience!
Sermon Title: **My Hope is Secure!**

WELCOME CENTER

4 Mary Jo Lipski
11 Melissa Flanders
18 Beverly Patton
25 Karen Scaife



READERS

4 Sue Hankey
11 Sarah Heckert
18 Jennifer Hellein
25 Mert Hellein



USHERS

4 Oxford/Mark Ferguson & Communion
11 Albright/Dan Wolfe
18 Albright/Dan Wolfe
25 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski



SOUND SYSTEM

4 Gabe Smith
11 Tim Scaife
18 Hayley Hoffman
25 Dave Yanoschick



COUNTERS

4 Yankasky
11 Flanders
18 McKelvey
25 Scaife



ACOLYTE

4 Ryan Bish
11 Joey Kachul
18 Dane Dimond
25 Isaac Zielinski



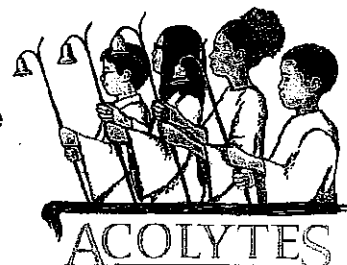
BELL RINGERS

4 Rowin Huddleston
11 Carlee Beers
18 Chelsea Beers
25 Caden King



WILL YOU HELP?

First Church is looking for a volunteer to help with our Worship Services. There is a need for a volunteer to coordinate and schedule the young people to light the candles. This person would also be required to be here on Sunday to help the young people put on the acolyte robe and light the candle lighter. Will you help?

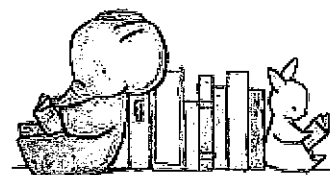


Nursery SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

The SPRC Committee is looking for volunteers to serve as substitute nursery attendants on an as needed basis. The goal is to have a list of volunteers that can be called on a rotating basis when there is a need for coverage during Sunday School and Worship.

PLEASE add your name to the list as soon as possible. Speak to any member of the SPRC committee or leave your name in the church office.

Volunteers will need to have the proper clearances, which are easy to secure and the SPRC will be available to help with the process.



Thank you, Cindy Volek, Chair of SPRC

Financial Dashboard –January 2018

	January	YTD
Stewardship Income	\$16,039	\$16,039
Budget Requirements	\$14,660	\$14,660
Difference	+\$1,379	+\$1,379

Estimated FUMC Giving Units: 265
 Giving Units Providing Support This Month: 54

Conference Apportionments

Amount Paid YTD	\$300
Budget Amount YTD	\$1,965
Difference	-\$1,665

FEBRUARY SIFT LUCHEON

Thursday, March 15, 2018

12:00 PM

Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Lynn Sibley & Sandy McKee's Mission trip to Fiji

MENU: Irish Stew

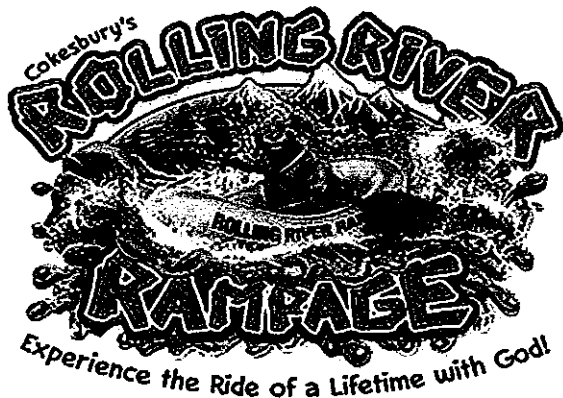
Reservations due by Monday, March 12th at noon.

6 LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Our first Lenten Fish Dinner will be held on Friday, February 16th and will continue through Friday, March 23, 2018 at the Covenant Center from 4:30-6:30 PM.

MENU: Baked or Fried Fish or Sloppy Joe Sandwich
 Baked Potato, Curly Fries or Macaroni & Cheese
 Cole Slaw or Applesauce, Roll, Beverage & PIE
 Adult \$9.00 Children \$4.00

Come and eat, bring your family and friends. Help support our fund raising efforts to raise finances for our church programs and missions.



VBS 2018

JUNE 18th-22nd

9:00-12:00 PM

Watch for your chance to sign-up to help during that week coming soon.

We will have a VBS meeting for anyone interested in helping on

Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 PM in The Library Room. Hope to see you there!



RAINBOW ROAD

Rainbow Road is accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year. There are classes two days a week for 3-year-olds (by September 1st) and three days a week for pre-kindergarten students. To receive and application or more information, contact our office at 724-548-4312 or go online at www.firstchurchkittanning.com.

FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

Thursday, March 15, 2018

7:00 PM

Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Safari in Tanzania

Mary Jo Lipski



March 2018

Monthly Prayer Calendar

Consider how God is asking you to pray through these concerns.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 How are you moving toward God?	5 Pray for the Trustee Team as they meet tonight!	6 Call someone that you have had a falling out with and make amends!	7 Pray for the ARC Manor Spirituality Team and their work!	8 Try to fast from technology today (TV, computer, cell phone, or tablets)!	9 Go to the Fish Dinner today and sit with someone you don't know. Ask them how can you pray for them!	10 Choose one person today and pray for them, by name, four times today!
11 Read Psalm 27. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?	12 Pray for the Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Team as they meet tonight!	13 Make a list of five things that you are thankful for and look at that list when you start to complain today!	14 Sit down and write a letter to someone you haven't spoken with recently!	15 Try to fast from the radio in the car and spend that time in prayer! Just don't pray with your eyes closed!!	16 Have a conversation today with someone you wouldn't normally talk with!	17 Cook a meal for someone, take it to them, and pray <i>with</i> them!
18 Read Psalm 51. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?	19 Pray for the Finance Team and the Church Council as they each meet tonight!	20 Today is the first day of Spring! Take a walk and pray <i>with</i> someone you encounter!	21 Spend 20-30 minutes in silence today!	22 Give up social networks for the day (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)!	23 Buy an extra piece of pie at the Fish Dinner and take it to a friend!	24 Pray for John and Christine Zimmerman and the ministry of About Face Church Outreach Consultants!
25 <u>Palm Sunday</u> Pray for our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Pond!	26 If God answered your prayers today, would the answers to those prayers change anyone else's life except your own?	27 Pray for our Bishop, Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koi Koi!	28 Pray for yourself!	29 <u>Holy Thursday</u> In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!	30 <u>Good Friday</u> Spend 15 minutes in silence remembering Jesus' death.	31 Take some time to reflect about what the disciples of Jesus were thinking today.



God sends the April showers to help the flowers grow.

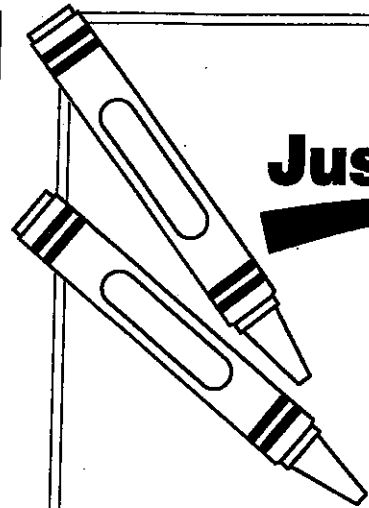


The bunnies and the baby birds – all part of God's springtime show!

Draw the other half of these "signs of Spring"



Just for KIDS



There are many special things that we think of in the spring. In the spaces, write a word to fit each definition. The arrows show that the letters are the same. Unscramble the letters in the circles to find a very important part of spring.

1. a caterpillar becomes one



2. a baby bird is born in



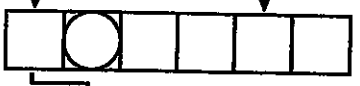
3. they grow from seeds



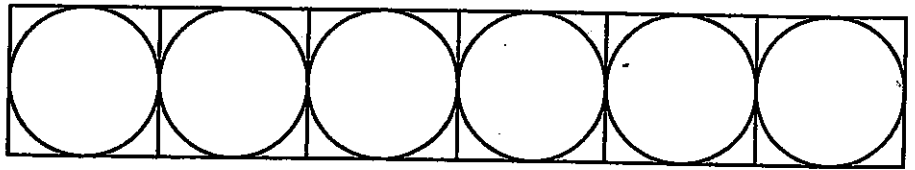
4. the beginning of morning



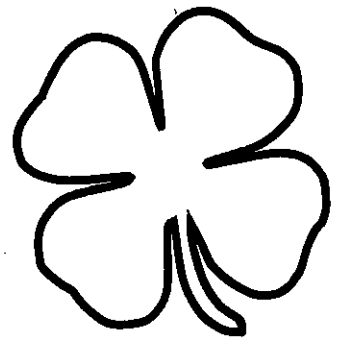
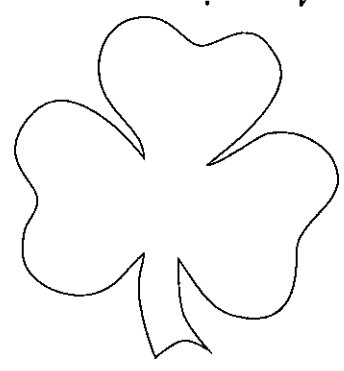
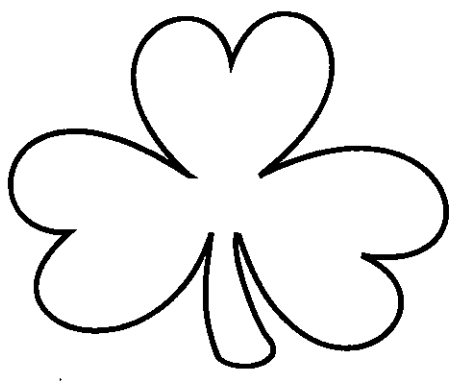
5. a small furry animal with long ears



6. Jesus died on this



Color and Create your own shamrocks



Answers:

1. butterfly; 2. egg; 3. flowers; 4. sunrise; 5. rabbit; 6. cross; A very important part of spring - Easter.

YOUTH MINISTRY


Brenda and I chaperoned five teenage girls this past January to the Sheraton Inn at Station Square, for an amazing weekend. The event was called SPARK 2018.

The speaker chose to talk about, how you are God's masterpiece. Young people today have problems with self-image and self-worth. The girls found her inspiring and amazing. April's message gave them the hope that they can change their messed up reality. They also were informed that...they are awesome. They learned more about God and how much he cares for them. they got closer to him through listening to the spoken word and listening to the powerful music that was brought to us by Josh Price. His music was uplifting and made the words come to life. The small group sessions covered many topics that promote conversation and explored how God is still here today. They met new friends and learned more about God and themselves.

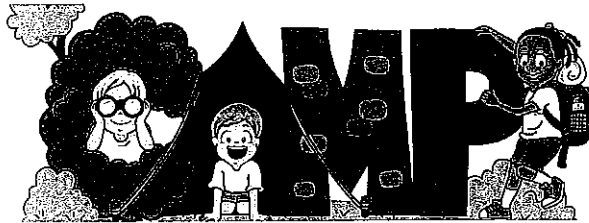
As leaders we continued the conversations back to our rooms and over dinner. We asked them to explore their faith and their relationship with God. For me, the best part of this weekend was the moment I could see that something had taken root in them or they found the missing piece or finally they could connect the dots.

All of us had a wonderful time and are looking forward to SPARK 2019. We are planning several fundraising activities to support this outreach, so your support is appreciated.

Melissa Flanders



SPRC has developed an approach to address visits. A contact person (Kathy Riffer) makes phone calls once a month to anyone known to be unable to attend church, for conversation as well as needs, especially communion, prayer and/or if available a pastor visit. So no one is missed and to keep up to date please forward any concerns and information to Kathy Riffer at 724-545-1619 or Sarah Heckert at 724-543-1083. God Bless.



Time to sign up for summer camps
We have a brochure for each camp in the office.

Wesley Woods


Jumonville

Camp Allegheny

First Church pays for the child's first year of camp tuition
50% of the tuition the following years they attend.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Thomas Hicks 	20 Franklin Tarr
3 Alice Ternent	21 Janessa Shriver
4 Glenn Krozely	21 Gabi Zielinski
6 Trenton Podvorec	22 Larry McKelvey
7 Dan Cornman	25 Lora Williamson
11 Amanda Leech	27 Bob Buzzinotti
12 Linda Cornman	27 Tim Scaife
13 Barb Gaughan	30 Lilah Hogamier
19 Tara Green	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Tom & Sandy Scherf-51 years
 17 Thomas & Tara Hicks-6 years
 21 Derek & Tara Green-9 years
 27 Tony & Robyn Green-8 years

We extend our Christian compassion and concern to the family of Betty Good. Betty passed away on Monday, February 12, 2018.

With Sympathy

PRAYER TIME
Tuesday, March
13th
at 6:30 PM in the
Prayer Room



Thank You!

To our church family,

Thank you so very much for the kindness you have shown us during Sam's illness and death. He is now at peace and not struggling to get through each day. For that his family is grateful. To each of you we appreciate the many cards, food and your time spent with us. To the Tuesday Ladies group and the Care Friends for the cards he received over the years. Each card brought a smile and he knew he was still remembered by his church family.

We thank each of you for your continued prayers. Being a member of a caring and loving church family will get us through these difficult days. Sincerely and in Christian Love,
 Mary Jane Luke and family

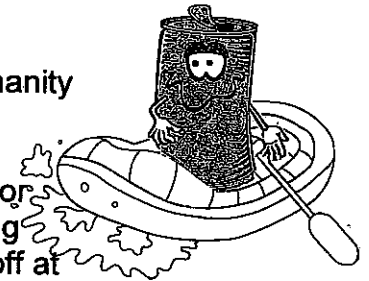
2018 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

Our Vacation Bible School Aluminum Can collection for Habitat for Humanity continues: Cans received January 15th- February 15th—2,487

Total cans received since end of 2017 VBS—17,297

Thanks to all of you who saved, collected and brought in cans. Our collection for VBS 2018 continues-so-KEEP THEM COMING! Please continue or start saving aluminum cans (pop, tea, fruit juice, health drinks and beer cans). Drop them off at the church ramp anytime.

Thank you to the folks at ARC Manor for the 149 cans on February 15th. Just as we are in mission with ARC Manor on Wednesday afternoons, they are in mission with us for Habitat for Humanity.
 Thank you, Can Man



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY 2018

PRESCHOOL

Caden King
 Jocelyn King
 Sue Hankey

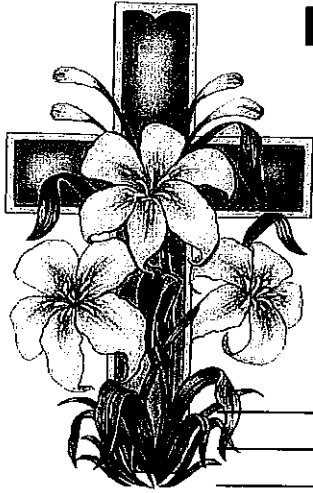


1ST AND 2ND GRADE

Ashley Yankasky
 Audrey Green



3RD-6TH GRADE



EASTER FLOWERS 2018
(ALL ORDERS DUE BY
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th
NO LATE ORDERS)

ORDER FORM

- _____ \$7.75 Easter Lily (1 stem, 4-6 blooms)
- _____ \$6.75 Hyacinth (Assorted colors 3 blooms)
- _____ \$6.75 Tulips (Assorted Colors, 6 Blooms)
- _____ \$6.75 Miniature Daffodils

I Wish to order _____ plant(s) \$ _____ Total Order

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR (AND)

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY _____

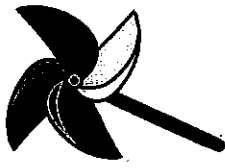
PHONE NUMBER _____

Last day to order—
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018
NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED!
PAYMENT IS NEEDED AT TIME OF ORDER





LENT



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion	5 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Trustees	6 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Lent Service- St. Luke's UCC 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	7 12:00 PM Lent Luncheon 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	8 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle	9 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	10 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43 -CC	12 6:00 PM Rainbow Road Open House 7:00 PM Nurture, Outreach & Witness	13 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:00 PM Lent Service- The Salvation Army 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter 7:00 PM New Found -CC	14 12:00 PM Lent Luncheon 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	15 12:00 PM SIFT-CC 7:00 PM VBS Planning	16 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	17 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	19 6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM Church Council	20 SPRING 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Lent Service- Cornerstone Assembly 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter 7:00 PM New Found -CC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 12:00 PM Lent Luncheon 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Rainbow Road Board	22	23 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	24 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 PM Worship	26 APRIL NEWSLETTER	27 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter 7:00 PM New Found -CC 7:00 PM Endowment Food Bank Pick-Up	28 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	29 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Service	30 12:00 PM Good Friday Service	31 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC

