

From the Pastor's Desk...

March

Worship Schedule:

March 4th

~3rd Sunday in Lent

Communion

10:00 a.m. Worship with
Communion

"Follow the Thief"

Hebrews 11:6

following service:

Home Communion

Visitation team departs

March 11th

~4th Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship

"Follow the Myrrh"

Mark 15:23

following service:

Coffee Hour

~ Social Room

March 18th

~ 5th Sunday in Lent

– 10:00 a.m. Worship

"Follow the Hyssop"

John 19:28-30

March 25th

~ 1st Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

"Follow the Cloud"

Mark 15:33

March 29th

~Maundy Thursday

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Worship 7:30 p.m.

1 John 5:1-12

March 30th

Community Good Friday

Worship

12p.m.-3p.m. First Baptist
Church

An Amazing Story

If you ask most children, in fact many adults in this world, what Easter is all about, they'd probably say something about the Easter bunny or a break from school or work. It's a pervasive story out there in the world. Not very persuasive or compelling one, but nonetheless widespread. The story of the Easter bunny and spring break vacations threaten to displace a much more compelling story. A true story. A historical accurate story. An amazing story.

The amazing story concerns a man, a carpenter, who lived a little more than 2,000 years ago in a backwater Roman province in a town called Nazareth. At age 30, the Man hung up his leather carpenter's apron and began to speak up and down the countryside about his Father.

Religious leaders were ambivalent at best. Most felt deeply threatened, because this ex-carpenter taught in huge outdoor meetings with compelling authority -- and he even healed people. Not just colds and fevers, but crippled limbs and blind eyes. On a couple of occasions, he even brought people back from the dead.

The religious leaders saw their orderly world, their firm grip of control, spinning out of reach. And so they determined to eliminate the Man. And once in custody, they engineered a trial behind closed doors, and then put huge political pressure on the Roman governor to execute him immediately. Within 12 hours of his arrest, the Man hung on a cross. Six hours later he was dead -- seemingly a martyr to a glorious but hopeless cause. But there's more. The Man did not resist his arrest and crucifixion -- in fact, he had predicted it to his followers again and again. And he taught that his death would have incredible meaning -- that he would give his life as a ransom for many. That is, his death would pay the ransom price for a multitude of people who were enslaved by their own sins -- and set them free. That's what he said. And on that cross he prayed for his crucifiers -- certainly enslaved in their sins -- "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." And he died. A Roman centurion who saw him die said, "Surely, this man was the Son of God."

He died on a Friday at just about three in the afternoon. By dusk he had been buried by a rich follower in a tomb hollowed out of solid rock, a tomb protected by a huge stone that rolled into place along a channel in the rock, then clunk! The tomb was secure by any standard.

But Sunday morning, the Sunday we call Easter, some women had come to complete the hasty burial and they found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. An angel appeared to them saying, "He is not here, he has risen." This, too, the Man, Jesus, had foretold to his followers.

Over the next 40 days, he appeared to his disciples and others, to even 500 at one time. And then he left earth promising to return. His Spirit was poured out on his followers a few days later. Within a single generation his followers travelled with this amazing story to all of the known world. Our world has never been the same. History changed that resurrection day. Where people believe the story, they find forgiveness and freedom and meaning. They receive the Spirit of God themselves and they began to love.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor John



In the event of bad weather, information about closings will be shown on WTAE, KDKA, and WPXI television stations.

It will also be on Facebook and our website:
www.wnupc.com

Sunday School Class in the McKee room continues...

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study meets in the McKee Room every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

WE HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!

If you have any questions, please see Janice Curry.



Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

The Maundy Thursday Agape Meal will be Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 in the social room. Look for the tear-off in the bulletin to reserve your place or call the church office. The traditional beef stew will be served. Pastor John will be conducting the communion service after the meal. Your help is needed to prepare for this dinner. Come at 9:00 a.m. Thursday to help set-up the dining room and prepare the food. We will be done by noon.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

Lent



Lent is the season, period of time, of 40 days which immediately precedes Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14th), and continues until the day before Easter (March 31), which is known as the Great Vigil of Easter.

Lent is typically recognized as a time of self-reflection and spiritual preparation before the eternal joy of the Lord's resurrection.

The events in the church have a particular importance, each in their own right, yet necessarily deeply connected as a powerful foundation of faith.

1. Ash Wednesday – from the ancient practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers as a sign of humility before God, a sign of sorrow and death that our sin brings into the world.
2. 5 Sundays after Ash Wednesday – typically a time to help the believer prepare their heart and mind before Easter comes. The Sundays serve as points of reflection on what needs to change in our lives to purify our relationship with Christ.
3. Palm Sunday – celebrates Jesus' prophetic entry into Jerusalem as the promised Messiah. This grand entrance begins Jesus' final week on earth.
4. Maundy Thursday – remembrance of the day the Christ celebrated the Passover with his disciples, known as The Last Supper.
5. Good Friday – remembering the suffering of Jesus, his passion and pain, ultimately resulting in his crucifixion.

With the Resurrection of the Lord Sunday (Easter) we begin the season of Eastertide.

Save
the
Date!

Apple
Dumplings

April 26th



PW United Circle

We will meet on Wednesday, March 21 at noon in the social room. Bring a sandwich to share for lunch. Lessons 7 & 8 of the Bible study, *Hebrews*, will be presented by Dorothy Come. Hostesses are Fran Ritchie, Jackie Kuehner and Judy Lash. All women are welcome to attend.

PW Sewing

We will meet Wed. March. 28 2018 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.

World Day of Prayer: Friday, March 2.at 11 a.m.

This Community-wide event will be hosted this year by the women of the Holy Family Catholic Church. The material was written by the women of Suriname with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good".

Shoe Collection –

Redstone PW will collect good reusable shoes thru June 2018 to raise money for the Rise

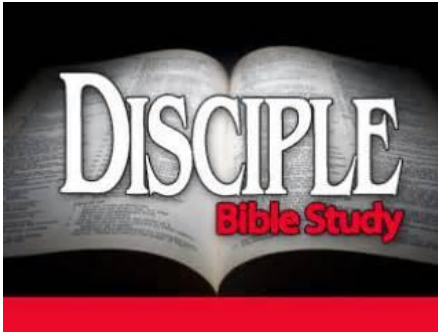
Shoes are accepted in all sizes. **No flip-flops, crocs, slippers, winter boots, dress boots, or metal cleats.** A deposit box is inside the 3rd Street door.

Against Hunger meal-packing event planned for Oct. 2018.

Redstone PW Spring Gathering – Saturday, April 14:

Johnstown, First P.C. will host the Gathering from 9 – 2:30. Registration (includes lunch) is \$10, due **April 5**. Programming includes worship & speakers from Angel Arms, a Latrobe ministry for addicted babies; Pine Springs Camp and Fleece for Food, a Redstone Presbytery program. Mission Focus will be non-perishable food donations to the Johnstown Food Pantry. If interested in attending, see Linda Blick.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

**Disciple Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone likes their favorite things: favorite chair to relax, meal to enjoy, pair of pants or sweatshirt. Perhaps such things are our favorites because they are comfortable, known, not really subject to surprises. When it comes to the Bible, favorite can be something that could possibly hinder us personal spiritual grow and understanding of God's revelation to us. To say it another way, we can become too comfortable with certain passages of Scripture and as a result these passages can diminish in impact on our faith.

We will be studying various "favorite" parts of Scripture by taking an in-depth and fresh look.

March 7th – "The Least of These" *Matthew 25:31-46*

March 14th – "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
John 4:1

March 21st – "The Event That Changed History"
Romans 6:8-9

March 28th –NO CLASS (HOLY WEEK)

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).



Meals-on-Wheels

Our church participates in delivery duties, every 5 to 6 weeks, on a rotating schedule, organized by the West Newton Association of Churches and the West Newton Senior Center.

Future week to note on your calendar: **Mar 5, Apr 23, Jun 4, Jul 23, Sept 10, Oct 29, Dec 17**

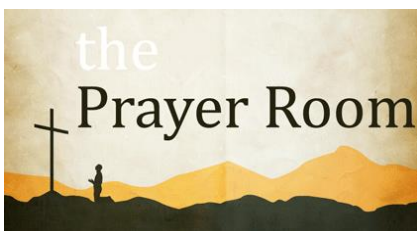
Thank you for your willingness to take part in this ministry.
The sign-up sheets are in the church office hallway.

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**Coffee Fellowship Hour usually takes place following worship, on the second Sunday of every month, in our social room.**

Hosts and Hostesses are needed  
sign up in the Church Kitchen for future months  
or Please see Anne Hustwit or Karen Murray



### **Need a quiet moment to get away and pray?**

The prayer room, under the bell tower, off the narthex, is available. Do you need someone to pray with?

Contact Pastor John or an Elder of the church.

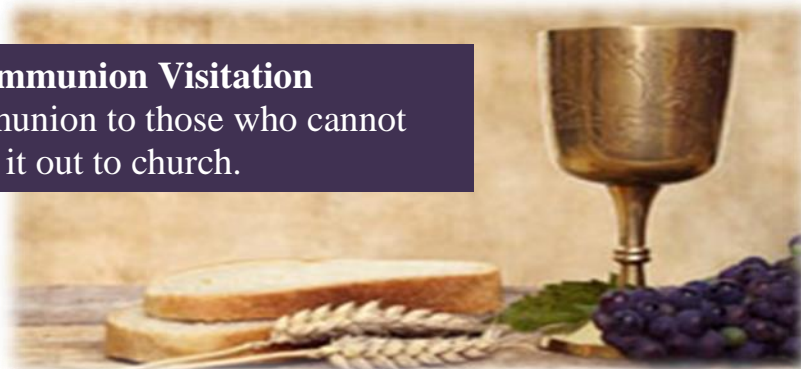


[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

Our annual Soup collection for the Souper Bowl of Caring produced 175 items! These were donated to Smithton food pantry. The luncheon was well attended.

THANK YOU once again for your support.

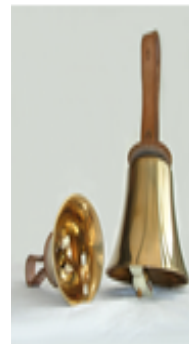
**Home Communion Visitation**  
teams take communion to those who cannot  
make it out to church.



## **Chancel Choir**

Meets on Thursday evenings,  
during the school year,  
and participates in Sunday morning  
worship services at 10:00.

*Contact Jim Sykes to get involved.*



## **Bell Choir**

Meets Thursday  
evenings at 6:00

*Contact  
Joyce Pawlik to get  
involved.*

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## ***One Great Hour of Sharing Offering***

Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

This offering will take place on Palm Sunday. Fish banks will be distributed on February 25.



## OUR SESSION

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

### Class of 2018

Mark Barnes  
Jo Lynn Lowanse  
Diane Ozegovich  
Chuck Yelich

### Class of 2019

Greg Franks  
Marcia Harris  
Amanda McMinn  
Karen Murray

### Class of 2020

Annetta Carney  
Michele Coleman  
Anne Hustwit  
Becky Moran

**Please support them  
with your prayers and participation.**



**WNUPC@WestNewtonUPC**

|                  | ATTENDANCE    | ATTENDANCE                           | ATTENDANCE               |                 |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>/February</u> | <u>adults</u> | <u>children</u>                      | <u>total</u>             | <u>OFFERING</u> |
| 4th              | 92            | 6                                    | <b>98</b>                | \$4,438.00      |
| 11th             | 94            | 12                                   | <b>106</b>               | \$4,025.00      |
| 18th             | 93            | 10                                   | <b>103</b>               | \$3,303.00      |
| 25th             |               | Not available at time of publication |                          |                 |
|                  |               |                                      | <b>3 of 4 week Total</b> | <b>\$11,766</b> |





## **Contribution Envelopes for 2018**

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

## **Year-end Statement**

The 2017 year-end contribution statements were mailed to all who made a contribution to WNUPC during 2017. Please contact the office or Linda Blick, Financial Secretary, if you have any questions.

## **Easter Flowers**

Orders for Easter Flowers  
Will be accepted until  
March 11.

Lilies, Tulips, Regular Mums, and Daisy Mums are available. All flowers are \$8.50 with the exception of additional-stem lilies which are \$19.  
Order slips will be in the bulletins.

Contact the office if you have any questions.

## ○ February 2018 Session Highlights

- Opened with Scripture reading, followed by Prayer.
- Moderator: Rev. John Manon
  
- Present:       Karen Murray                      Marica Harris                      Greg Franks  
                  Chuck Yelich                      Kris Edwards                      Jo Lynn Lowanse  
                  Becky Moran                      Mark Barnes                      Anne Hustwit
  
- Absent: Annetta Carney, Diane Ozegovich, Amanda McMinn, Michelle Coleman
- Highlights:
  - Approved request from Terri Day and West Newton Little House for use of Social Room and Kitchen on May 2 from 3pm to 11pm.
  - Approved use of money collected as part of the Souper Bowl luncheon, in the amount of \$200, to be used for purchasing new tablecloths.
  - Approved Easter morning breakfast from 8am-9:30am. Dave Murray has graciously agreed to cook omelettes for the event.
  - Approved the creation of Family Nights on Wednesday evenings to begin on April 4<sup>th</sup>. More details and ways to get involved will follow.
  - Discussed issue with the number of keys to the church that are in circulation. Session will be asking for keys to be returned by those who aren't on session currently or who are not heading up a committee or regular activity at the church.
  - Approved the request from Amanda Fisher for use of the Social Room on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm-8:30 pm.
  - Approved a community Easter egg hunt to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Becky Moran is the point person for this event.
  - Approved Rob Bojarski to enter the Commissioned Lay Pastor(CLP) training program through Redstone Presbytery.
  - Discussed on-going attempt at creating Deacon ministry within the church. Having tabled the issue for 3 consecutive months, it was approved to discontinue any further action until next year.
  - Approved Jennifer Zucker for membership.
  
- Next Session Meeting will be March 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
- Closed with prayer

## WNUPC Prayer List

Beginning November 1, 2017, Session launched a new prayer list for our church family. In the recognition of prayer for our family being a powerful, effective, and foundational element of faith, the Session approved the guidelines that are detailed below:

### WNUPC Prayer List Guidelines

Prayer is an essential element to a healthy life of faith for individuals and congregations. In fact, we are commanded to pray for one another in times of need. Ephesians 6:18, *"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*

With acknowledgment that prayer is a key element to our faith, it is our desire to balance the command to pray with personal privacy and respect for all. Therefore, the following guidelines will be used to make our church's prayer list an effective tool in expressing our faith.

1. The prayer list will be coordinated and operated through the church office.
2. Ways to submit prayer requests:
  - A. Website (wnupc.com) – click on the "CONTACT US" button.
  - B. E-mail – Church office, [wnupc@verizon.net](mailto:wnupc@verizon.net)  
Pastor, [manon.john474@gmail.com](mailto:manon.john474@gmail.com)
  - C. Phone – 724-872-7414 (church office)  
606-261-0232 (Pastor John)
  - D. Text message – 606-261-0232 (Pastor John)
  - E. Worship – fill out the orange prayer request card in pews
3. Prayer requests will remain on the list for 30 days.
  - requests may be updated and remain on the list for an additional 30 days.
  - if no updates are made, the request will be removed after 30 days.
4. Since this is our church's prayer list, please submit requests for immediate family of members, regular visitors, church staff, Presbytery and/or PCUSA specific issues. (immediate family= spouse, children, grandchildren, mom, dad, brother and sister)
5. Specific items will remain on the list indefinitely such as: our church, Pastor and family, our country, our military, Session and community.
6. List will contain names of people only. There will be no specific information, medical diagnosis, procedures, etc.
7. List will be distributed weekly in the following ways:
  - email (must complete form to receive prayer list)
  - monthly newsletter
  - bulletin

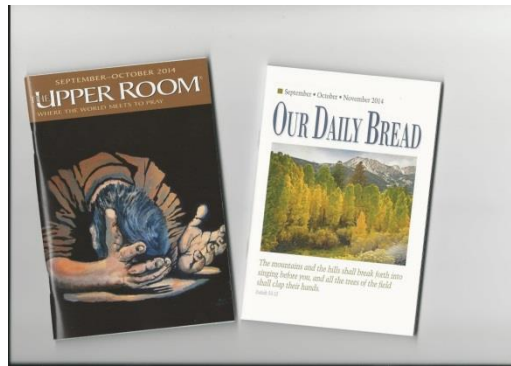


**2018**

**Chancel Flowers  
can now be ordered**

**Please sign up on the bulletin board  
across from the office.**

**All orders must be paid in advance (\$35)  
or your flowers will not be ordered.**



*In addition to the many ministries that are available here at WNUPC; like Sunday school, Bible study, and PW functions, we wish for you to continue your daily walk with the Lord in a time of prayer. To that end, we offer these free daily devotionals. Look for them on the table near the church office or in the racks in the main-entrance narthex of the church.*



**Mobility issues  
holding you back???**

**Wheelchairs and Walkers** are available, on both levels of the church, as well as a **chair-lift** on the hall stairs. There is also a **ramp entryway** on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, through the chapel.

**WNUPC Family,**

**I would like to take a minute to tell the congregation how grateful I am for the opportunity to be your church secretary.**

**I was a bit apprehensive about entering the workforce after being a stay at home mom for almost 14 years however, serving the members of this church is not work but rather like taking care of my extended family. I look forward to working and worshipping with all of you as your church secretary.**

**Please feel free to stop by and say hello anytime. I always enjoy talking to my church family.**

**Blessings,  
Kerri Bojarski**



**Shipwrecked  
VBS 2018  
More info coming soon!  
See Kerri Bojarski  
or  
Diane Ozegovich  
to see how you can help.**





## BIRTHDAYS IN March

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Donald O'Bryon  | 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Aleya McMinn    | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| Dennis Koget    | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Patty Chapman   | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Dave Davis      | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Victoria Day    | 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| Brook Moran     | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Joyce Martini   | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Tracy Brown     | 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jacob Lowanse   | 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rob Bojarski    | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Don McGuffey    | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cheryl Barozzie | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jillian Puskar  | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Betty Salvatore | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Nathan Haley    | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ashlyn Hoak     | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Joey Hustwit    | 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| Karen Peto      | 30 <sup>th</sup> |



## ANNIVERSARIES IN March

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Elly and Bob Bojarski | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Mike & Becky Moran    | 27 <sup>th</sup> |

We would love to  
announce and celebrate  
your wedding anniversary...  
but, we need to know when it is...

# Looking Forward at WNUPC

|           |                |                      |                                                          |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday  | March 1, 2018  | 6:00 PM              | Bell Choir Rehearsal- Social Room                        |
|           |                | 7:00 PM              | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                                  |
| Friday    | March 2, 2018  | 11:00 AM             | World Day of Prayer at Holy Family Church                |
|           |                | 11:00 AM             | Pastor John at TLC                                       |
| Sunday    | March 4, 2018  | 8:45 AM              | Adult Bible Study- McKee Room                            |
|           |                | 10:00 AM             | Worship w/ Communion - Sanctuary                         |
|           |                | Following<br>worship | Home Communion Teams                                     |
| Monday    | March 5, 2018  | 7:00 PM              | Dartball @ Circleville                                   |
| Tuesday   | March 6, 2018  | 10:00 AM             | PW Coordinating Team meeting                             |
| Wednesday | March 7, 2018  | 6:00 PM              | Disciple Bible Study - Social Room                       |
| Thursday  | March 8, 2018  | 10:00 AM             | WNAC at Christ Lutheran Church                           |
|           |                | 6:00 PM              | Bell Choir Rehearsal- Social Room                        |
|           |                | 7:00 AM              | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                                  |
| Sunday    | March 11, 2018 | 8:45 AM              | Adult Bible Study- McKee Room                            |
|           |                | 10:00 AM             | Worship - Sanctuary                                      |
|           |                | after worship        | Confirmation Class- McKee Room                           |
|           |                | after worship        | Coffee Hour                                              |
| Monday    | March 12, 2018 | 7:00 PM              | Dartball- Social Room                                    |
| Wednesday | March 14, 2018 | 6:00 PM              | Disciple Bible Study - Social Room                       |
| Thursday  | March 15, 2018 | 6:00 PM              | Bell Choir Rehearsal- Social Room                        |
|           |                | 7:00 PM              | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                                  |
| Sunday    | March 18, 2018 | 8:45 AM              | Adult Bible Study- McKee Room                            |
|           |                | 10:00 AM             | Worship - Sanctuary                                      |
|           |                | 5:00 PM              | Session Meeting                                          |
| Monday    | March 19, 2018 | 7:00 PM              | Dartball @ Harrison City                                 |
| Tuesday   | March 20, 2018 | 6:00 PM              | Redstone Presbytery Mtg.-Belle Vernon First Preby Church |
| Wednesday | March 21, 2018 | 12:00 PM             | PW United Circle                                         |
|           |                | 6:00 PM              | Disciple Bible Study - Social Room                       |
| Thursday  | March 22, 2018 | 6:00 PM              | Bell Choir Rehearsal- Social Room                        |
|           |                | 7:00 PM              | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                                  |
| Saturday  | March 24, 2018 | TBD                  | Community Easter Egg Hunt                                |
| Sunday    | March 25, 2018 | 8:45 AM              | Adult Bible Study- McKee Room                            |
|           |                | 10:00 AM             | Palm Sunday Worship- Sanctuary                           |
|           |                |                      | One Great Hour of Sharing Offering                       |
|           |                |                      | Confirmation Class Presentations                         |

|           |                |          |                                                       |
|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | March 26, 2018 | 7:00 PM  | Dartball - Sanctuary                                  |
| Wednesday | March 28, 2018 | 9:00 AM  | PW Sewing                                             |
| Thursday  | March 29, 2018 | 6:30 PM  | Maundy Thursday Dinner                                |
|           |                | 7:30 PM  | Worship                                               |
| Friday    | March 30, 2018 | 12:00 PM | Good Friday Community Worship Service @ First Baptist |

Deadline for updates and notices for the April publication of  
*The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Wednesday, March. 21**  
Contact the church office  
by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at [wnupc@verizon.net](mailto:wnupc@verizon.net)