



Conyngham United Methodist Church
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March 2022

Can you remember your most recent homecoming? Can you think of the last time you returned home after a long time? I remember one homecoming that was particularly meaningful. It was halfway through my third year of college. I worked at Bear Creek Camp all summer as a camp counselor. But at the end of the summer, I and a few other counselors agreed to stay behind at the camp for an extra week so I could help them clean up various sites and facilities. I happily did it, but because of that extra week, I never had the chance to return home before I went back to college. I ended up spending all of summer and fall away from home. At the time it was the longest time I had ever been away from my home and my family. So, you can imagine my joy when I came home for Christmas that year. It was a wonderful, calming, refreshing experience to be able to walk through the front door of my house. When I arrived, I just breathed a big sigh of relief. After you've been away for a while, you realize there is no place like home.

We are now in the season of lent in the church calendar. Lent is the season that is 40 days before Easter when refocus and rededicate and return to God in preparation for Good Friday and Easter, for the cross and the resurrection. But this year I like to think about Lent another way: returning home. Lent is coming home to God. We spend a lot of time wandering in our lives. Our minds wander when we are bored. Sometimes we feel so busy that it feels as if we are wandering through life. Our lives with God too tend to wander. And big events happen, business increases, and little happenings pile up we tend to focus less on God. Lent is a time to wander back to God. It's a time to refocus on our relationship with God. It's a time to return home to God and breathe that sigh of relief and calm that we can only find when we come back home.

We have a piece of scripture that speaks to this. It's Matthew 6:19-21 in the CEB translation: ¹⁹ "Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. ²¹ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This scripture teaches us that where our treasure is, there our heart will be. Another way of thinking about this is where we focus our heart, our attention, our passion, that is the place where we will find and have treasures. This invites us to return home to God. During this season of lent we are invited to find a home in God. To focus on God, give our hearts to God, and find treasure in that reinvigorated relationship with God. Because it's only when we focus on God and give God more attention that we truly are home with God. In that home with God, we find the treasures of peace, of rest, of someone to bear our burdens with us, of renewed hope, of renewed passion, of renewed purpose, of peace, and the treasure of eternal life with the risen Jesus. So, let's come home to God this lent. I invite you during this season from March 2 to April 17 to take a little extra time each day to reconnect and grow closer to God. Think of it as a new year's resolution, but only for the 40 days of lent. Seems much more doable, doesn't it? Check out our newsletter for some options to help you refocus on God. Focus on God, so that you can find a home in God Amen.

Peace and love,
Pastor Graham

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Lectioary

02—March

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17 (UMH 785)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

06—March

1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

13—March

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27 (UMH 758)

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

20—March

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8 (UMH 788)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

27—March

4th Sunday in Lent

UMCOR Sunday (offering)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32 (UMH 766)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Ron Eckrote, Pat Derr, Pastor Sandy Murphy, Valley Food Pantry Families, Irene Miller, Judy Younker, Connie Hofmann, Nancy Cromley, Irene Healey, Gil Bittenbender, Bev Hilliard, Sandy Houseknecht, Maxine and Bill Magill, Kayla Baucum, Larry Sims, Steve Janso, Tony Tier, Beverly Kraft, Father Rick, Marilyn Tedesco, Rose Luethy, Jacquelyn Walker and All Essential Workers.

Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, Pastor Graham Truscott, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Rev. Joanne Young of the Hazleton Enlarged Ministry and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection. Also, pray for the leaders of our country and military personnel.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01 Mar	Beth Yost
04 Mar	Ron Hofmann
04 Mar	Keelyn Radzwich
06 Mar	Autumn Mumich
08 Mar	Janessa Dowd
09 Mar	Bradley Young
20 Mar	Elizabeth Flaim
22 Mar	Amy Martin
27 Mar	Charlie Lingenfelter
29 Mar	Lou Millspaugh
31 Mar	William Pursell

March Anniversaries

None



April Birthdays

01-Apr	Beverly Hilliard
01 Apr	Joyce Boyle
02-Apr	Benjamin Young
05-Apr	Aaron Radzwich
08-Apr	Eileen Schuetz
08-Apr	Hazel DeBalko
09-Apr	Ellena Cara
10-Apr	Nancy Cromley
15-Apr	Kate Flaim
16-Apr	Connie Hofmann
17-Apr	Gilbert Bittenbender
20-Apr	Sadie DeBalko
22 Apr	Pastor Graham
25-Apr	Olivia Racho
27-Apr	Craig Bicking
27-Apr	Roger Legg
29-Apr	Heather Groce
30-Apr	Robert Stark, Sr.
30-Apr	Karen Lingenfelter

April Anniversaries

23 Apr	Carl and Kate Flaim
30 Apr	Rich & Paula Piacenti

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Our **Ash Wednesday worship service** is on **March 2nd at 7:00pm** in person and online (on Facebook and YouTube). We will offer ashes to go from 7:15am to 9:00am and from 5:00pm until 6:15pm. If you don't have the time to stop into the service, or if you want to witness to your faith throughout the day, then come on by for ashes and a blessing. You will be able to drive up and receive your ashes from the comfort of your car. During the same times, ashes are available for pick up if you want to use them when you worship online with us.



Tools for Ministry: It's time to open the proverbial toolbox again and help build and repair church ministries—to fix what's broken and improve what's working. That requires leadership development and training more than anything else. The Eastern PA Conference will sponsor its 2022 Tools for Ministry on Saturday, March 5th from 9AM till 12:30PM. Classes will be offered virtually on ZOOM. Please check out the classes available, there is something for everyone! <https://www.epaumc.org/news/tools-for-ministry-set-for-march-5-on-zoom/>



BLOOD DRIVE

We will be hosting a blood drive here at our church on **March 15th. From 1:00-6:00 PM.** Sign up and get a free St. Patrick's Day T-shirt. (while supplies last) You can schedule an appointment by going to the Red Cross website or calling them @ 570-455-9517



**Don't forget to turn
your clocks ahead!!!**

March 13th!!

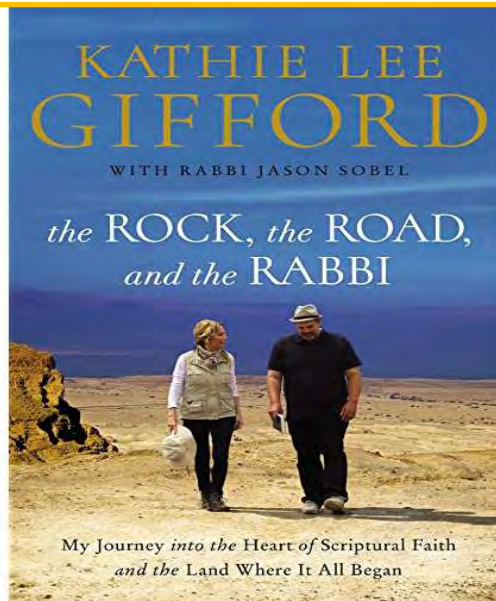
Christian Conversations

This is our Bible study where we talk about current events and how we can react to them in light of our faith and the Bible. This is not your typical Bible Study but is filled with good conversation about the God, the Bible, current events, and how our faith calls us to live. Come and join us **every other Wednesday at 6:30pm**. Our next Christian Conversation is **March 9**. If you need to you may join on zoom as well. Please contact Pastor Graham for the zoom link- wgtruscott@gmail.com

SISTERS

MARCH 8TH

10:00 AM



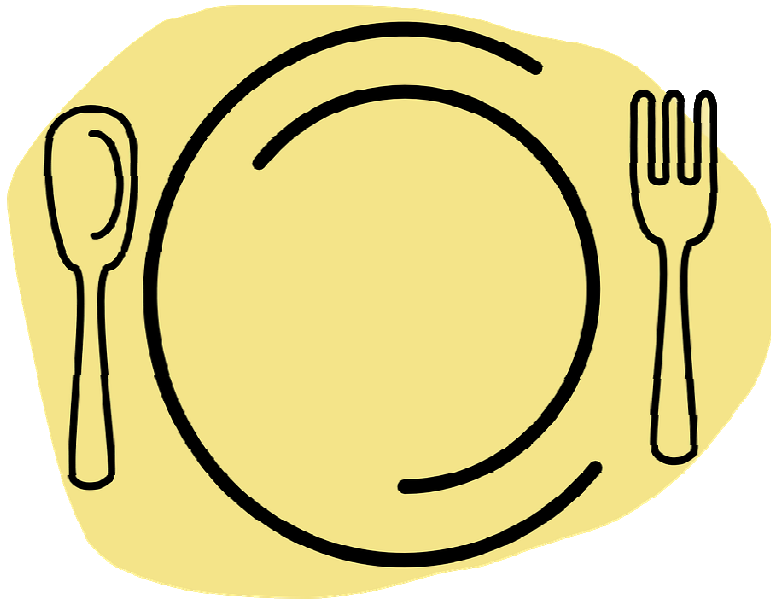
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AS WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY TO A DEEPER FAITH.

THIS IS A 6 WEEK SESSION YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Families Growing Together

This is a new small group for the season of lent. If you want your family more invested in their faith, want to talk about God and faith more with your family, or want to grow closer to God as a family together, then this is the small group for you. **This small group, called Families Growing Together will meet once a week on Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm in the church office, , from March 15 to April 12, with a break on April 5 because of church council meeting. This will give us 4 weeks to grow together during the season of Lent.**





Lent Lunches and Dinners

Our tradition of Lenten lunches continues this year! But we'll be doing things a little differently this year. We will alternate between dinner and lunch every other week this year.

Lunch

We will have our usual lunches in our social hall on Wednesday at 12:00pm noon on March 9, March 23, and April 6. We will have lunch in person this year, but we can only fit about 30-35 people with regard for safety while this pandemic still lingers. We will also be broadcasting the reflections and worship on the radio like last year. Just turn your car radio to 89.5 FM and join us from lunch from your car, if that would be your preference. We are planning to invite pastors and preachers from surrounding congregations, but the schedule is not finalized yet. Look online at our website for updates as to who is preaching when- conynghamumc.org.

Dinner

On Wednesdays March 16, March 30, and April 13 we will have dinners in partnership with Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Conyngham at their church. These dinners will be potluck style, so bring a dish to share, from 6:00pm to 6:30pm, followed by a time of worship together from 6:30-7:15pm, where we will learn and practice various spiritual practices that help us grow closer to God. Lent is the perfect time to learn how to grow close to God! You are of course welcome to join them for dinners on the Wednesdays we have our lunches as well.

You're Invited!



March Flowers

March 06—Pamela Croughn will have flowers in memory of Donald Hunter.

March 13—Open

March 20—Judy Whitaker will have flowers in memory of Mike and their Anniversary.

March 27—Open



The Bereavement Ministry of St. John Bosco Church will provide the **bereaved support group sessions** for those who have lost a loved one recently or are having difficulty in their grief. These sessions will provide insight and support into your grief following death. The sessions will be offered weekly for seven weeks on Monday evenings from 6PM to 8PM beginning Monday, March 7, 2022. Registration is required to assure seating and materials. If you are interested, call Maria Guza (570) 455-3874.

Greater Hazleton Unit American Cancer Society Daffodil Days: Mini potted Daffodils \$7.00 Each. Order by calling 570-459-1212. Money and orders are due by Monday, March 7th. Daffodils will be available for pick up on Monday, March 21st at First Presbyterian Church, 201 West Broad Street, Hazleton, PA from 1:00-3:00 PM.