

# OUR SPIRE

Volume 38 March 2018

Number 2

## His Love

His love is a beacon shining through  
the darkest night

Guiding us always toward the light  
That leads to our heavenly home  
When once we get there we'll never  
roam.

His love will keep us safe from all  
harms

He enfolds us within His arms  
Embracing us and holding tight  
Giving of His strength and might.

His love will never fail no matter  
what we do or say

He'll be there each and every day  
To keep us close and in His care  
Give Him your heart if you dare.

By Kay Gow





# Pastor's Page

The January sermon series established what scripture makes perfectly clear: God has plans. Specifically, God has plans for His people. As a church, we can follow God's plan with full on obedience, or not.

Said even more specifically, we can keep control ourselves, or we can intentionally give control to God.

According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, control is "to have power over" something. As humans, here's the deal: we love to have control over the things we do. We love to have a plan. We have grown up hearing advice like this:

"You can do anything you set your mind to do!"

"Follow your heart!"

"You can do it!"

Yet this happens. When things don't go the way we've planned, we feel disappointed, unfulfilled, anxious, sad, or maybe even angry. We might have pictured our lives differently than they've turned out to be. We may have pictured church life differently than what it has turned out to be.

For Christians, the process of planning cannot start with our plans or desires. We are called to deny ourselves. Recall scripture. In Luke 9:23, Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me."

Daily. Yep. Jesus said daily. He didn't mean once a year, once a quarter, once a month, or once a quarter.

Taking up our crosses and following daily means what should not surprise you, a life on the move. That is exactly what this church is doing. Our Missionary Society has ramped up their projects of love and care. GAME ON has done the same with lap blankets and cookies to three local fire stations.

More and more we are modeling Jesus' ministry pattern. Jesus went to the people. So are we. We are not sitting. We are not waiting. We are not resting on ideas that once worked wonderfully and now yield little for the gain and glory of the Kingdom of God.

We are on the move.

And God (specifically God's plan for us) is leading the way.

Here in the country, the cultural norm of the 50s, 60s and 70s was that you were affiliated with a church. Affiliation meant different things to different people, no doubt, but our culture today is nearly opposite of what you just read. More and more and more of us are not involved in anything that involves a commitment, including church.

Are we done? Should we quit?

## **Pastor's Report to Council**

I have been busy with:

- Have created an original sermon series for Lent. Join us!
- Counseled couple before their upcoming June wedding.
- Counseling two persons.
- Preached the first sermon in the Lenten series (in Hallstead) on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Met twice with Cub, Boy and Girl Scout leaders to discuss the needs of our community.
- My air flow test at my latest pulmonologist visit revealed I have 83% lung capacity!  
I'm getting better!
- Look forward to the next pastoral relations meeting as we have two comments made from the congregation that we need to discuss and respond to with love.

## **Give It Up!!!**

### **Lenten Series**

#### **Third Wednesday in Lent: March 7th: Giving Up Superiority: John 4:5-42**

Host Church: Hop Bottom UMC

Special Music: United Methodist Community Church, Great Bend

Preacher: Jackie Condon

Children's Message: Jane Pykus

Refreshments provided by Host Church: UMCC, Great Bend

#### **Fourth Wednesday in Lent: March 14th: Giving Up Enemies: Luke 19:37-44**

Host Church: First Universalist Church of Brooklyn

Special Music: Hop Bottom UMC

Preacher: Lynn Wilcox

Children's Message: Will Hagenbuch

Refreshments provided by Host Church: First Universalist Church of Brooklyn

#### **Fifth Wednesday in Lent: March 21st: Giving Up Our Lives: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45**

Host Church: Gibson or South Gibson

Special Music: First Presbyterian, Hallstead

Preacher: Lucas Taylor

Children's Message: Lynn Wilcox

Refreshments provided by Host Church: Either Gibson or South Gibson UMC

# **Lenten Program - The "CROSS WALK"**

## **Be Christ's presence in our community.**

The Cross Walk will begin at the Clifford Baptist Church at noon March 30, and process through town to the cemetery on Main Street.

Readers are needed for the Seven Words of Christ to be shared at each stop.  
# 1 is already taken.....so 6 others are available .

Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross  
Prepare Your Heart for Holy Week and Good Friday

Taken...1."Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

2."This day you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

3."Woman, behold your son." (John 19:26-27)

4."My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34; Matthew 27:46)

5."I thirst." (John 19:28)

6."It is finished." (John 19:30)

7."Into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Bonnie 570-222 -3809

# Worship Assistants

## Readers

March 4 Sue Needham  
March 11 Kandy Wellman  
March 18 Lynnette Millard  
March 25 Nancy Marr

## Ushers

March 4 Children from Sunday School  
March 11 Alyssa and Evan Clarkson  
March 18 Girl Scouts  
March 25 Sharon Decker and Kay Gow

## Greeters

March 4 Judy Mitchell  
March 11 Kay Gow  
March 18 Girl Scouts  
March 25 Nancy Burris

## Flowers

March 03  
March 11  
March 18 Kay Gow  
March 25

## Address Changes

### Please Update your Directory

Bob and Irene Deemer  
56 Hillcrest Drive  
Covington Township  
PA 18424

Ken & Betty Lou Bennett ( thru 3/26/18)  
10307 Heritage Bay Blvd unit 1225  
Naples, FL 34120

Mr./Mrs. Chad & Kara Batzel  
Hunter O'Malley and Aspen Batzel  
676 Bartholomew Road  
Kingsley, PA 18826

## March birthdays and anniversaries

March 01	Barbara Weideman	March 12	Scott Muller
March 03	Katherine Masters		Lyra Brosius
	Kassandra Lamberson	March 14	Harry and Julie Gardner
March 04	Dorothy Greene		Ethan Rodriquez
March 05	Erika Lewis Gething	March 22	Liz Grant
	Gina Yarrish		Peg Empet
March 07	Dale Grant	March 25	Gus Ferrara
March 10	Nicholas Weideman	March 26	Bob and Denise Finangan
March 11	Cindy Millard Galambos	March 28	Gilliam Marie Millard
	Judy Mitchell		

## Correspondence

First Congregational Church UCC

Dear Cradle Roll Group,

Thank you all so much for the lovely blanket and accessories! They are beautifully made and Sallie will love them. We are so grateful for the prayers, love, and support of our church family!

Love David, Jackie, and Sallie Schulte

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Congregation,

A heartfelt thank you to my church family for your kindness with comforting words, hugs, and cards during the time of the loss of our Mother.

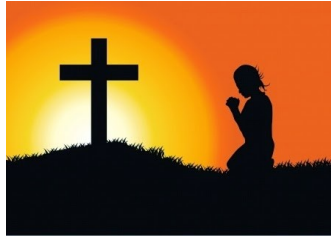
The Family of Fay Button

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Cradle Roll Crew,

Thank you so much for the book! I sure love reading it! I appreciate your thoughtfulness! I keep it on my bookshelf and read it each day! The awesome blanket you sent me is one of my favorites!

Thank you! Jax Sherring (and Mommy and Daddy)



## *Prayer Concerns*

Rick Masters  
Corinne Chichester  
Patrick Simons  
Jim (Kandy's uncle)  
Jim Ketterer  
Nicholas (George Weideman's great grandson)  
Emily (Craig Stout's daughter-in-law)  
Those with the flu  
Our Veterans and service men and women  
The homeless  
Our nation and our leaders  
Alan Miller  
Ronnie Burris  
Bonnie (Linda Lindsey's cousin)  
Mrs. Giordano  
The Wilmarth family  
EMS  
Walter Baker  
Our Law Enforcers  
Our Military and their families  
Joe Kulyeshie's sister Elizabeth and family  
Rick Wilkins  
Firefighters  
Family of Mountain View teacher that was killed on  
81, Patricia Pasierb

Kathy Brown's friend Carolyn, her leukemia has returned after three years of remission. Carolyn needs a bone marrow transplant, so prayers are also asked for a donor. Please join the bone marrow registry.

All who love and have lost in and around the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida

Linda Lindsey

Luvia (Paula Millard's friend)

Charlotte (Bonnie Love-Colwell's aunt)

The family of Frank Winger II

Hunter (Gail Batzel's grandson)

Rory Ritter

Donna and her son Alex

Sue Needham and Alice Archers's brother, Larry Noone, a Vietnam Vet, was called to heaven. Let us keep Larry's 4 grown children in our prayers as well.

## **Home Bound**



The Carey Family

Dorothy Greene

Barbara Pease

Catherine Escandel

Doris Morrison

Alice Watkins

# Missionary NEWS

We assembled 53 Hygiene Kits, 73 School Kits and 6 Clean-Up Kits for the Church World Service Disaster Kit Program. The items were obtained through church donations and purchased with donated funds and funds gained through the Election Day Bake Sale.

The School bags were made by members of the Missionary Group and the Sewing and Knitting group with material that had been donated to the project.



\*\*\*\*\*

*This Spire is dedicated to the Memory  
of the "Three Weird Sisters".  
(A nickname they gave to themselves).*

*Prudence Clark  
Ruth Bennett  
Fay Button  
Dearly loved and deeply missed*





## Willing Workers

The Willing Workers served soup, sandwiches and dessert at the Annual meeting in January. The large group Meeting is March 7, 2018 at 1:00.

A new gas/electric stove was purchased through the generosity of several memorial contributions and the remaining cost with Willing Worker funds. Please see the letter below.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Congregation,

The Willing Workers purchased a new stove for the kitchen. Much of the cost of the stove came from money contributed to the Memorial Fund. We would like to thank the families of those who gave us permission to use the money contributed for their loved ones.

Many thanks to the families of:

Ken Adams,  
Lewis (Chalk) Brainard,  
Janice Estabrook,  
William (Butch) Hagenbuch  
Ken and Eleanor Jesse,  
Ken and Betty Laurie,  
Wayne Warren

Sincerely,

The Willing Workers

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Deacon Minutes February 12, 2018**

All Deacons have received training to administer Blessed Elements.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service March 29 at 6:00.

**Installation of officers**-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of February

**Service honoring State Troopers**- April 22, 2018

**Grandparents Day**- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in September. September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Service for First Responders** –\_October 28, 2018

**Tree Lighting**-voted to have this be an annual event, Sunday after Thanksgiving. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

-We now have a prayer book that will be available for the Congregation to write personal prayers in throughout the week. These prayers will be prayed over by committees each week . The prayers will not be posted to FB or sent on the prayer chain unless you personally request that you would like your prayer made public. Dave Schulte III will discuss the Prayer Book during a Sunday service.

-Kay will order 40 books that will help prepare for Easter. These will be available for the Congregation to take as they wish.

-Kay is new Deacon Chairperson. Ginny will be new council Rep. Tammy will remain secretary.

The next meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Pastor's office.

## **Christian Education Minutes**

CE met on February 6th.

The following topics were discussed: A pageant for Palm Sunday or Easter will be written or found for the children to present to the congregation.

Game -On theme for 9 February was Valentine's Day

After the Christmas break the children returned to learning more about the books of the Bible. They began with Ruth whose key lesson was- God is always at work in our lives

1st Samuel- Trust and obey and you will be blessed

2nd Samuel- The plans God has for us are bigger than we can imagine

1st and 2nd Kings- God has a plan

1st and 2nd Chronicles- We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

The meeting ended in prayer. The next meeting is 5th or 6th March at 6:15

## **Stewardship Committee**

Nominations for this year's committee positions were taken and quickly filled: Chairperson: Jo-Ann Titus, Vice Chairperson and Representative to Council: Craig Stout, Secretary and Reporter to Spire: Sharon Kinney

Eleanor Meyer, a member of the Discretionary Fund Committee, choir, and Willing Workers will soon be moving and new member needs to be appointed. Michelle Estabrook has graciously volunteered to serve on this committee, which meets 2-4 times a year to address personal issues, which arise in the congregation.

Will met with Dr. Chris Lake, acting elementary principle at Mt. view to discuss how our church might work with the school in addressing the needs of our community's young people and their families. One suggestion Dr. Lake had was supplying gas gift cards, which the school would distribute. We will revisit the idea and discuss other possibilities of Christian outreach next month.

A mission statement is still "under construction" with the decision to make it short, concise, and easy to understand is the goal. We have several possibilities with input from other committees including the suggestion from the Deacons: "Reaching up to God, reaching out to people." We hope to finalize a mission statement by next meeting.

Our two intrepid 7<sup>th</sup> graders, Tanner Stout and Ethan Rodriguez attended our meeting. Both young men are committed to the future of our church and its commitment of care to our community.

Alan Miller, former Penn Northeast Conference Minister, is battling brain cancer in North Carolina. With prayers, love, and support for Alan and his family, we will reach out to them with monetary assistance to provide caregivers who can offer respite care for his family. A donation of \$100 has been given and sent to them and we will accept donations in the next few weeks to send an additional gift to the Miller's.

Joann will email the annual outreach and activity calendar to committee members.

The next meeting is on March 15 @7:00pm.

## **Trustees**

Kavetsky will put siding on every side of the church but the front of the church. All the old siding will be removed. A Hardy weather barrier will put up along with flashing between the old section and the new section. All the windows will be trimmed in PVC trim. Kavetsky recommended that the church purchase new storm windows. Trustees will research the cost.





Game-On delivered cookies to Three local Fire Companies as a way of thanking them for all they do!



Game On worked to make a blanket for “My View” teacher, Rebecca Giordano.



GameOn visited the HVA on January 26th to deliver “rocks” that the kids had painted and decorated at a previous GameOn get together. The kids were graciously welcomed by the tenants who absolutely LOVED their special rocks! Game On plans to visit the HVA again in the near future.



Pancake Supper!!



# Just for Kids

## St. Patrick's Day

M	H	M	W	O	L	A	R	D	E	H	T	A	C
L	M	N	C	E	O	D	I	C	A	I	W	S	M
T	N	I	A	S	L	E	I	H	D	H	C	H	H
R	N	I	L	B	U	D	D	E	I	U	I	A	N
P	P	R	A	O	A	I	A	S	N	E	S	M	I
W	P	I	F	E	F	V	K	F	U	S	U	R	R
L	H	A	R	P	I	E	D	E	A	N	M	O	E
H	S	U	R	I	Y	I	A	S	H	A	S	C	L
O	C	E	S	A	I	N	G	T	C	K	S	K	A
G	R	E	E	N	D	O	O	I	E	E	Y	S	N
M	A	R	C	H	N	E	L	V	R	S	K	N	D
C	I	T	L	E	C	R	D	A	P	S	C	I	S
R	K	N	B	R	U	E	I	L	E	R	U	E	C
D	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	R	L	E	L	A	A

CATHEDRAL  
FESTIVAL  
GREEN  
RAINBOW  
SHAMROCK  
SAINT  
LEPRECHAUN  
WHISKEY  
IRELAND  
CELTIC  
MUSIC  
SNAKES  
GOLD  
HARP  
MARCH  
LUCKY  
DUBLIN  
PARADE

The **Origins of St. Patrick's Day**. **St. Patrick's Day** celebrates the Roman Catholic feast **day** of the patron **saint** of Ireland. **St. Patrick** died on March 17, 461. But did you know that he wasn't even Irish?



**2018 LILY ORDER FORM**

Please order: \_\_\_\_\_ lily plants at \$7.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (total price)

Given By: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**“DEADLINE March 18, 2018”**

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail order and payment to:

First Congregational-UCC P. O. Box 217 Harford, PA 18823

\*\*\*\*\*

**Save the Date**

**May 1, 2018**

You are invited to attend a buffet lunch on May 1, 2018,  
at Elk Lake VoTech at 11:30AM.

Cost \$8.00 –dessert additional \$3.00

Please sign poster in Gathering Room or let Ellen Holdredge know if you will be attending this buffet/lunch.  
Ellen’s telephone –570-289-4730 or [jeholdredge@gmail.com](mailto:jeholdredge@gmail.com).

We must let the school know how many are coming by April 15, 2018.

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The Clifford Community Youth Group announces their eleventh annual

**“Homemade Easter Egg Sale”**

The sale will run through Thursday,

March 15, 2018.



The cost is \$2.00 each for either Homemade Peanut Butter or Coconut Cream Eggs. The eggs will be available for pick up on both March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Clifford United Methodist Church.

The fundraiser will help the youth be able to attend conferences and youth gatherings throughout the entire year. Preorders are appreciated. To place an order, please call

Robin Correll at 222-4344 or Lisa Barhite 222-5493. Thanks for your support!



# March 2018

March 2018							April 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Feb 25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 7:30am 11:00am Firemen's Bkfst (fire) 9:30am 10:30am SS & Adult SS 11:00am 12:00pm Servi 7:00pm 8:30pm Boy Sc	<b>5</b> 8:00am 9:00am Pastoral Relations (P 9:30am 10:30am Mon. 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor- 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm 10:00pm Fair m	<b>6</b> 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:15pm 7:45pm Ch Ed 7:00pm 8:00pm 7:00 Choir (MR)	<b>7</b> 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking 6:00pm 8:00pm Boy Sc 7:00pm 8:00pm Lenten Hope Set Home Mess	<b>8</b> 10:00am 1:00pm 10:00 KWW LH	<b>9</b> Pastor's day off 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking 6:00pm 8:00pm GAME ON E2	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30am 10:30am SS & Adult SS 11:00am 12:00pm Service (Sanctuary) 12:00pm 12:30pm Sou 7:00pm 8:30pm Boy Sc	<b>12</b> 9:30am 10:30am Mon. mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor-office 7:00pm 8:30pm Deacons 7:00pm 8:30pm Trustees	<b>13</b> 7:30am 8:30am Men's Bkfst (Bingham) 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 7:00pm 8:00pm 7:00 Choir (MR)	<b>14</b> 1:00pm 3:00pm Knitting et al (LH) 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking 6:00pm 8:00pm Boy Sc 7:00pm 8:00pm Lenten Breakfast	<b>15</b> 7:00pm 8:30pm Stewardship	<b>16</b> Pastor's day off 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking	<b>17</b> 1:00pm 4:00pm LH in USE-Gow
<b>18</b> 9:30am 10:30am SS & Adult SS 11:00am 12:00pm Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 8:30pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>19</b> 9:30am 10:30am Mon. mtg (PO) 12:00pm 1:00pm Ladies lunch (Bingh 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor- 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm 3:00pm Missionary LH 7:00pm 8:00pm 7:00 Choir (MR)	<b>21</b> SPIRE DEADLINE 1:00pm 3:00pm Knitting et al (LH) 1:00pm 1:30pm Walkin 6:00pm 8:00pm Boy Sc 7:00pm 8:00pm Lenten South Gillesen	<b>22</b> 6:30pm 8:30pm Council (LH)	<b>23</b> Pastor's day off 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking 6:00pm 8:00pm GAME ON E2	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30am 10:30am SS & Adult SS 11:00am 12:00pm Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 8:30pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>26</b> 9:30am 10:30am Mon. mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor-office	<b>27</b> 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 7:00pm 8:00pm 7:00 Choir (MR)	<b>28</b> 1:00pm 3:00pm Knitting et al (LH) 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking	<b>29</b> 6:00pm 7:00pm Maundy Thursday (LH 6:00)	<b>30</b> Pastor's day off 1:00pm 1:30pm Walking 6:00pm 8:00pm 12:00 Cress Walk Clifford Baptist	<b>31</b>





Non-Profit Organization

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Montrose, PA 18801

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
5016 Creek Road  
PO Box217  
Harford, PA 18823  
Tel.570-434-2260  
Email: firstch@nep.net  
Web URL: <http://www2nep.net>

.....the people in darkness have seen a great light

Isaiah 9:2

*Join Us Each Sunday!!*

Rev. William Hagenbuch –Pastor  
Home Phone: 570-434-7729  
Email: wrh@nep.net  
Office Hours: Mon. 4-5:30 pm

Judy Mitchell –Sec  
Hours: Tues. 1-5 pm  
Thurs or Fri 11am -