

From the Pastor's Desk...

April

Worship Schedule:

April 1st

~Easter

Communion

10:00 a.m. Worship with

Communion

"What difference does it make?"

Isaiah 25:6-9

John 20:1-18

following service:

Home Communion

Visitation team departs

April 8th

~2nd Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Worship

"10 Little Words"

Exodus 14:13-15

Romans 8:26-27

following service:

Coffee Hour

~ Social Room

April 15th

~ 3rd Sunday of Easter

– 10:00 a.m. Worship

"No One Else Sees"

Genesis 16:7-16

Matthew 6:1-4

April 22nd

~ 4th Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Worship

"Maturing Faith" (Part 1)

Jeremiah 1:4-12

Matthew 16:24-28

April 29th

~5th Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Worship

"Maturing Faith" (Part 2)

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

Ephesians 6:10-13

I've been thinking about Christian worship a lot lately. I am well aware that statement alone strikes fear into the hearts of some people! What I'm saying and thinking far exceeds the notion of changing any part of worship. It has to do with all of us, seasoned saints, experienced worshippers. It also has to do with those outside our church who are seeking something in their lives which they may not even be able to articulate as God, Jesus, or faith. I'll sum up my premise by saying this: "When did worship become so perfectly packaged?"

Easter is now over with all the excitement and fanfare. The crowds will thin out and the pews will become a little less crowded. What about Easter and it's message for the rest of the year? When did Easter become so tame? When did worship in so many churches become and remain neatly packaged?

At some point Easter became associated with children in new dress clothes, baskets of colored eggs, and families squeezed into church pews for a day of prayer, hymns, and readings about an empty tomb. All of those things are nice (especially the families squeezed into church pews!), but none of these items captures the confusion, messiness, and rush of emotions described in the gospels about that first Easter morning, about worship in general in the early church. For all of our modern orderliness, the first Easter was a study in disorder. Jesus had been executed by the powers of the day in a public act of disgraceful crucifixion. His disciples had either fled or gone into hiding, afraid that a similar fate awaited them. The Jewish population of Jerusalem had moved on from the events of Friday morning to honor their usual Sabbath rituals and then let everything get back to normal on Sunday.

However, early that morning, grieving women had their plans totally disrupted. Soon thereafter, hiding disciples had their world upended by the news of an empty tomb. And later that Sunday, behind locked doors, the risen Christ appeared to them. As wonderful as all these events were, none of them fit the expected plans for that day. All of Easter was disruptive, disorderly, and unorganized. How could our Presbyterian worship services capture this mood? Perhaps we could have everyone enter a totally dark sanctuary, and then when the lights suddenly came on blazingly bright and the organ played a boisterous fanfare, and everyone had to find different pews from where they normally sit. (OK, that might be too radical for us!)

On a more serious note, consider this quote from theologian Eugene Peterson: "A holy life isn't a matter of men and women being polite with God, but of humans who accept and enter into God's work of shaping salvation out of the unlikely materials of our sin and ignorance, our ambition and waywardness – also our loves, aspirations and nobilities. It is never smoothing over our rough edges. Holiness is not polish."

Jesus, who was resurrected on Easter, comes to us (his modern-day disciples) knowing we are "unlikely materials of sin and ignorance, ambition and waywardness." The Savior who knew this during his earthly ministry certainly discovered the truth of our rough edges on Good Friday. Yet unto us a Son has been re-born, restored, resurrected. Unto us a Savior has come again into our messy, disordered world. This is not a Savior for whom we have to polish up our manners. This is one with whom we promise to get our hands dirty and tell our good news just a little bit too loud. This is an untamed Messiah. But what about our worship? God's love, Christ's power, and the Holy Spirit's energy were never designed to be neatly packaged or grudgingly sent out to the world. So truly celebrate Easter this year—all year long in all it's glorious unexpected travels sent forth from God, through Jesus, in the unpredictable power of the Holy Spirit!

Grace and 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.



We would like to welcome our new members from the Confirmation Class Christian Bojarski, Adam Ozegovich, Josef Hustwit, Austin Bacha, Autumn Moody and Tory Martinelli. These students were confirmed on March 25, 2018 after reading their Statements of Faith to the Congregation. We would also like to welcome Jennifer Zucker and Ron Chamberlain who recently became members as well.



Save
the
Date!

Apple
Dumplings

April 26th

WNPW April Gathering

The WNPW April Gathering will be **Wednesday, April 11** at noon in the social room. After the luncheon, Irmi Gaut from **City Mission in Uniontown** will present the goals of the organization. As a Mission Focus, we will donate a gift basket, worth \$75-\$100, to the City Mission for their Fund Raising Auction in May. Anyone wishing to donate toward this project can give their money, or check (made payable to WNPW) to Linda Blick before April 5th. Everyone is welcome to attend. The regular Circle meeting will not meet in April but will conclude in May.

PW Sewing

We will not meet until September. If you would like to sew at home please see Jo Lynn Lowanse for supplies.

PW Birthday Offering-May 6 Watch for announcements in April and envelopes in the pews

Shoe Collection –

Redstone PW will collect good reusable shoes thru June 2018 to raise money for the Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event planned for Oct. 2018.

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.

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.

Save
the
Date!

Apple
Dumplings

April 26th



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2 was attended by 30 people from the community at the Holy Family Catholic Church. Helen Gara and Jo Lynn Lowanse represented our church in the program, reading material written by the women of Suriname with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good". A delicious luncheon was served after the service.

PW Apple Dumplings -April 26: Watch for the tear-off in the bulletin to place your order for our delicious apple dumplings @ \$4.00 ea. Orders may be picked up in the social room from 12:00 -2:30 on that day. We have ordered 400 apples. Get your orders in early so you are not disappointed! See Linda Blick with questions or if you are willing to help make the dumplings. It's a great day of work and fellowship!

2018 High School Graduates

The following High School Graduates from our congregation will be honored by PW on June 3rd: Michael Martini, Rachel Ozegovich, Morgan Fisher, Catherine Harris, Aleya McMinn, Kaelin Hoak, and Emily Vargo. If you know of any other names, please give them to Winnie Davis.

The Bell Choir

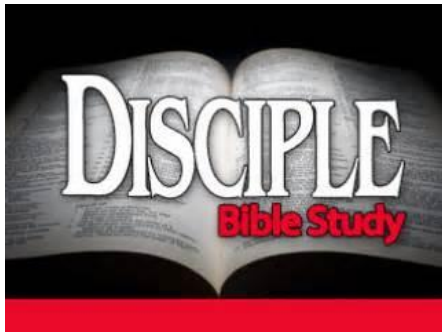
The Bell Choir made it's returning debut under the direction of Joyce Pawlik on Palm Sunday. Members include Coleen Martinelli, Tory Martinelli, Deborah King, Terri Day, Becky Moran, Jo Lynn Lowanse, Kathy Chojnacki, Susan Catullo, Diane Franks and Linda Blick.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal on March 29 was attended by approximately 100 people.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Disciple Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

April 4th – “The Event that Changed History”

Romans 6:8-9

-The story of Christ did not end at the cross!

April 11th – NO CLASS (Pastor John on vacation)

April 18th – “The Event That Changed History”

Mark 16:20

-a closer look at the many people in the events that resulted in Christ’s death and resurrection.

April 25th – “Places of the Resurrection”

-study of Jerusalem and surrounding area in the days of Christ’s death and Resurrection.

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: **Apr 23, Jun 4, Jul 23, Sept 10, Oct 29, Dec 17**

Thank you for your willingness to take part in this ministry.

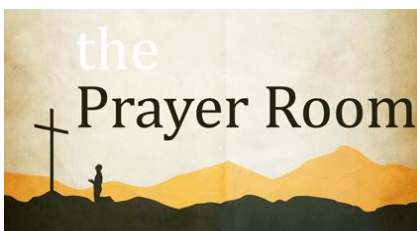
The sign-up sheets are in the church office hallway.

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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.

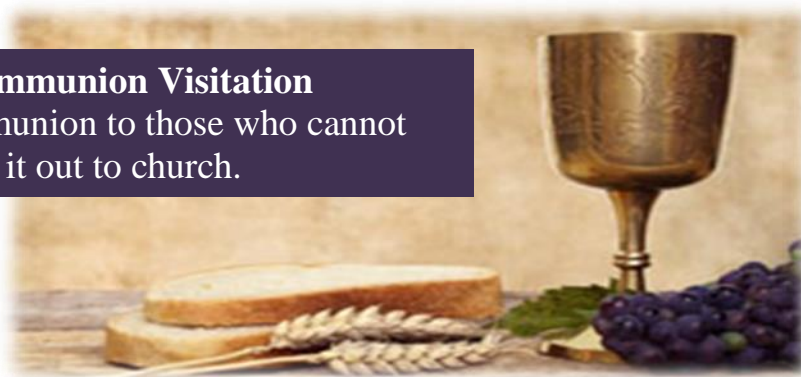


### **WNUPC FUN FACTS**

Did you know that many items you see every week in our church have been donated in memory of loved ones? One such treasured item is our communion server.

The engraving on the lid says "DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN LOVING MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. THOMAS COPELAND MARTIN BY THEIR ONLY SON APRIL 6, 1952"

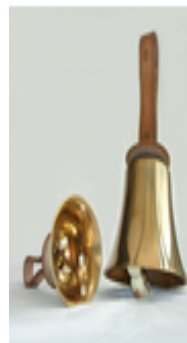
**Home Communion Visitation**  
teams take communion to those who cannot  
make it out to church.



## **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. Fish Banks and were collected on March 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>March</u> | <u>adults</u> | <u>children</u> | <u>total</u> | <u>OFFERING</u> |
| 4th          | 92            | 7               | <b>99</b>    | \$3,954.00      |
| 11th         | 103           | 13              | <b>116</b>   | \$4,829.00      |
| 18th         |               |                 | <b>120</b>   | \$2,900.02      |
| 25th         | 137           | 12              | 149          | \$4623.45       |
|              |               |                 | 4 week total | \$16,306.47     |

Contribution envelopes are available at the church. Click if you would like to have them.

**C**

**18**

ship service. Please see Linda

**ghts**

- Opened with Scripture reading
- Moderator: Rev. John Ma
- Present: Karen Murra  
Chuck Yelich  
Becky Morar  
Diane Ozego
- Absent: Mark Barnes
- Highlights:
  - Finalized plans for Easter
  - Authorized Finance Committee to review church finances.
  - Approved confirmation class
  - Approved Glory Dami to lead worship on the weekend. Approved \$100 payment.
  - Approved John Tirpak as an intern for April-June as a part of his theological education.
  - Approved dates for VBS, June 25-29
  - Approved vacation week for Pastor John, April 9-14.
  - Pastor John distributed a list of possible activities/things to work on for each committee..
  - Approved communion by intinction for Maundy Thursday and communion(traditional) for Easter Sunday.
- Next Session Meeting will be April 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
- Closed with prayer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

West Newton United Presbyterian Church  
West Newton, Pennsylvania

Unified Budget  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total

Greg Franks  
Jo Lynn Lowanase  
Anne Hustwit  
Michelle Coleman

on of Quickbooks software for

May 27 for Memorial Day

## 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

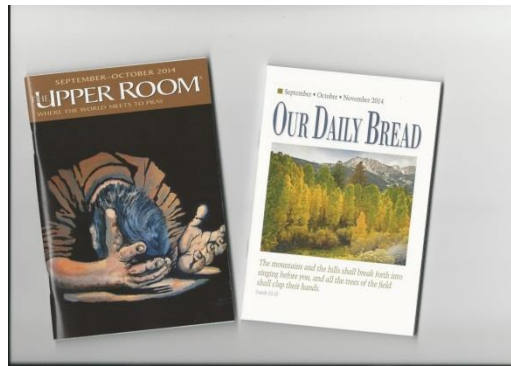


**2018**

**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.



## Shipwrecked

VBS 2018

June 25-June 29, 2018

6:00-8:30 p.m.

For more information see Kerri Bojarski  
or Diane Ozegovich

Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the  
social room.



## Youth Night

Thursdays starting

April 5<sup>th</sup>

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Bible lesson, music,  
craft and snack



## BIRTHDAYS IN April

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Anne Hustwit      | 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Harry Upperman    | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| Tyler Burkett     | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Thomas Cole       | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Kathy Chojnacki   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Josephine Johnson | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Christine Hustwit | 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| Kerri Bojarski    | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ryan Ulander      | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Blake Ulander     | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Martin Harris     | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Dorothy Upperman  | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Kamryn Puskar     | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Thomas Burkett    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Arthur Hoak       | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Rodney Chew       | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rachel O'Bryon    | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mary Parker       | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Chuck Yelich      | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Adam Cole         | 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| Joyce Pawlik      | 30 <sup>th</sup> |



## ANNIVERSARIES IN April

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Dave & Karen Murray     | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| George & Nancy Molovich | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| Edward & Louise Landini | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Bob & Doris Flock       | 26 <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

|           |                |               |                                                        |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | April 1, 2018  | 7:00 A.M.     | Easter Sunrise Service                                 |
|           |                | 8:00 AM       | Easter Morning Breakfast                               |
| Monday    | April 2, 2018  | 10:00 AM      | Worship w/ Communion - Sanctuary                       |
|           |                | 7:00 P.M.     | Dartball @ West Hempfield                              |
| Wednesday | April 4, 2018  | 6:00 P.M.     | Adult Bible Study- McKee Room                          |
| Thursday  | April 5, 2018  | 6:00 P.M.     | Bell Choir Rehearsal (social room)                     |
|           |                | 6:00 P.M.     | Youth Night                                            |
|           |                | 7:00 P.M.     | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                                |
| Sunday    | April 8, 2018  | 8:45 A.M.     | Adult Bible Study –McKee Room                          |
|           |                | 10:00 AM      | Worship- Sanctuary                                     |
| Wednesday | April 11, 2018 | After worship | Coffee Hour                                            |
|           |                | 12:00 PM      | WNPW Spring Gathering                                  |
|           |                | 6:00 PM       | Disciple Bible Study                                   |
| Thursday  | April 12, 2018 | 6:00 P.M.     | Bell Choir (social room)                               |
|           |                | 6:00 P.M.     | Youth Night                                            |
|           |                | 7:00 P.M.     | Chancel Choir                                          |
| Saturday  | April 14, 2018 | 9:00 A.M.     | Redstone PW Spring Gathering @ Level Green PC-Trafford |
| Sunday    | April 15, 2018 | 8:45 A.M.     | Adult Bible Study –McKee Room                          |
|           |                | 10:00 A.M.    | Worship- Sanctuary                                     |
| Wednesday | April 18, 2018 | 5:00 P.M.     | Session Meeting                                        |
|           |                | 6:00 P.M.     | Disciple Bible Study                                   |
| Thursday  | April 19, 2018 | 6:00 P.M.     | Bell Choir (social room)                               |
|           |                | 6:00 P.M.     | Youth Night                                            |
|           |                | 7:00 P.M.     | Chancel Choir                                          |
| Sunday    | April 22, 2018 | 8:45 A.M.     | Adult Bible Study –McKee Room                          |
|           |                | 10:00 A.M.    | Worship- Sanctuary                                     |
| Wednesday | April 25, 2018 | 6:00 P.M.     | Disciple Bible Study                                   |
| Thursday  | April 26, 2018 |               | Apple Dumpling Day                                     |
|           |                | 6:00 P.M.     | Bell Choir (social room)                               |
|           |                | 6:00 P.M.     | Youth Night                                            |
|           |                | 7:00 P.M.     | Chancel Choir                                          |
| Sunday    | April 29, 2018 | 8:45 AM       | Adult Bible Study- McKee Room                          |
|           |                | 10:00 AM      | Worship- Sanctuary                                     |

## Reprint from December 2017 newsletter **DOES OUR CHURCH REALLY NEED A SECURITY PLAN?**

Thirty percent (30%) of all churches experienced a threat or other emergency in 2015. Seventy-five percent (75%) of all churches had no security plan in place. (Source: Christian Security Network ) Simply put, all churches must be prepared for a variety of threats and emergencies. Whether we like it or not, times change, views about the church change, threats to the church change, and perhaps most importantly, people and their motives in this world change.

### **The Basic Church Security Conflict**

There are always two sides to everything. Granted, it can be difficult to convince a church for the need to worry about security. The perspective of the WNUPC Session is to be proactive and not reactive. Some of the most common questions are: Won't God protect us if we are in His house? Why not just rely on local police in case of an emergency? Won't congregants think that a security plan is really not needed? It is not practical to erect metal detectors at all entrances, so how can we be secure?

The reality is that most local police have widely varying response times due to being overwhelmed with calls and fewer officers. In times of an emergency, you cannot count on police being able to be there in a timely manner, as seen in recent incidents involving churches and other institutions.

In June, Pastor John, commissioned by the Session, met with Lt. Gonglik from the Pennsylvania State Police. He performed a walk-through inspection of the church building and offered many things for Session to consider in terms of safety and security. Of course, many of the suggestions involved changes, upgrades, and additions to the building which ultimately means expenditure of dollars. With all this said, the Session will continue to discuss and implement safety measures as is most appropriate as time goes forward.

The following are safety and security steps approved and implemented thus far:

1. Cameras installed throughout the building. Two cameras are awaiting installation in the parking lot and cannot be installed until approval is received from West Penn. West Penn owns the utility pole, which has the only source of power needed to operate the cameras. Video from the parking lot cameras (once installed) will be transmitted to the recording device in the church office wirelessly. There have been various illegal activities occurring in our parking lot observed by Pastor John and other church members. If we are seeing only a few incidents, the real question to consider is how much are we not seeing even though it may well be occurring?
2. Superior Security Systems which installed the cameras will also set up access to view all camera video for 2 smartphones. This will provide 24/7 visual acknowledgment of the parking lot and church building.
3. During the week and normal church office hours (8:30-1:30), all doors will remain locked. Access for the public will be only through the 4<sup>th</sup> street door. Any events or functions throughout the week (day or evening) should be closely monitored for as few of access points as possible to the building. Example – choir practices on Thursday. A few minutes after the scheduled start time, the front doors should be locked for the remainder of the choir practice.
4. Every Sunday during worship, shortly after we begin the service but no later than 10:15, all doors will be locked. Exit through these doors is still possible. This limits access to the church to the front doors off of Main Street. Session members will be scheduled each week to remain by the front doors in the event any late arrivals occur.
5. Parking Lot. There has been an increased amount of unwanted activity in our lot. As a result, signs indicating video\cameras are there and parking by permit only have been installed. Any towing of vehicles without a permit will only occur if initiated by the church. There will be NO random drive by from any towing company. Parking passes are available to any church member or regular attendee. Obviously, this does not guarantee a spot to park in our lot given the limited number of spaces. Session has approved the continuation of parking by PNC employees during the weekdays as a favor in return for allowing us to park in the bank lot every Sunday. Bank employees have been issued a parking permit.

While we may, each in our own way, struggle with having to institute such measures at our church, it is the hope that everyone will understand the intention is to make your time while participating in the life of the church and all activities as safe and secure as possible. Thank you.

Deadline for updates and notices for the April publication of  
*The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Monday, April. 23**

Contact the church office  
by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at [wnupc@verizon.net](mailto:wnupc@verizon.net)

