

Volume 11

Issue 3

MAR 2011

Moment with the Moderator



POINT PLACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Parish Paragraphs

Never in a million years did I ever dream that I would be writing to you as your Moderator. But here I am.

We are all eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring. As we look forward to warmer weather, longer days and baby girl Komperda, we are beginning our journey together.

As a busy Church we all need to be the hands and feet of Christ. If we work together, with God, we can do everything. Let's all prayerfully follow the path that God has set before us and witness what amazing things He has in store.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lori Winne for her years of faithful service. She has certainly set the bar high and I will do my best to reach it.

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 26: 19

Leslie Geletzke

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Weekly Schedule:

- Sun, 9:00am —Church School
- Sun, 10:30am —Worship Service
- Sun, 11:30am—Coffee Hour
- Wed, 12:00N—Bible Study
- Wed, 6:00—Simple Supper
- Wed, 6:30 pm—RECESS Worship
- Thurs, 8pm—AA & Al-Anon Meeting

From the **PASTOR**—



I went up for a rebound and came down on the side of my foot. Pain surged through my leg. Immediately, I jumped up from the ground and started hobbling around; I limped quickly towards the bench, hopped towards the trainers' office, and gingerly jogged back down the hallway to try to convince my coach to put me back in. "Stop! You're acting like a lunatic." The voice was my dad's, who had come down from the crowd to check on me. It wasn't meant to be an insensitive or demeaning comment; it was the truth. There was one minute left in the game and we were down by 25 points. I had a badly sprained ankle. So I stopped. And finally, I allowed the pain to be real. I let myself admit that I needed to stop, rest, and heal.

Sometimes I wonder if this isn't why we make ourselves so busy, running from one appointment to another, ducking into church at the last minute, constructing vacation itineraries down to the minute, filling our "down" moments with the constant noise of television, computers, iPods, phones, and company. Because if we stopped, we would realize that something is terribly wrong.

Lent comes to us as God's voice saying, "Stop!" As Sister Joan Chittester, a Benedictine nun, writes, "Lent requires

me, as a Christian, to stop for a while, to reflect again on what is going on in me...It is a time to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out.” As much or more than all of you, I need Lent; I need to stop; I need to reflect; I need to think seriously about Jesus; I need to take time to allow the things that are wrong in my life to be real; I need to stop drowning those things out with busyness, projects, noise, and other means of avoiding reality. We need to do all this because it is far better to be healed by a loving and powerful God than it is to go on pretending. Such is the heart of what Jesus asks of us.

During our worship services throughout Lent, we will be taking time to reflect on the symptoms that give us windows into our true condition: our emotions. Why is it that we feel guilty? ashamed? worthless? alone? confused? afraid? I am confident that if we take a moment to let this pain be real, we will see places in our lives where these emotions are felt or acted upon. In fact, we might be surprised to see just how much of our lives are driven by these feelings. But what happens when our guilt, shame, worthlessness, loneliness, confusion, and fear encounter the Cross of Jesus? This will be what we explore over the 5 Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday.

For Recess, we will take some time to listen to Lenten reflections by Christian writer and teacher, the late Henri Nouwen. Susan and I will share these reflections, and we will all spend time in thought and discussion. I think we will benefit both from Henri Nouwen’s exemplary practice of reflection as well as from being challenged by his words.

I hope you will take full advantage of the Lenten season, to be honest about your life, and to seek the healing that only comes through the Cross of our loving Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

LIBRARY

This month's library preview will be a Lenten edition, books that help us reflect and assess our own lives and our congregational life:



Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, by Jim Cymbala. If you are wondering how churches grow, have a vision for a thriving congregation, or are frustrated with all the various church-growth methods and strategies that never seem to work or ask us to be something we're not, Jim Cymbala offers a refreshing and challenging story. It is the story of a dying church and their pastor who had no hope but to pray. It is the story of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church, but it is even more the story of a God who can bring revival even in the most hopeless places.

Ordering Your Private World, by Gordon MacDonald. Chaotic outer lives stem from chaotic inner lives, suggests Gordon MacDonald. Breaking our "private world" down into Motivation, Use of Time, Wisdom and Knowledge, Spiritual Strength, and Restoration, MacDonald offers us ways to assess our current lives, and then practical steps to developing a more ordered private world.

The Great Divorce, by C.S. Lewis. There are many things we do that seem to make perfect sense in the moment of our fast-paced lives and culture. But what if we look at our lives in light of eternity, from the perspective of those who have tasted the New Creation? Lewis shows how taking a route that starts out as just a slight deviation from the Gospel path can, when travelled for many miles, lead us far far away from the Kingdom of God. As usual, Lewis' style is sharp and his topics are relevant.





March Feed My Sheep Talk.

We are so lucky and blessed to continue to serve the community – in January we served 89 ham dinners! As we move toward our one year anniversary in April our program continues to provide a warm nutritious meal and warm fellowship to our community. We were “lucky” to receive a donation of 6 turkeys from the Jamie Farr Park Shelter program and served these at our dinner in February.

For March we’ve planned a hearty meal of home-made soups, fresh garden salad, rolls & butter, and fruit ambrosia. Mark March 22nd from 5 -7 pm on your calendar and come on down and help or just stop by for a meal. Food donations should be left at the church by Sunday, March 20th.

You can be a part of this program by Volunteering.....

- to help set up for the dinner
- to help cook the food
- to serve during dinner
- to help with clean up
- to help with publicity or yard sign placement
- to deliver a meal to a church member’s home

We are in need of donations of.....

..... napkins, butter or margarine, boxes of instant vanilla pudding, cash for purchase of meat and perishables. or donating other food and supplies.

Sign-up sheets are available in Paterson Hall if you are interested in volunteering or donating, or you may call Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Lori Winne 734 848 4120 for more information.

CHURCH COUNCIL

As I write this, I am saying Praise God for helping Toledo Edison finally find the right wires to get our electricity back on. It's been a cold 40 hours at our house. I do hope everyone else is making it through the outages okay and pray for the many thousands of people who are still left in the cold and dark.

At our January meeting, we reviewed the Director of Discipleship Coordinator, 2011 Position Priorities document. There are six main priorities in this document to include: Youth Leader, Personal Discipleship, RECESS, Small Group, Adult Opportunities, and Website/publicity. This document will be used for submitting the grant to pay for the position and the quarterly evaluation.

The evening of the "all boards" meeting seems to be going better with additional space between groups, making it easier to hear what is said within each group. Please remember that some groups will need to meet longer than others because they have more business to discuss.

The council also reviewed the materials that were needed for the congregational meeting that was held mid-February. We did have a quorum at that meeting. Thanks to everyone who took a step of faith and voted for the amendment to the constitution regarding the use of monies to meet the expenses of the church.

We also discussed the need to form the Pastoral Relations Committee. This committee meets quarterly with the pastor and reports to the church council as part of the pastor's annual evaluation. The committee consists of three members from the search committee and three members suggested by council. Donna Serviss, Chuck Geletzke, and Lori Winne have agreed to be the three members from the search committee. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Lori Winne or Leslie Geletzke.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Jon also shared the “Birth Plan” for their new baby and his commitment to the church. He is planning on a two week paternity leave. He will still plan the service from home and will be at the service each Sunday. In the event that Baby Komperda decides to arrive late on a Saturday or early on a Sunday morning, Susan Korecki will assist with the service in his absence. Susan will also be the emergency person for pastoral needs.

Finally, we all want to thank Lori Winne for her service as Moderator for Church Council. It has been a busy time for the moderator with the search process going on during her time of service. She has done a fantastic job. Her final meeting will be in February when she will hand over the responsibilities to Leslie Geletzke. Leslie will lead the Church Council beginning with the March meeting. I am sure that Leslie will be a very capable leader and will continue to guide the council through our many tasks. There are still a few opportunities to serve our church. I know Leslie would especially like to see someone step up to take the assistant moderator position. Please think and pray about how you might be able to serve our church. Let Leslie know if you are interested in the assistant moderator position or any other committee in our church.

Sincerely,

Bonnie A. Nelson

Secretary





NEWS and NOTES

GIFT CARDS

We will continue to sell gift cards during the year. The Church makes a percentage from all sales. There are order forms on the window ledge in the cry/coat room for your order. Remember they are not just for Christmas, but any time of the year. They make great thank you gifts, anniversary gifts, birthday gifts, etc. I will have to have orders totaling \$300.00 before I can place an order and make it worth the postage to send it to us. So if you need gift cards for any occasion, please remember the church and help us make some extra money. The cards will be ordered after the second Sunday of the month and you will receive them the third Sunday. Thank you.



General Fund		
	January	Year-to-Date
Expenses	\$9,702.68	\$9,702.68
Giving	\$10,554.96	\$10,554.96
Difference	\$852.28	\$852.28

NEWS and NOTES



To all our friends and family at Point Place UCC. I have had my last chemo treatment on 2/14/2011 and so far everything has gone well. We want to thank everyone for the cards, the prayer shawl and the many prayers it was greatly appreciated while I have a ways to go and another surgery scheduled March 8th it is nice to know we have the support of some wonderful people and the Lord will see us through. God bless all of you and Thank You again.

Don & Karen Curtis

SPAGHETTI DINNER (carry out)

“Slam” Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser



Saturday, March 19th, 5p—7p

\$8 adults

\$4 children (10 and under)

Bring your family, Tell your friends!!

UPDATE
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2011 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new directory is in its final stages of completion. A rough draft is available in the Sanctuary for editing. Feel free to make a correction on this hard copy or email the information to the office. We plan on sending this out via email. A hard copy is available on request.

Mission Board Updates:



Think GREEN in March! Bring in non-perishable food items that are green in color (or green packaging) for Feed Your Neighbor this month. Donations for FYN/ Mustard Seed can be placed in the cart at the back of the sanctuary or on the table near Pastor Jon's office.

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS! During March and April we would like to put together care packages for our college students again this year. We hope to be able to deliver or send the packages to the students around final exam time. If you have a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter in college please let someone from the Mission Board know!

We thank Shelley Kotz from Bittersweet Farms for sharing the Mission Moment with us in January. A collection was taken on that Sunday and \$224.00 has been sent to Bittersweet Farms to support the work and programs for individuals with autism.

This year the board of Diaconate and the board of Missions decided that the Lenten self-denial folder donations will be given to a local ministry called The Lewis House. This ministry is run by George and Sara Williams. They will be sharing the Mission Moment with us during service on Sunday, March 27. Come to learn about their ministry and how you can get involved.

Save the date(s)...

Easter Breakfast – Sunday, April 24 @ 8:30am

Relay for Life – Saturday, May 15. More details to come!

Ericka Winne

from the Director of Discipleship.....



Each Wednesday during Lent starting Wed. March 16th we will meet for a simple soup supper followed by discussions inspired by the book *Eternal Seasons: A Spiritual Journey through the Church's Year* by Henri J.M. Nouwen. The readings will be based on the season of Lent: Season of Repentance.

For these weeks if you are able to bring a crock of soup one Wednesday please call me, Susan Korecki at 419-726-0940 so I can put your name on the list. We will need three each Wed. so any week that will work for you just let me know, it would be greatly appreciated.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On March 9th at 7pm, you are invited to gather in the sanctuary for a solemn, but interactive Ash Wednesday service. We will let images inspired by ashes, water, and clay help us to reflect on our own lives and the Lenten season.

*No Recess on March 9th

LENTEN RETREAT: Clearing a space for God



Lent is a time of waiting, of fasting, of preparing. All of these things can be big challenges in our culture and ways of thinking. So we hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to get away for a day at Sisters of Notre Dame Lial Renewal Center.

* Registration forms are available in the church library. Please fill in the form, tear off and leave in the basket in the church library, you may also give it to Susan Korecki or call to let us know your intent to attend.

A donation of \$10 would be appreciated on the day of the retreat to help cover the retreat's costs.

Saturday March 26th

9am – 4pm

Lial Renewal Center

5908 Davis Rd.

Whitehouse, Ohio

Questions call Susan Korecki

419-726-0940 or 419-726-7390

Directions on form which is available in the church library.

DIACONATE

LENTEN SELF DENIAL FOLDERS TO BENEFIT THE LEWIS HOUSE

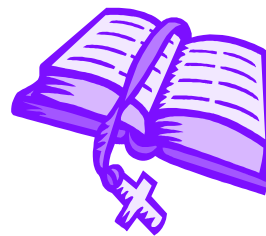
Self Denial folders are available on the shelf in the coat room. This year the Board of Diaconate has designated profits from this collection to benefit a local urban ministry recommended by the mission board – The Lewis House. This ministry serves youth and families in the Lewis Ave./Sylvania area with programs and assistance.

HOSPITALIZED?

Just a quick reminder – if you or a member of your family becomes hospitalized, whether planned or suddenly – please notify the church office or Pastor Jon as soon as possible. Pastor Jon wants to visit and early notification would be a BIG help! Understandably these times can be stressful and hectic but remember – most hospitals no longer relay the information to the church so please pass it along. A brief visit and prayer will brighten the day for all involved.

LITURGISTS NEEDED

The Board of Diaconate is filling the 2011 calendar of Liturgists. Anyone interested in participating in the worship service 3 Sundays a month by reading the scripture passages and liturgy please contact Bonny Beebe at 419 726 5074 or Pastor Jon. A one month commitment is all you sign up for – call today!

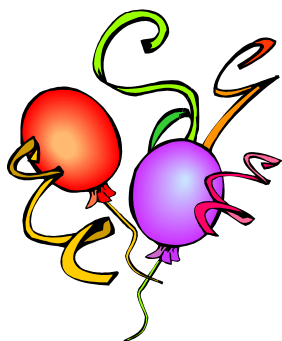


MARCH



BIRTHDAYS

1	David Mayfield		
3	Scott Berry	16	Chuck Geletzke
3	Mickey Debth	17	Tricia Crane
3	William O'Connor	17	Kimberlee Wioland
3	John Kasmierski (O'Connor)	17	Alan Wcislek
		19	Doris Jourdain
4	Heather Pryba	20	Earlene Yocum
7	Tyler Axtell	21	Rosemary Lytle
8	Olivia Compora	22	Ken Dickson
9	Dena Hammye	23	William Langlois
11	Jeff Dickson	24	Robert Berry
11	Megan Seybold	24	Michael McMullen
13	Janie Seely	28	Renee Woods
14	Paula Berry	29	Alexander Korecki
14	Dick Evanoff	29	Michael Dyer
15	Alice Evanoff	29	Joyce Schulz
15	Charles Grindle		



ANNIVERSARIES

13	Richard and Norma Socks
13	Terry and Becky Brocus
16	Todd and Nancy Slater

One more moment with the Moderator.....

We get so excited when we are planning a new fundraiser or project that we sometimes forget to take care of business. Please remember that a "Building Use Form" must be completed and submitted before the next event. This is so all staff members including the custodian are aware of what is going on in and around the Church building.

There is also a new form that must be completed for any Fundraisers that will be held. This form needs to be completed in two steps. The top portion should be filled out before the fundraiser. This lets our Financial Secretary, Scarlet Krumn, know that monies will be coming in and where they should be applied. The bottom portion of this form will be completed after the event and will have all the pertinent financial information. This will help to make Scarlet's difficult job just a little bit easier.

Both of these forms can be found on the bulletin board near the office.

Thank you very much for your help.

Leslie Geletzke

