

February 2021

The Higher Ground Herald

West Newton United Presbyterian Church

300 S. Third and E. Main Streets in West Newton, PA

From the Pastor's Desk...

Worship Schedule

Worship begins at 10 AM.

In person and on Facebook

February 7th

Communion

**"Faith in Action" - Series
on Hebrews 11**

Genesis 4: 1-16

Hebrews 11: 1-4

***Election of Elders—after
worship**

February 14th

Transfiguration of the

Lord

"Shine On"

Psalms 50: 1-6

Matthew 17: 1-9

***Annual Congregational
Meeting— after worship**

February 17th

Ash Wednesday—7 PM

***Imposition of Ashes**

February 21st

Lent #1

**"Faith in Action" -Series
Hebrews 11: 5-6**

February 28th

Lent #2

**"Faith in Action" - Series
Hebrews 11: 7**

This month we continue our reflection on the various seasons and important festival days of the liturgical church year by considering Ash Wednesday (February 17) and the season of Lent. Although the middle of February is typically reserved for feelings of love and romance, this year the church prepares to consider our unfaithfulness; to contemplate how we have not loved God and not obeyed his will as we ought. We reflect on our mortality "from dust you came to dust you shall return." We reflect on the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. Bring on the ashes!

We are not overly obsessed with chilling, ghastly thoughts of our waywardness. Not at all. We spend necessary, beneficial time reflecting on the reality of our mortality. We do this so that we are prepared to receive the life that God has for us in Christ, and to receive it to its full meaning. And so during the time in between Jesus' transfiguration and the joyful festival day of Easter, we embark upon our pilgrimage of Lent. This year it just so happens that our observance of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is sprinkled with a dose of irony. Our solemn journey of reflection, lack of love for God, and mortality begins just a couple days after Valentine's Day.

The word Lent comes from the old English word for "spring." As I once heard it put, Lent is "spring training" for the Christian as we are tutored in repentance, faith, and holy living. The season has been kept as a time for devotion and introspection that comes forth from a faithful heart that dwells on God's Word and draws life and hope from it. The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. The purpose of the imposition of the ashes is to call to mind the curse given to Adam by God after the Fall in Gen 3:19, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

(continued)

The Sundays in Lent focus on the themes of temptation, God's mercy, the life of a disciple, the refreshment that God gives to his disciples, and the lordship of Jesus. A Lenten devotional booklet will be made available to help in your daily focus on the Lord and our obedience to his words and ways.

May our Lord richly bless your contemplation on the Lenten season this year even while you reflect on God's great love for you through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace

Pastor John

Session Highlights

There was no session meeting held in January.



Greeters

We are looking for greeters.

If you would like to be a greeter, please contact the office at wnupc1@gmail.com or 724-872-7414.



Truth Seekers Bible Study is held via Zoom only on Tuesdays at 11 am. The Zoom ID is 891 3938 9986.

Un-Decking the Halls

Many thanks to Ben Markle for taking down and putting away the Christmas tree and decorations from around the church.

Valentines for Shut-ins

Brighten the winter days for those who can't get out. Add them to your Valentine list, letting them know you are thinking of them. This is a list of shut-ins from our congregation.

Elmer Bassler - Redstone Highlands, 12921 Redstone Drive, Apt. 228, North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Doris Markle - 661 Mt. Pleasant Road, West Newton, PA 15089

Ed and Louise Landini, 12921 Redstone Drive, Apt. 106, North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Mary Anne Lender – 365 Vernon Drive, West Newton, PA 15089

Helen Gara – 207 Venable St., West Newton, PA 15089

Mary Greenawalt – 801 Mt. Pleasant Rd., West Newton, PA 15089

Winnie Davis – 747 Rt.981, Smithton, PA 15479

Sara Kay Fenton, 4043 Briarwood Dr., Jeannette, PA 15644 – she's not a shut-in, but she would really be glad to receive greetings from her church friends.



PW United Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 17 at noon in the social room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Lesson 1 of “**Into the Light**” Bible study will be presented. If you ordered a Bible study, you can pick it up in the church office. All women are welcome.

PW Sewing will meet Wed. Feb. 24, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the McKee room, to prepare items for local and overseas missions. No skill is needed to participate in the sewing group, so please join us for the fellowship.

Mitten Tree Totals are 42 gloves, 38 hats, 9 hat and glove sets, 12 scarves and 6 socks. These items were sent to a West Newton Elementary School. Thank for your donations.

Apple Dumplings – Next sale is Thursday, April 21. **Save the date.**

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## Financial News

### Year-end Statements

The **2020** year-end contribution statements were mailed to all who made a contribution to WNUPC during 2020. Please contact the office or Linda Blick, Financial Secretary, if you have any questions.

### Contribution Envelopes

Contribution Envelopes are available to all attendees of our worship service. Please see Linda Blick if you would like to have them.

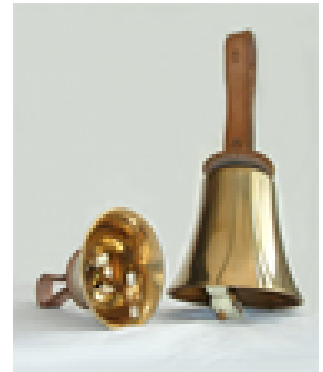


### **Chancel Choir**

Chancel Choir will not meet until further notice.  
Please contact Jim Sykes for more  
information.

### **Bell Choir**

Bell choir will resume at a later date.  
Joyce Pawlik for more information .



### **First Tuesday Fellowship Dinner**

The next First Tuesday Fellowship  
Dinner will be on Tuesday, February 2 at  
6 pm at Gary's Chuckwagon.



### **Men's Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast is held on the third  
Saturday of the month at Gary's  
Chuckwagon at 9 a.m. The next  
Men's Breakfast will be Saturday,  
February 20 at 9 am.





Coffee Fellowship Hour usually takes place following worship, on the second Sunday of every month, in our social room. The next coffee hour will be March 14th immediately following worship.

Many people in our community often struggle to provide food for their families. The second Sunday of each month, we will be collecting money in support of the Westmoreland County Food Pantry now located at our church the second Friday of each month. Thank you in advance for your generosity. The next collection will be February 14. Envelopes will be available near the offering plate.



**Feeding the Community**

## Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc.

The Westmoreland County Food Pantry will be located at our church going forward. This takes place the second Friday of every month.

The next Food Pantry pick up will be February 12th. We are in need of volunteers to help pack and distribute the food boxes. If you would like to help with this important mission in the future please contact the church office (724-872-7414) or Linda Shoaf (724-872-7857) for your name to be put on a list.

### Our Session

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

#### Class of 20201

Clark Detman

Ron Chamberlain

Colleen Martinelli

Harry Hepler

#### Class of 2022

Deb King

Joyce Pawlik

Pete Pritchard

Karen Murray

#### Class of 2023





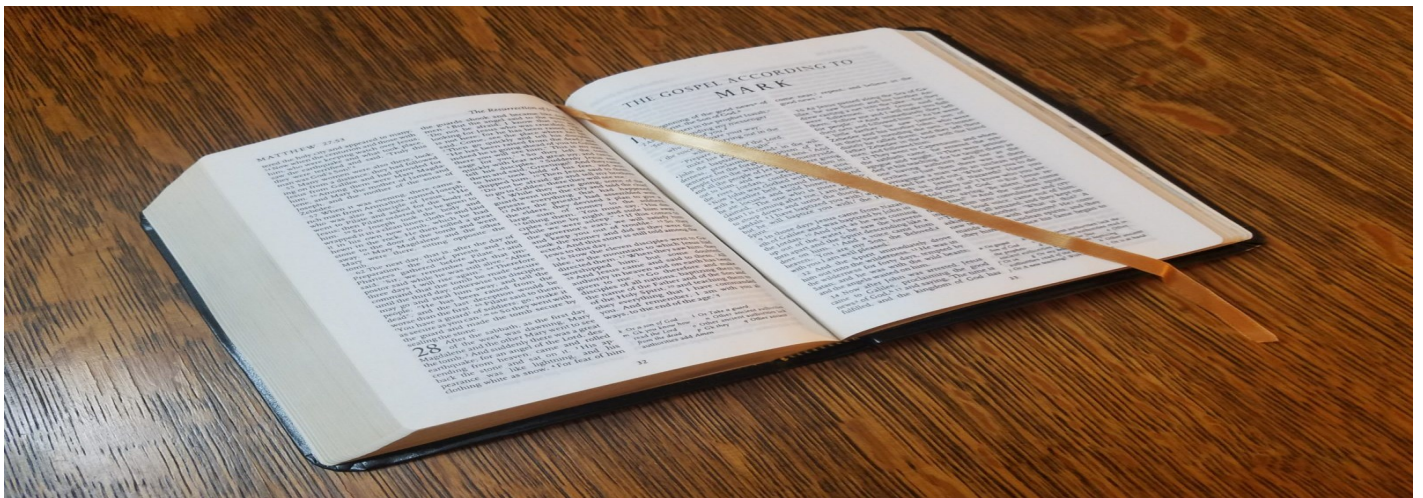
February 3 - What does the Bible say about war?

February 10—What does the Bible say about peace?

February 17—NO CLASS—ASH WEDNESDAY

February 24— John 18: 1-24

Disciples Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 6 pm in  
the chapel and also via Zoom ID #820 8871 4684





February Birthdays

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Gail Burkett    | 1st  |
| Lynn Hoak       | 6th  |
| Terry Peto      | 6th  |
| Wyatt Lowanse   | 10th |
| Lydia Lowanse   | 10th |
| Phyllis Lanham  | 12th |
| Sherry Tarr     | 12th |
| Doris Flock     | 18th |
| Dave Craig      | 19th |
| Edie Wojkowshi  | 22nd |
| Susan Sahar     | 22nd |
| Ed Pawlik       | 25th |
| Elmer Bassler   | 25th |
| Mary Jane Smith | 25th |
| Winnie Davis    | 26th |
| Pete Pritchard  | 28th |
| Steven Manon    | 28th |
| Art Rock        | 28th |



happy anniversary

February

Anniversaries

Jim & Dawn Martini      20th

We would love to announce and  
celebrate your birthday and wedding  
anniversary. Please let us know when it  
is...



## Announcements

Please submit any announcements by the **end of the day on Wednesdays each week.**

Deadline for updates and notices for the March publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Monday, February 22nd.**  
Contact the church office by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at [wnupc1@gmail.com](mailto:wnupc1@gmail.com)

Office hours are Monday—Friday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

### Weekly attendance

| December | Adults                             | Children | Total | Offering |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------|-------|----------|
| 3        | 31                                 | 3        | 34    | \$2155   |
| 10       | 27                                 | 1        | 28    | \$2950   |
| 17       | 27                                 | 4        | 31    | \$1860   |
| 24       | 21                                 | 3        | 24    | \$2750   |
| 31       | unavailable at time of publication |          |       |          |

4/5 week total    \$ 9715

## Would you like a visit from Pastor John?

**Or, do you know someone who would?**

**Please contact him at 724-872-7414 (office) or 606-261-0232 (cell).**

**Email: [wnupc1@gmail.com](mailto:wnupc1@gmail.com)**

**Website [WNUPC.com](http://WNUPC.com)**



# February 2021

**Sun**                      **Mon**                      **Tue**                      **Wed**                      **Thu**                      **Fri**                      **Sat**

|                                                                            |                                                     |                                                                               |                                                                      |                                             |                           |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                            | <b>1</b><br>Mantle House<br>WN Borough              | <b>2</b> Scouts<br>11 Truth<br>Seekers<br>First Tuesday<br>Dinner @<br>Gary's | <b>3</b><br>6 Bible Study<br>Scouts                                  | <b>4</b>                                    | <b>5</b>                  | <b>6</b>                                      |
| <b>7</b><br>10 Worship<br>With<br>Communion<br>Elder<br>Elections          | <b>8</b><br>Mantle House<br>WN Borough              | <b>9</b><br>11 Truth<br>Seekers<br>Scouts<br>WN Cemetery<br>Board             | <b>10</b><br>6 Bible Study<br>Scouts                                 | <b>11</b><br>10 WNAC<br>Pastor's<br>Meeting | <b>12</b><br>10 Food Bank | <b>13</b>                                     |
| <b>14</b><br>10 Worship<br>Congregational<br>Meeting                       | <b>15</b><br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED<br>PRESIDENT'S<br>DAY | <b>16</b><br>11 Truth<br>Seekers<br>Scouts                                    | <b>17</b><br>7 pm ASH<br>WEDNESDAY<br>SERVICE IN<br>CHAPEL<br>Scouts | <b>18</b>                                   | <b>19</b>                 | <b>20</b><br>9 Men's<br>Breakfast @<br>Gary's |
| <b>21</b><br>10 Worship<br>Installation of<br>Elders<br>Session<br>Meeting | <b>22</b>                                           | <b>23</b><br>11 Truth<br>Seekers<br>Scouts                                    | <b>24</b><br>6 Bible Study<br>Scouts                                 | <b>25</b>                                   | <b>26</b>                 | <b>27</b>                                     |
| <b>28</b><br>10 Worship                                                    |                                                     |                                                                               |                                                                      |                                             |                           |                                               |