



UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2020 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

“Lent is a spiritual season which calls for greater openness to the word of God and conversion in every area of our lives. It is a time to face the darkness within and expose it to the light. Lent is the season to confront our demons and expel them.” Michael Ford, *Eternal Seasons*

That may sound pretty complicated. You may read that quote and think, “Why would anyone want to do that? Why would anyone choose to face the darkness within and expose it to the light, confront our demons and expel them?” I’ll tell you why: Because the end result can be freedom! Freedom! FREEDOM from being bound by stuff that steals, kills, and destroys the peace, joy, and hope that God alone can give; freedom from pretending and freedom from holding back the best within us.

The 40 days of Lent come into our lives like an interruption, they come up against all the other stuff we are dealing with and make us stop, pay attention, and look to the cross once again. There at the cross we see the ultimate payment for our freedom. There we see the very definition of Love. There we see God’s acceptance of us just as we are. There we see God’s amazing grace.

I urge you to make the decision to enter into the fullness of this season. I urge you to come to worship every Sunday at 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. I urge you to join a small group on Sundays from 9:45-10:45 a.m. or Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our study for Lent is entitled *Something Needs to Change* by Pastor David Platt. The teaching challenges participants and whole congregations to run towards the desperate physical and spiritual needs of people all over the world. It is easy for us to live very insulated from the reality of desperate needs, especially in our valleys with mountains surrounding us. But in this time when technology can take us just about anywhere, we can’t pretend we don’t know what is happening to men, women, & children all over the world. My prayer is that this study will raise our awareness, lower our affinity for comfort and convenience, and outright kill any apathy we might have about those who don’t know Jesus.

David Platt writes this prayer towards the end of his book. I present it as a prayer for myself, for you, and for us together as we begin Lent 2020:

O God, make my life a reflection of your seeking love. You seek the lost. You leave the many in search of the one. O God, I want my life to illustrate this. O God, please show yourself as the seeking and saving and loving and forgiving Father through me and my family and my church. Help me to care for the one right around me, and help me to leave and go to the one wherever you might lead me. Where I live. Here in these valleys. Wherever you lead me. Amen.

*With a prayerful & grateful heart,
Rev. Meagan*

Let’s do
this, church.
Let’s move
towards
whatever
God
has laid
before us!



Words to Ponder
Dr. Bonnie Cornelious

There are two things counseling cannot do.

- It cannot change someone else that the client thinks needs to be changed or “fixed.” That’s the work of the other person.
- It cannot do the hard work for the client that it takes to change him/herself. That’s God’s job along with the client. The client must see the need to change and have the desire to work through the process.

Counseling is a sometimes painful journey at first of intense, honest self-examination. It involves confession and repentance. It involves forgiving others and ourselves. It is unloading the baggage (that I refer to as “Marley’s chains”) that keeps you from being who God wants you to be and to learn to submit to him. There is a fantasy world out there that uses words and statements such as:

- You deserve
- s/he owes you that
- you are perfect just the way you are
- that wasn’t such a bad thing to say/do (regardless of what’s been said or done).

I’m sure you could add to the list but the statements above are not the stuff of a healthy believer.

On the other hand, we have the media that tells us the following lies: that we aren’t as pretty, as slim, as popular, as smart, etc. as we would be if we bought the products they advertise. These two points of view are unhealthy, ungodly, and destructive.

Remember, a counselor cannot “fix” you but can ask the questions that help you understand your issues, your misconceptions, and the truth so you can seek the One who can change your life.

God expects us to grow in faith. It is impossible to please him if we don’t grow and if we don’t rely on him for all our needs. The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3: 11; Hebrews 10:38). God is faithful in all his ways and is capable of leading us out of lies in the areas that are keeping us from flourishing. We do not understand his ways and long term plans so we can’t live by understanding.

Remember the Stephen Ministries’ motto: **We (including counselors) are the caregivers; God is the cure giver.”**

Dear Father, we know there is misery and there is pain in this world, and we as believers are joyful that this world is only a temporary dwelling place. We also know that many who struggle need someone to come alongside of them and support them through their journeys of misery and pain. We pray that, as there is need, you will lead each seeker to the help, comfort, and support that is needed. To you be the glory. Amen



THE CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Please check the weekly bulletin for additions or changes to the schedule. If you have a question, don’t hesitate to call the church office at 717-349-2603.

Sunday, March 1: Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Communion will be served at both services.

Monday, March 2: Strong Women Exercise, 9 a.m.; Community Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3: Community Lenten Service at Doylesburg United Methodist, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Retired friends lunch, 11:30 a.m. at PVR; Children 4-7 yr. old Music time, 4:45-5:30 p.m.; GROWing Together Meal, 5:30 p.m. (provided), Rooted Youth, Children’s Ministry, & Adult Bible Studies, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8: Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Communion will be served at both services.

Monday, March 9: Strong Women Exercise, 9 a.m.; Community Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10: Mission & Outreach, 4 p.m.; Community Lenten Service at Spring Run United Methodist, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Children 4-7 yr. old Music time, 4:45-5:30 p.m.; GROWing Together Meal, 5:30 p.m. (Bring Your Own Food), Rooted Youth, Children’s Ministry, & Adult Bible Studies, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Session, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 15: Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Communion will be served at both services.

Monday, March 16: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Community Meal, 5:30 p.m.; Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17: Community Lenten Service at Lower Path Valley Presbyterian, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Children 4-7 yr. old Music time, 4:45-5:30 p.m.; GROWing Together Meal, 5:30 p.m. (Bring Your Own Food), Rooted Youth, Children’s Ministry, & Adult Bible Studies, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 20: Red Cross Blood Drive, 2:30-7:00 p.m. Volunteers and donors are needed!

Sunday, March 22: Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Communion will be served at both services.

Monday, March 23: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Community Meal, 5:30 p.m.; Fun & Fellowship, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24: Community Lenten Service at UPVPC, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Children 4-7 yr. old Music time, 4:45-5:30 p.m.; GROWing Together Meal, 5:30 p.m. (Bring Your Own Food), Rooted Youth, Children's Ministry, & Adult Bible Studies, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 29: Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Communion will be served at both services.

Monday, March 30: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Final Community Meal of the season! 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31: Community Lenten Service at Dry Run Church of the Brethren, 6:30 p.m.

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Jesus told his disciples before he ascended into heaven, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy saying, *"Do not let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."*

In response to these words and to our Lenten study this year, "Something Needs to Change," by Pastor David Platt, Rooted Youth on Wednesdays will be participating in various service projects to benefit our community and the larger community of Franklin County. Our first project will be putting together hygiene kits for Women in Need of Franklin and Fulton County. Women in Need's (WIN) mission is to "help, educate, support, and empower victims of abuse." These hygiene kits will be provided to women who are fleeing domestic violence and abusive situations in the Franklin county area. If you would like to help with this project by donating hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, deodorant as well as hygiene products for children and feminine care products. Bins will be outside the sanctuary entrances to collect your donations. This service project is being done in response to our February Wednesday night teaching series on dating and healthy relationships.

Rooted Youth will also be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to Fannett-

Metal school's backpack program as well as the Valley Ministries Food Pantry. These items will be donated for April's distribution. The Backpack program provides food items to 45 students in need every other Friday. Valley Ministries Food Pantry provides food items to approximately 50 families/month in our community. Items needed include cereal, oatmeal, diabetic friendly foods, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, mac & cheese, pasta sauce, granola bars, crackers, etc. If it is an item that you like to eat, then someone else would enjoy it as well. This is just one small way we can begin to help our neighbors in need.

If you know of any other needs or service projects you think would be beneficial to our youth, please speak with me. We are never too young to serve or too old to cultivate a servant's heart in each of us.

With love & blessings, Laurie

Path Valley Shoebox News for March 2020



The Shoebox Project will be gathering March 16 at 7 pm at the Dry Run Church of the Brethren to start planning for the 2020 year. We have been gifted an abundance of yarn, thread, buttons, material and other items if you or someone you know is interested in sewing, knitting, crocheting, or crafting a project. We are always looking for folks interested in wood-working to make wooden cars for us. If you are a craft painter – we have unpainted cars and toys for you. How about making ribbon dancers, or sorting through inventory? Or maybe you are a shoebox shopper – clearance sales are the best! We are always looking for new ideas! Anyone with a desire to share the Good News through a shoebox gift is invited. We have new and exciting things to share and would love to have you join us!

Many of you are also interested in the Shoebox Supply House on Lurgan Ave in Shippensburg. The Supply House will be open April 4, 9, 16, 25, 30 and May 4, 16, 21, 30 from 9-12 each day. As more info becomes available including an itemized price list, we will share it with all of you. Thank you all for your support of this project. God is doing amazing things in our area and it is exciting to be a part of it! For more information contact John or Ruth Mitchell. ☺

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 128
Spring Run, PA 17262
717-349-2603
www.upvpc.org

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over each person/couple as their special day arrives:

Birthdays

Parker Lantz	March 1
Jerry Yeager	March 2
Jim Miller	March 3
Willow Rupert	March 5
Darla Zerbe	March 6
Kaden Rosenberry	March 7
Kevin Woodward, Chris Seibert, Holly Rotz	March 8
Wilma Umbrell, Noah Worthy	March 9
Colton & Cole Daniel,	
London McGee, Ada Price	March 10
Nathan & Nick Parsons	March 12
Pat Allison, Mark Shearer	March 17
Dan Baker	March 21
Grayson Baker	March 22
Daryl Ewan	March 23
James Campbell, Katrina Myers	March 24
Carrie Martin	March 25
Kendra Hostler	March 26
Kristin McGee	March 27
Ed Hill, Jill Parsons, JaeLee Proper	March 28

Anniversaries

Dale & Angie Hall	March 11
Chris & Travis Seibert	March 14
Nathan & Monique Parsons	March 21
John & Ruth Mitchell	March 28



A Poem for Lent By Angie Ruby

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The hollow listlessness closes inward,
Tightening with every word left unsaid.
Echoing the silence passed between us
Speaking louder, louder, ever louder,
You are not enough. You're unlovable.
Though I may be rejected and broken
A whisper remains slicing the silence
Surrounding me, encompassing my soul
*Bless the Lord, He taught these weary worn hands
These fidgeting fingers, this agonized
Soul to battle, carry on, persevere.
Abide in me and I'll abide in you.
Fight. Press on. Endure. Dream big. Dig deep. Stay.*
When all seems lost, the burden so heavy,
The task unobtainable, find the rock.
The Lord, a fortress-loyal and true, my shield
In whom I take refuge, my place of safety.
What are we, you and me, that you consider
Us, O Lord? We are crooked clouds of smog
Polluting all that was once clean. Shadow
Are our days, Lord, yet you sent your own son
To death upon a cross. Redemption paid
In full. Reconciliation, our hope.
Hope be thou my anchor, Faith my guide for
I cannot see anymore, yet shall I
Raise my ragged voice in songs to my Lord.

**UPPER PATH VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

He's
ALIVE!
EASTER VBS

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

3-5 P.M.

PRE-K - 5TH GRADE

**Come learn about the
AMAZING NEWS OF EASTER
through music, games, crafts,
snacks, & an egg hunt!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
CALL LAURIE PARSONS @ 717-349-2603

COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES
Sponsored by the Path & Amberson Valley Ministerium

All services begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3
Doylesburg United Methodist

Tuesday, March 10
Spring Run United Methodist

Tuesday, March 17
Lower Path Valley Presbyterian

Tuesday, March 24
Upper Path Valley Presbyterian

Tuesday, March 31
Dry Run Church of the Brethren

Good Friday, April 10
Shady Pine Church

All are welcome!

