

West Newton United Presbyterian Church at 300 S. Third and E. Main Streets in West Newton, PA.

From the Pastor's Desk...

March Worship Schedule:

March 1st

~ Ash Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Worship ~ Chapel

March 3rd

~ World Day of Prayer
11:00 a.m. Worship at
First Church of God

March 5th

~ 1st Sunday in Lent
8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship w/
communion
Matthew 4:1-11
"Testing Grounds"
following service:
home communion
visitation team departs

March 12th

~ 2nd Sunday in Lent
8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship
Prodigal Son Series
(younger brother)
Luke 15:11-32
following service:
Coffee Hour in Social Room

March 19th

~ 3rd Sunday in Lent
8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship
Prodigal Son Series
(older brother)

March 26th

~ 4th Sunday in Lent
8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship
Prodigal Son Series
(Father)

The season of Lent is upon us once again. Ash Wednesday (March 1) marks the beginning of Lent and it continues for 40 days (Sundays are excluded) with the Great Vigil of Easter being the final day (April 15).

Traditionally, Christians are called to deepen their spiritual lives, coming closer to God through "giving something up." The idea behind this is to strip away or "give up" something that is unnecessary and to be more mindful of God's presence and his working in our lives.

There is one significant issue in this day and age with this practice – no one likes to give up much of anything. For many, this is too great of a challenge and it results in little if any change in their life during Lent. This holy season, this time of preparation for Resurrection Day needs to be a part of our faith!

Therefore, to keep Lent as a season of preparation, I am offering an alternative to "giving up" by "adding to" the practice of our faith. The goal is the same – to be more mindful of God's presence and working in our lives. Additionally, it may help you develop a habit of working out your faith through acts of service. May this season of Lent deeply enrich your faith and "Happy adding to!"

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

- Pray for at least 5 people
- Make it a day of compliments for everyone you meet!
- Write a letter (or an e-mail) to one person who has touched your life through their time, talent, or treasure. Tell them how grateful you are.
- Give to someone in need. Meet a real need with your time, talent, or treasure.
- Get out in nature. Observe the beautiful world God has created. Thank him for his creation.
- Refrain from all gossip for one day. Speak nothing but the absolute truth.
- Read a whole chapter of any book in the Bible.

(continued on the next page)

- Offer forgiveness to someone or ask forgiveness from someone.
- Take someone to lunch or for a cup of coffee and simply enjoy one another's presence.
- Set beside someone new during worship.
- Read a book about faith/God/spirituality.
- Volunteer at a local non-profit.
- Pray specifically for your church/Pastor/Session.
- Do something you have putting off doing.
- Clean out your closet and donate the clothes you no longer need/want.
- Call someone and tell them how glad you are to know them and that they are a part of your life.
- Donate blood.
- Study Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew & Luke's account)
- Do a random act of kindness (pay for person behind you when ordering food, for example)
- Slow down. Notice God and his working in people, places, and things.
- Donate food to a local food bank.
- Visit a nursing home and talk with the residents.
- Read a Lenten devotional every day.
- Reconnect with someone you haven't spoken to or seen for a long time.
- Get some exercise – go for a walk!
- Read all four Gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- Have a buy nothing day! (Focus on what you already have).
- Write a poem or story about your journey in faith.
- Take a day off – reflect on God and all that he is to you.
- Laugh – watch a funny movie or whatever. It's good medicine.
- Have a positive day – everything positive in word and deed.
- Attend Bible Study (Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings)
- Shop locally.
- Plant some seeds – get ready for your garden.
- Send flowers to someone and thank them for "just being who they are."
- Forgive yourself. Nobody is perfect or needs to be.
- Go on a prayer walk. Walk around your neighborhood and pray for the things you see.
- Study a biblical character and determine how God used that person.
- Sponsor a child – offer to pay the fee for a soccer, baseball, or softball league.
- Start a Charity Change Jar – put in spare change each day and then keep doing so for a year. Donate to your favorite charity.



If you are on Facebook, please know the church has a Facebook page that has pertinent information about church happenings posted on it. If you have not “liked” us or “friended” us, please do so.



WNUPC @WestNewtonUPC

Sunday Bible Study in the McKee room continues...

Bible Study Continues

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 or Clyde Frabizio.



Spring
Apple
Dumpling
Day

April 27, 2017

Mark your
calendars!!!



PW United Circle

We will meet on Wednesday, March 15 at noon in the social room. Bring a sandwich to share for lunch. Lessons 7 & 8 of the Bible study, *Who is Jesus?*, will be presented by Dorothy Come. Hostesses are Rita Clendenning, Mary Jane Smith, Jackie Kuehner, and Dorothy Upperman. All women are welcome to attend.

PW Sewing

We will meet Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 9:00 – 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. If you need some projects to sew at home, please see Dorothy Upperman.

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 3rd at 11:00 a.m. – This community-wide event will be hosted this year by the women of the First Church of God. Each year the women from a different country prepare the programing for this service. This year we will be celebrating the women from the Philippines. There will be a light luncheon following the service. Women from the other churches in West Newton will be participating.



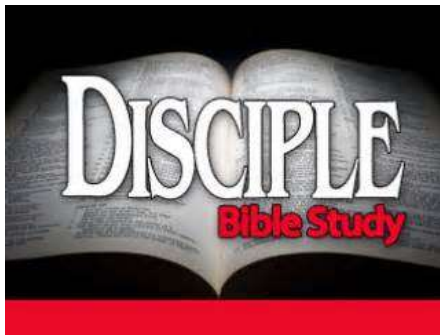
Maundy Thursday Agape Meal will be Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 in the social room. Look for the tear-off in the bulletin to reserve your place or call the church office. The traditional beef stew will be served. Pastor John will be conducting the communion service after the meal.

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.

Redstone PW Mission Trip to New Windsor, MD – September 24-26, 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve on a short mission trip by joining volunteers from Redstone Presbytery, working in the warehouse preparing items for shipping overseas. This year we will be staying at the Best Western Hotel in Westminster, MD about 5 miles from New Windsor. **The cost of \$100 covers room & breakfast for 2 days. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due May 1.** Contact Linda Blich if you are interested. See flyer in this newsletter.



BIBLE STUDY CLASS



We will begin a new series for March and April in our quest to better understand God's word to us: The Seven Statement of Jesus on the Cross.

By all accounts, Jesus didn't do a lot of talking from the time of his arrest through the dreadful events on the hill called Calvary. As far as his time on the cross, having already been beaten and bloodied, it was as if Jesus was alone in his pain and suffering – silent for the hours he hung there, except for a very few words.

It is these very words that give us a deeper insight into who Jesus was, his mission, even a vision into his soul. During Lent, as we examine our relationship with Christ, this is a perfect topic for us to study. Please join us each Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

OUR SESSION

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 2017

Bob Bojarski
Anne Hustwit
Linda Shoaf
Meri Beth Wees

Class of 2018

Mark Barnes
Jo Lynn Lowanse
Diane Ozegovich
Chuck Yelich

Class of 2019

Greg Franks
Marcia Harris
Amanda McMinn
Karen Murray

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



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 weeks to note on your calendar: **Mar 6, Apr 24, June 5, July 24, Sept 11, Oct 30, and Dec 18**

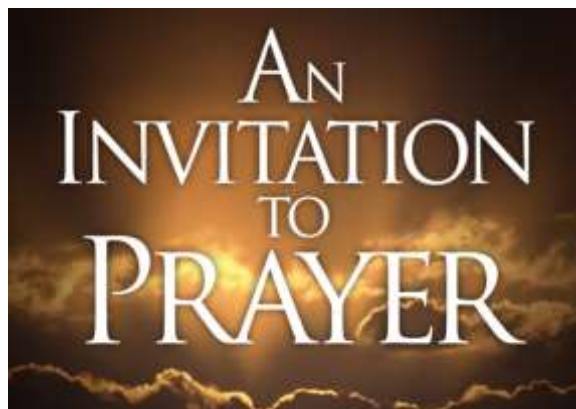
Thanks for your willingness to take part in this ministry.
The sign-up sheets are in the church office hallway.

Please note: Many people in our community are counting on us! So, if you are able, please sign up.



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

Hosts and Hostesses are needed
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.



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).



<u>February</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>adults</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>children</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>total</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
5th	85	12	99	\$4,394.00
12th	81	13	94	\$3,013.00
19th	88	9	97	\$3,017.00
26th	78	6	84	\$2,866.00

4 week Total \$13,290.00

Unified Budget			Total
\$		\$	

West Newton United Presbyterian Church

West Newton, Pennsylvania

Name

Contribution Envelopes for 2017

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



February 2017 Session

- Opened with Scripture reading, followed by Prayer.
- Moderator: Rev. John Manon
- Highlights:
 - ❖ Acknowledged Soup Collection from 29 and Feb. 5 for Souper Bowl. 153 cans were collected.
 - ❖ Approved refinishing the brass candle holders and cross on the communion table.
 - ❖ Pastor John to contact the state police to help construct a safety plan for the building.
 - ❖ Special offerings were approved for 2017: One Great Hour of Sharing, Birthday Offering, First Fruits, Thank Offering, and Joy Offering
 - ❖ Committees are to make monthly reports concerning activities and expenditures.
 - ❖ Approved purchasing 4 First Aid Kits. These will be placed in the kitchen, in the McKee Room, in the Narthex, and in the Rest Room next to Pastor John's office.
 - ❖ Approved a landscaping project along 3rd Street. \$2500 approved for the plants and \$500 approved for labor for Ben Markle.
 - ❖ Approved having keys for the building returned from those no longer needing them.
 - ❖ Approved Pizza Party for Pine Springs on April 30th.
 - ❖ Approved wedding at the church on September 9, 2017 for Karlee Maughan and Ben King.
 - ❖ Approved Easter Breakfast by session Easter morning.
 - ❖ Approved Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday following worship.
 - ❖ Requested Background clearances for new session members be completed.
 - ❖ Approved Community Singers concert Friday, May 5th.
- Closed in prayer
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 19, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.



Our annual Soup collection for the Souper Bowl of Caring produced 153 items! These were divided and given to the West Newton and Smithton food pantries.

THANK YOU once again for your support.



Orders for Easter Flowers
Will be accepted until
April 2nd.

Lilies, Hyacinths, Tulips, Regular
Mums, and Daisy Mums are available.

Order slips will be in the bulletins.

Contact the office if you have any
questions.

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 BE TAKEN ON PALM
SUNDAY. FISH BANKS WERE GIVEN TO THE
CHILDREN DURING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON
AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT AND SHOULD BE
BROUGHT BACK ON APRIL 9TH.

NEW WINDSOR-- MISSION WORK OPPORTUNITY



Redstone Presbytery PW is going to organize our annual work trip and invite you to participate. But **there will be changes to this trip** because there are changes happening at New Windsor. It will cost more but

it will depend on your choices. We will not be staying at the Hospitality Center on the campus. We will be staying at the Best Western Hotel near Baughers Restaurant in Westminster about 4 miles from New Windsor. Continental breakfast is included in the hotel cost. Lunch will be provided for all workers. Dinners will be on your own. I have reserved 20 slots so we hope you will return and we always welcome new volunteers. We will be traveling to New Windsor, MD on Sunday, September 24th; leaving about 2PM and returning on Tuesday evening, September 26th. We will work two days.

We could be working in the Materials Resource Warehouse where volunteers assist with processing and quality control of the hygiene kits, school kits and clean-up buckets. Some volunteers will be assigned to SERRV pricing and quality control. Volunteers package or price handcrafted articles from artisans in 150 cooperatives and nonprofit organizations in 35 developing countries and regions of the U.S. Most of the work is done while seated at tables.

The cost of lodging which includes breakfast at the hotel will be \$100. There will be additional costs for travel and dinners. We plan to carpool so the travel cost will be divided by the number of participants in each vehicle. You will also have an opportunity to shop in the SERRV outlet which is also located at the New Windsor site.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing or if you have more questions; please call Judy at 724.668.7418 or e-mail her at judykoontz@windstream.net. A \$25 non-refundable deposit is required by May 1, 2017. The balance will be due September 1st. Please make checks payable to Mission Trip Fund. Please complete the registration form and send it with your deposit.

We encourage you to keep collecting and making more Kits of the Heart which can be found on the Church World Service website. We would be glad to deliver them in September.

New Windsor Work Mission Trip September 24-26, 2017

Your name _____

Address _____

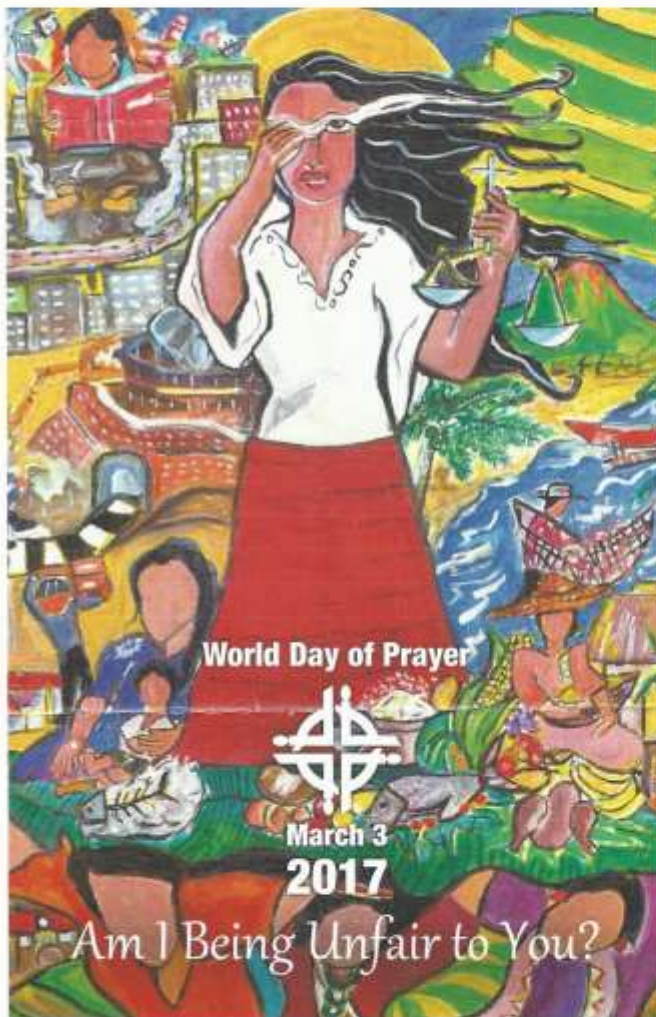
Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Judy Koontz, 570 Koontz Road, New Alexandria, PA 15670

Please make checks payable to *Mission Trip Fund*

Friday March 3, 2017
11:00AM



First Church of God
157 N. Second
Street
West Newton PA.
15089

Light Lunch following
the Service

Speaker:
Dr. Christine
Florendo
Pastor of the
Logos Church
of God

Home Communion Visitation
teams are on a monthly-rotating schedule
to take communion to those who cannot
make it out to church.



2017

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.**



Chancel Choir

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

Contact Jim Sykes to get involved.

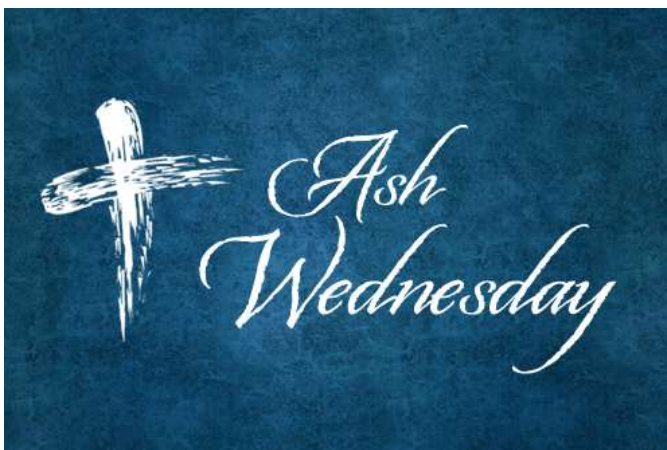


In addition to the many ministries that are available here at WNUPC; like Sunday school, Bible study, and PW functions, we wish for you to continue your daily walk with the Lord in a time of prayer. To that end, we offer these free daily devotionals. Look for them on the table near the church office 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 4th Street, through the chapel.



**We will hold our Ash
Wednesday service
with the imposition of
ashes on
March 1, 2017 at
7:00 p.m. in the Chapel**



BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

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



ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

Mike & Becky Moran 27th

We would love to announce
your birthday and anniversary.

We just need to know
when it is!

Deadline for updates and notices for the April publication of
The Higher Ground Herald will be **Friday, March 24th**
Contact the church office
by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc@verizon.net

Looking Forward at WNUPC

Wednesday	Mar. 1	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship ~ Chapel
Thursday	Mar. 2	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	Mar. 3	11:00 a.m.	World Day of Prayer @ First Church of God
		11:00 a.m.	Pastor John @ TLC Nursing Home
Sunday	Mar. 5	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship w/communion ~ Sanctuary
		Following Worship	Home Communion Team Departs
Monday	Mar. 6	10:00 a.m.	Meals on Wheels @ WN Senior Center
		7:00 p.m.	Dartball @ Hempfield P.C.
Tuesday	Mar. 7	10:00 a.m.	Meals on Wheels @ WN Senior Center
		10:00 a.m.	PW CT Meeting ~ McKee Room
Wednesday	Mar. 8	6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	Mar. 9	10:00 a.m.	Meals on Wheels @ WN Senior Center
		11:00 a.m.	Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	Mar. 10	10:00 a.m.	Meals on Wheels @ WN Senior Center
Sunday	Mar. 12	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship ~ Sanctuary
		Following Worship	Coffee Hour ~ Social Room
Monday	Mar. 13	7:00 p.m.	Dartball ~ Social Room
Wednesday	Mar. 15	12:00 p.m.	PW United Circle ~ Social Room
		6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	Mar. 16	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Sunday	Mar. 19	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship ~ Sanctuary
		5:00 p.m.	Session Meeting ~ McKee Room
Monday	Mar. 20	7:00 p.m.	Dartball @ Norwin Alliance
Tuesday	Mar. 21	6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Redstone Presbytery Meeting @ Ft. Burd P.C., Brownsville
Wednesday	Mar. 22	9:00 a.m.	PW Sewing ~ McKee Room
		6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	Mar. 23	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir

continued

Sunday	Mar. 26	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship ~ Sanctuary
		2:30 p.m.	Pastor John @ Redstone Highlands
Monday	Mar. 27	7:00 p.m.	Dartball ~ Social Room
Wednesday	Mar. 29	6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	Mar. 30	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
 During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
 Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and
 solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a
 prayer-full life.
 Help me to fast from those things that threaten the
 well-being of body and soul and remind me of the
 grace of simplicity.
 Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in
 so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and
 generosity.
 May this season be a grace-filled time to
 rekindle my love for and faith in you.
 Amen.

