



THE MUSTARD SEED



Why Observe Lent?

For Christians, Lent is not always the most popular of our seasons. Lent can challenge us. Penitence and contemplation are not easy practices to embrace. We might not be willing to give up things or to even to think about doing so. After all, it is not comfortable for us to examine our lives or confront head on the things that hinder our relationship with God and with other people. It is sometimes difficult to give up these distractions. Likewise, it takes effort to take up new spiritual practices and stick with them. It's demanding to add anything to our already busy routines. We may wonder why we must do these things in order to grow closer to God. Is there that an easier way?

Yet the repentance and discipline of Lent are at the very heart of the Gospel. The Common English Bible translates Jesus' mission as proclaiming to people "change [your] hearts and lives and trust the good news" (Mark 1:15, Matthew 3:2, and Luke 3:8 among others). In fact, the mission of the Church might be summarized as changing hearts and lives and announcing/proclaiming the Gospel and/or the kingdom of God. Before we can change the world around us, we must endeavor to change our own hearts and lives and to trust for ourselves in the Good News of the Kingdom of God. This is why we do Lent. Our practices are about changing our own hearts and lives to reflect the heart and life of Jesus Christ. The reason why we observe Lent and its practices is to be able to hear once again for ourselves the Good News of Jesus Christ. Lent is a time for us to intentionally work on getting our hearts and lives in order. We do so by giving up and taking up.

The practices of Lent exist to help prepare ourselves to hear once again the Good News of Easter and Jesus' ministry. This is the Good News of grace and God's love. It takes time for us to arrive at the place where we hear such news not just with our ears, but with our souls. This is why the 40 days of Lent and its discipline and practice are so important. They afford us the time to prepare ourselves to hear the Gospel. So this Lent let us not just give up something; do not just take up something; do not ignore it. Change your hearts and lives; Trust in the Good News of the Kingdom of God!

Peace,

Pastor Matt

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

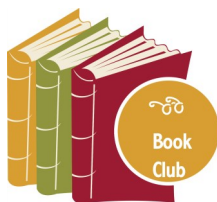


Children's Sunday School Hiatus – Our Christian Education Team values our youngest learners and continues to seek the best way to help them learn about God and our favorite Bible stories. We will be taking a brief break from the model of offering Sunday School twice a month in order to focus on having conversations with our families about what the best time and frequency is for offering faith formation opportunities. **Please note**, the Teen Class will continue to meet on March 9, March 23 and April 6. .

2 more Volunteers are needed on **Sunday 3/16/25** to help prepare, serve, and clean up at the free meal for the public which is being served by the **Lebanon Rescue Mission**. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 P.M. to carpool as we are scheduled to volunteer **from 2:00 P.M. to approximately 6:00 P.M.** (If you can help for only part of the time, that is fine.) In addition, there are items that are needed to make the meal extra special. Please watch for more information about how to sign up to volunteer and/or to donate items for the meal. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Vines. (vineskristin1011@gmail.com). (Special Notes: If you are feeling sick (or have a cough), please volunteer another time. Due to safety issues, children must be over the age of eight to volunteer. Volunteers must wear closed toe shoes.)



An Ash Wednesday Service will be held here on Wednesday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. It is a Community Service with the Campbelltown United Methodist Church.



The Book Club will meet Monday, March 24 at 7 p.m. to discuss “The Paris Novel” by Ruth Reicht. The April book is “The Wedding People” by Alison Espach and will meet on **Monday, April 28**. If you have any questions, please contact Carin Kaag. Her e-mail is cas207@yahoo.com

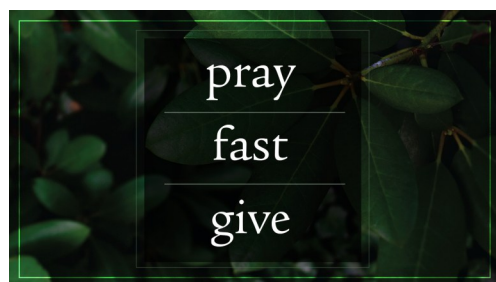


Don't forget March 16 turn your clocks ahead 1 hour. Daylight Savings Time Begins.

Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.





Our tradition of the “Five Acts of Kindness” encourages members of Salem UCC to engage in acts of kindness and mission during the Lenten season. Focusing on small deed of faith and ow they can add up to having a big effect. This year our theme resounds from the words we have heard through our small group discussions” We are a Friendly Church!

We want our light to shine, so together with the Membership Committee, we have devised the **5 Acts of Friendliness**; ways that we all can shine a light on

Salem, share our faith and make new friendships.

Using the forms available on the back windowsill in the sanctuary, share your light through doing them and then write down five acts of friendliness on the form. It’s easy! Do Five Acts of Friendliness—we supplied some ideas on the form. Write the acts down; submit your five acts and select an organization where you’d like to have the Moyer fund send a donation. This year, we are looking to make new, far-reaching friends!. The \$50 will be split in half, with 50% to help those who lost homes and businesses in the fires of California or the floods in North Carolina and the other half will remain here to the local charity which you designate. Email your form to Joan Campbell jca513@aol.com or drop it off in the Moyer Mailbox.

Five Acts of Friendliness will run from March 5, 2025 to April 27, 2025.



Lancaster Theological Seminary would like to thank you for your recent gift of \$67.00.

The United Church of Christ Homes wishes to thank you for your recent gift of \$210 which was placed in their Benevolent Fund.

Thank You - I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and condolences of the recent death of my husband, **Robert Albright**.

The outpouring of support and caring meant a lot to me. It was very comforting and heart-warming. Our church family at Salem is truly wonderful. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Matt for all his time spent with Aaron and I to plan the funeral service and for officiating the very nice service for Bob. And also, a special thank you to everyone who was involved with all the preparations and hosting the amazing luncheon following the funeral service. I am truly grateful to all.

Roxann Albright and family

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 30, 2025

Be the Light



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.



March

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Sunday | March . 2 | Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m.. \Family Worship 10:30 a.m. |
| Wednesday | March 5 | Community Ash Wednesday Service At Salem 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | March 6 | Creation Care Committee 7 p.m. (Hybrid) |
| Sunday | March 9 | Turn Your Clocks Ahead Chime Rehearsal Choir Room 10 a.m. Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship with Communion 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School (6-12 grade) |
| Monday | March 10 | Council 7 p.m. Hybrid |
| Tuesday | March 11 | Profile Committee 6 p.m. |
| Wednesday | March 12 | Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. |
| Sunday | March 16 | Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Lebanon Rescue Mission Meal 2-6 p.m. Leaving Salem Parking Lot at 1:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | March 19 | Celebration of Life Service for Florence Umberger 6:30 p.m. at Salem. Visitation 5:30-6:30 |
| Saturday | March 22 | Creation Care Team Planting 9 a.m. |
| Sunday | March 23 | Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School (6-12th Grades) Membership Committee after Worship |
| Tuesday | March 25 | Christian Education Committee 1 p.m. |
| Wednesday | March 26 | Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. |
| Thursday | March 27 | Women's Guild 1 p.m. Kitchen |
| Sunday | March 30 | Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. |

All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube.

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UCC Salem Council Meeting Minutes/Hybrid

Date: January 13, 2025

Present: Joan Campbell, Michelle Alger, Faith Bicksler, Andrea Cooper, Jared Cooper, Jim Flanagan, Matt Hoover, Matt Kaag, Barb Kauffman (Zoom), Bill McNamara, Gretchen Monahan, Tom Peiffer, Cindy Umberger, Missy Weidler

Meeting Call to Order: 7:03 PM by Pres. Kaag

Opening Devotions: Faith Bixler led devotions and opening prayer

Approval of Slate of Officers: Approved by unanimous consent

Matt Kaag: President

Jim Flanagan: Vice President

Tom Peiffer: Treasurer

Bill McNamara: Secretary

Approval of Agenda for tonight's meeting - approved by Unanimous Consent

Secretary's Report: December 9, 2024 council minutes approved by Unanimous Consent

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report - approved by Unanimous Consent

Positive result: General Fund receipts up 11% from '23, "giving" is up 2.8% in '24. Employee retention credit brought us in \$11k.

Staff and administration, saved \$42k during the year due to Dwight's departure

Surplus of \$12,400 for the year

Tom showed the Funds report – Increase for year: \$20.5k

Counters needed: Don Umberger and Beth Gingrich will continue as non-members

Pastor's Report (Pastor Matt):

Confirmation started yesterday, 1/12/2025, it will go through June 8th

Teaching an 8-week class on Revelation

Old Business

Janitorial Position: Tom Peiffer explained the possibility of working with an autistic person with a work coach (Vista school); Tom has a job description. Tom will pursue for more information.

Steve Barb is done after 1/26, but he is willing to help bridge any gap

Gift for Steve and Nancy Barb - \$100 gift card consensus, Matt will get the GC and a card to pass around church

Tom Peiffer explained the Albright Proposal (Chris Albright) for the Campbelltown Village Square adjacent to the church. Tom showed the concept plan design; the developer is willing to hold a town hall meeting (ETH Design). Going to the Township for approval later this month.

Profile Committee:

Discussion on the questions that will be used during the annual meeting. 90 minutes designated during the annual meeting for the profile committee question discussion.

New Business:

Congregational Meeting:

Pres. Kaag reviewed the agenda and his plan for leading into the profile discussion

Tom will provide brief comments on the budget

Reports from committees will be briefly summarized by Matt.

Expansion of members willing to assist with Tech Services

Zoom – Jim Flanagan will distribute credentials to all of council and each committee chair

Service Live Streaming – this is more complicated – Jim will identify with some dates for training and create a sign-up.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds (Jared): Dec 11th last meeting, snow removal discussion; Tom is the contact for when the lot is cleared. The elevator is out of order. Pipe leak repaired in kitchen and the floor does not need repair. LED lighting replacement underway:

4 parts to the LED – downstairs, west main floor, sanctuary, and exterior lights

At this point, sanctuary and exterior still need done

Bottom Line Systems is the company

All paid by Penn Central Conf grant

Chairs – Ron and Tom

Christian Education: Jim Flanagan

Jim presented the committee minutes from their 12/10/2024 meeting.

Attending: Lee Ann Ream, Lisa Smith, Pastor Matt Hoover, Jim Flanagan

Highlights from the meeting:

Youth meetings during Sunday School time have been going well with Pam McNamara overseeing.

Alternatives for younger children to take part in worship were discussed, including the possibility of setting aside a separate special area in the sanctuary. Lisa Smith emphasized that there has been a bad track record recently of having kids attend Sunday School. The last four sessions have included 0, 4, 1, and 0 children respectively.

It was decided that children's Sunday School will be placed on hold starting in January and resuming on March 9, the first Sunday in lent. In the meantime, the interest and commitment of the families will be assessed. Pastor Matt suggested that just talking to the 2-3 families involved would be a better avenue for this than a survey. Lee Ann Ream is to draw up questions and review with Lisa Smith.

Confirmation for Grace and Nora will be starting on January 12. Pastor Matt has enough information and feedback to put out a schedule. Mentors Joan Alger and Cindy Umberger are to be consulted.

Next meeting: January 14, 2025 at 1 pm.

Fellowship (Michelle)

Christmas Eve fellowship was well received

Sip and Chat prior to church is catching on; this has mostly replaced 1st Sunday fellowship

Michelle is chair

Finance Stewardship (Tom)

Have not met formerly

Mowing operation has nearly doubled, looking at getting quotes from new companies

Might have raise the cemetery fees

Don U. heads the committee

Membership (Tom)

Caroling was a success

Tara leads it currently. Committee is only Tara and Tom.

Missions

Nothing to report

Creation Care

Jim Flanagan presented the minutes from their Thursday 1/9/2025 meeting. Highlights:

Present: Michelle Alger, Joan Campbell Alger, Louise Adams, Jim Flanagan, Tara Jankouskas, Melissa Kreider, Pam McNamara, Lisa Smith, Don Umberger

Looking to be a Creation Justice Church, Don & Melissa will lead this effort.

Winter Walk – 13 went on walk/lunch; plan to have more walks since it was successful

Adopt-a-Highway – Tuesday vs. Saturday wasn't much difference in traffic; next will be in conjunction with Campbelltown Community Alliance, possibly 4/19

Garden – Lisa and Don mulched out front in the fall, won't need to mulch again. Check with Michelle Brummer about mulch needs for trees. Will wait and check on weeding and any replacement or trimming until spring. Focus on tree planting and Dave's tree (below).

UCC Grant for LED light replacement, bat box, trees (10 redbud trees)

Earth Day Service

Melissa brought up the idea of a Wild Church service – outdoors nature/reflective service, date TBD (possibly 5/3) nature/reflective service, date TBD (possibly 5/3)

Mission Moment instead of whole Earth Day service, possibly on 4/27

Seed bomb making event – Pam will coordinate, all ages invited to make seed bombs from scrap paper and seeds

Next Meeting – Thursday, 3/6/25 at 7pm

Moyer Fund (Barb)

Next meeting is January 23, 9:30 am at the church

Chair is Barb

PACC and Interfaith Manor (Tom)

Next meeting January 28 to discuss concerns of the Phoenix Youth Center (at First UMC)

Women's Fellowship – no updates; planning activities later this month (Faith is chair)**Pastoral Relations (Missy)**

No update

Music and Worship

Chair is Karen U – no update

Youth (Andrea)

Snow tubing January 17, \$279 for the crafting donation

Next meetings February 10th, then March 10th

Meeting adjournment by unanimous consent: 8:44 PM



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-42

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-25

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63: 1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthian 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 13, 2025

Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40

April 20, 2025

Easter

Acts:10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-14

1 Corinthians: 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts5:27-32

Psalm 150

Rev.1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.



MARCH



BIRTHDAYS

3 David Mease
4 Tiffany Aungst
6 Kay Flory
6 Isabelle Ott
7 Kelly Angelo
7 Christopher Moyer
8 Karley Smith
9 Alicia Grimes
11 Margaret Smith
11 Landon Weldon
14 Louise Adams
16 Lee Ann Ream
16 R. Isaac Weidler
20 Anthony Davis
23 Renee Bordlemay
23 Alexander Gingrich
25 Audrey Schaeffer
26 Richard Yeckley
27 Faith Bicksler
28 Susan Aungst
30 Tyler Binkley
31 Jeannie Berlin



3 Deedee Peiffer
6 Cindy Umberger
7 Rachel Flanagan
8 Haley Albright
9 Claudia Boyer
9 John Risser
10 Ron Cline
11 Ella Longenecker
13 Robin Ream
17 Ray Latchford
21 Blair Thomas
23 Patricia Brandt
26 Kaylie Brown
27 Meah Gravely
28 Cole Miller
29 Michael Aungst
29 Barry Hite
30 Kylie Rose Uhler

The Lenten desert



During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling Old clothing and material that are too worn to use can be recycled. If possible, take to an H&M Store (they give you a coupon for each bag!), otherwise put it in the box in the west narthex and we'll take it for you. Thank you!

Writing Tool Recycling You can recycle old writing tools – crayons, markers, pens, and pencils. Staples Store will recycle these items as well as many other items (check their website!). Feel free to take to a Staples or place in the "Crayola marker" collection tube on the windowsill in the west narthex. Thank you!