

# THE HILLTOPPER

## MARCH 2024

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### OFF THE COLLAR



**March 10** brings about another Daylight Savings Time. Don't forget to "spring ahead" your clocks.

We set the clocks forward in the spring, but we can't just keep pretending to fast-forward through time. The clocks go back an hour in the fall because we understand that Daylight Savings has no impact on the actual flow of time. Turning our clocks forward or backward doesn't stop time from marching forward, completely indifferent to us and our customs.

So how on earth are we supposed to *redeem it*?

The word *redeem* typically means "buying back"—that is, paying a price in order to recover something that once belonged to you. In that context, Paul's instruction to redeem the time makes little sense. There's no way to recover spent time—what's gone is gone, and no amount of wishing or Daylight Savings can return it.

In Ephesians 5:2, 8, 15, Paul encourages the Ephesians to "walk in love," to "walk as children of light" and to "walk circumspectly". Again and again, Paul uses the imagery of movement, reminding us that redeeming the time is something we can only do by *moving forward*. And that's the key. That's what's so encouraging about this verse. It's not about bemoaning the evil days around us or the wasted time behind us. Redeeming the time starts *right now*, in this moment, and extends to the moment after and the moment after that. The only thing we can really do with the past is learn from it, but the future is wide open. Ready to be redeemed. Ready for someone willing to walk in love, light and wisdom. Ready for you to use the time to fulfill God's purpose in your life.

*How to become that person* is a much bigger topic—the kind we could spend all day talking about and only just scratch the surface. But the message of hope we can draw from Ephesians 5 is this: You *can* redeem the time, and you can start *now*. Even if up until this moment you've walked in hate, darkness or foolishness, it doesn't have to stay that way. You don't have to keep walking down that road.

God has something *so much better* waiting for you.

## **March Worship Leaders at Mt. Calvary**

March 2/3 Pastor Ricky Ingram - Pastor of Summit Church, Indiana, PA  
March 9/10 Kevin Oleksa  
March 16/17 Gary Mickle  
March 23/24 Pastor Ed DeVore  
March 28 Maundy Thursday, Pastor Kevin Shock  
March 29 Good Friday, The Very Reverend Daniel Lees  
March 30/31 Pastor Ed DeVore

Altar Guild - Cindy and Sara Solarczyk and Tony



## **BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

March 2	Alexander Pozun	March 21	Randy Whetzel
March 4	Melanie Perry	March 22	Dan Bantley
March 7	William Wolfe	March 22	Susan Seese
March 9	Ashley Kozak	March 23	Brenda Kuyat
March 9	Gabriel Kozak	March 24	Jeanne Hockensmith
March 14	Kerri Moyer	March 26	Robert McMullen
March 14	Nancy Peretin	March 26	Tiffany Swartz
March 15	Matthew Fisher	March 26	Deborah Wicks
March 16	Cynthia Buday	March 27	Sunniva Pawlowski
March 17	Gary Morningstar	March 28	Keith Mayket
March 18	Caroline Palm	March 29	Roberta Ream
March 20	Vicki Hershberger	March 30	Karen Giunta
March 21	Jacylnn Hauger	March 30	Kathy Ling
		March 31	Jackie Carpenter



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

March 16	Jonathan & Melanie Perry	March 18	John and Mary Kist
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*Scrabble answers: 1. Bible 2. Jesus 3. Pray 4. God 5. Church 6. Songs*

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH 2024

March 4	Evangelism	6:30 PM
March 7	"The Chosen" Bible Series	6:00 PM
March 12	Property	6:00 PM
March 14	"The Chosen" Bible Series	6:00 PM
March 19	Council Meeting	6:30 PM
March 20	Social Ministry	6:30 PM
March 21	"The Chosen" Bible Series	6:00 PM
March 22	The stripping of the palms	5:00 PM ( <i>Evangelism Committee</i> )
March 24	Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt	8:45 AM
March 28	Maundy Thursday Meal/Service	6:00 PM (Service will be held in the gym)
March 29	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM (Stripping of the Altar)
March 30	Easter Saturday Service	5:30 PM
March 31	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 AM ( <i>at Richland Cemetery</i> )
March 31	Easter Sunday Service	8:45 AM

**\*Community Shoe Drop-Off - Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12-3**

**\*Mt. Calvary annual Flea Market- Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8-1**

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

### **Getting to know you.**

Every month we are going to focus on a member of our church in hopes you may "get to know" someone a little better. This month our focus is on Todd Moss, our Office Manager.

*From Todd,* "I would love to share with you how working with scripture every week has really been the best part of working at Mt. Calvary. There is so much excitement when you're reading through scripture, and something touches your soul. I call that the work of the Holy Spirit. If you're lost or don't know how or where to start reading, my best advice is to stop in and pick up a copy of the "Church Year Calendar". It highlights several of the verses in scripture related to the exact time that we are currently in. By simply reading and reflecting on some of these verses, weekly worship makes much more sense and is an excellent way to grow some of your uncertain faith questions with answers." Stop me anytime you need anything, or you have questions about your church, or how you can get more involved. I am at your service. Todd

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

We offer our deepest Sympathies to Roger and Debbie Thomas on the death of Roger's mother, Joanne and also to the Palm family on the death of Dolly Palm. Dolly's death ends a marriage union that would have been 78 years in April. Also to Edward and Laura Wingard III on the death of Laura's father Norm Snyder.

## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School has begun. Dr. Harold Ashcraft is teaching, and all are welcome to attend. It will be in the Lounge at the back of the church following Sunday morning worship. Please consider making this part of your Sunday worship time.

## Home Communion

Would you prefer, or need to have communion at your home? Sometimes during the winter months we realize it may be hard to get out in the cold. We have individuals that do home visitations. If you would be interested in having a visit at your residence, please contact the church office, and arrangements will be made.



## Prayer Chain

If you would like to put a name on the prayer chain please call Mary Ann Mapes at 814-266-2185, or the church office at 814-266-4859.

*"When you want to work FOR God, start a committee. When you want to work WITH God, start a prayer group"... Corrie Ten Boom*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday commemorates the biblical story of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, much to their discomfort – a Christian rite known as "Maundy". At that time, people would wear open sandals and walked on dirty streets, so the lowest servant would usually wash people's feet. His performing of the Maundy – to an uncomfortable reaction from his followers – was therefore a demonstration of humility and an entreaty for his disciples to always treat each other as equals. According to the Gospel of John, he told his followers: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

**We will be serving a Maundy Thursday meal at 6:00 on March 28. along with communion. Please plan to attend.**

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

This February and March is the ongoing Cambria County Backpack Project Food Drive. Students receive a bag at school on Friday with food to last until Monday, if needed. The following are the food items that can be accepted and dropped off in the church narthex:

*Ramen or noodle cups*

*Snack-size Slim Jims*

*Jello cups*

*Applesauce cups*

*Fruit cups*

*Canned vegetables with a pull tab*

*(so children don't need a can opener)*

*Pudding Cups*

*Single Serve cereal*

*Mac and cheese cups*

*Vegetable soup with a pull tab*

*Shelf-stable yogurt (no refrigerated items)*

*Veggie or wholegrain goldfish crackers*

## PRAYER SHAWLS

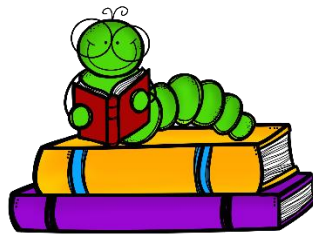
Please don't forget - Prayer shawls are for anyone that you feel needs a "HUG" from God. Please help yourself!



It's time again to think of cleaning out closets, cabinets, and garages. Our annual flea market is happening!!! This year it will be on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Items can be brought to the church any time *after April 1<sup>st</sup>*. Volunteers will be needed to help set up the night before and tear down after the flea market.

## **"GOD SAYS"**

"In the process of growing up, you may encounter many things that are not to your liking, such as illness and frustration. But as you walk this path, your life and your future are strictly under God's care. God gives you a genuine guarantee to last all your life. For He is right there beside you guarding you and looking after you." **WITH A FIRM AMEN!** *Corrie ten Boom*



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Shannon Reed on the publication of her second book, "Why We Read: On Bookworms, Libraries, and Just One More Page Before Lights Out." The book is a memoir and love story to reading. Incidentally, Mt. Calvary is mentioned in the acknowledgements and at least one story is from Shannon's time teaching at the RLC. Shannon is the daughter of Gloria Reed and the late Pastor Ron Reed. She lives in suburban Pittsburgh and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

## **UPJ PROJECT**

If you have been in church this last month, you have probably heard Pastor Brad Dayton from UPJ preach. He very kindly offered to step in when we were in need. He will be taking two of his student worshipers on a mission trip to Guatemala. They are hoping to get enough money to take supplies they may need. We have been very grateful to have Pastor Brad here with us and would like to pay forward to help him. During the month of March we will have envelopes sitting out marked UPJ to give a donation to help Pastor Brad and his students for their trip. We will also be using the loose plate money during March for this. Please give as you can to support Pastor Brad who supported us and continues to support us when needed.

## **HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN**

**Friedens Lutheran Church** offers a Coffeehouse once a month. For March and April the schedule is:  
March 22 - The Hitchhikers (variety, Classic Rock, Classic Country)  
April 19 - The Boom Rockets (rockabilly, surf, and Doo Wop)

Coffeehouses take place in "Friendship Hall" from 7:00 - 9:00 pm Suggested Donation \$5.00

**Belmont Community Church** March 24 Men's Prayer Breakfast held at Elton Zion Church 6:00am

**We are continuing our 5 Part session on what happens when a new pastor arrives.**  
**This is to provide some food for thought.**

### **A Five Session Study, Part 4**

*New Life will spring forth*

#### **4. New Life will spring forth**

It will. Probably in unexpected places. The new pastor will bring his or her own hopes, ideas and energy to new and existing programs and projects. New life will certainly spring up. The congregation must be adaptable, embracing these new springs of life and harnessing this energy to spur on ministry in other areas.

*(Session 5 coming in the April Hilltopper)*

## **THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

Don't forget the ongoing Thursday Night Lenten Bible Study on the series of "The Chosen." It is led by Dave and Carol Klavuhn. It isn't necessary to have seen any episodes of The Chosen in order to attend. Please consider making this part of your Lenten Journey.

## **YOU MAY THINK THAT...**

*You are completely insignificant in this world. But someone drinks coffee from the favorite cup that you gave them. Someone heard a song on the radio that reminded them of you. Someone read the book that you recommended and plunged headfirst into it. Someone smiled after a hard day's work because they remembered the joke that you told them.*

*Today, someone loves themselves a little bit more, because you gave them a compliment. Never think that you have no influence whatsoever. Your trace, which you leave behind with every good deed, cannot be erased.*



# The Youth Page



## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?
- If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.
- 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible.
- Should the central verse not have an important message? ***“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man”*** Psalm 118:8

## Youth Music Program



There is EXCITING NEWS!! We will be starting a Children's Choir soon. The children will perform on special holidays like Easter, Mother's/Father's Day, and Christmas. If your child would be interested, please sign their name on the sheet in the Narthex. If your child plays an instrument, please let us know. We would love to have them play in the church. We are by no means looking for perfect musicians. Everyone is welcome to join in our new music programs. There are no every week practices.

## WORD SCRAMBLE

1. LBBEI      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. SEJUS      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. YPAR      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. ODG      \_ \_ \_
5. RUCCHH      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. GNSOS      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

(Answers are hidden in the Hilltopper somewhere.....)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
3 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	4 6:30p EVANGELISM	5	6	7 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	8	9 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	11	12 6:00p PROPERTY	13	14 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	15	16 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
17 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	18	19 6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL	20 6:30p SOCIAL MINISTRY	21 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	22 5:00p STRIPPING OF THE PALMS	23 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
24 8:45a PALM SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00a EASTER EGG HUNT	25	26	27	28 6:00p MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL/SERVICE	29 7:00p GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	30 5:30p EASTER SATURDAY SERVICE
31 6:30a SUNRISE SERVICE 8:45a EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE						

