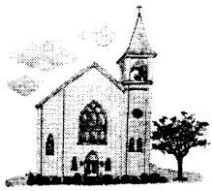


# PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street  
Pennsburg, PA 18073



*Address Service Requested*

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE EXPEDITE

To our Members & Friends

## March 2020 CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Pastor:** Rev. Matthew Gorkos

**Consistory Officers:**

President..... Jane Bernhard

Vice President..... Dana Heimbach

Treasurer ..... Sharon Burns

Secretary ..... Paula Sell

**Director of Music:** ..... Audrey Reinhart

**Custodian**..... Lynn Sturdevant

**Administrative Assistant**..... Jane MacNeill

Pennsburg U.C.C.  
**9:00 AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Morning Worship**

**Our Mission Statement:**

We are a welcoming  
congregation that  
celebrates  
and shares God's  
unconditional love with  
each other, the community  
and the world.

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## Pennsburg United Church Of Christ

775 Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073

215-679-7513

Rev. Matthew Gorkos, Pastor

[www.pennsburgucc.org](http://www.pennsburgucc.org) [pennsburgucc@gmail.com](mailto:pennsburgucc@gmail.com)



In the month of December, it's not uncommon to talk about "getting into the Christmas spirit." But, you know what you don't hear very often? You seldom hear anyone talk about "getting into the Lenten spirit." In fact, I don't think I've ever heard anyone say that. Why do you suppose that is?

Lent is a season of the church year that not many people find reason to be excited about. As compared to Christmas, the themes are considerably darker. Instead of hope, peace, love, and joy, we talk about temptation, sacrifice, and suffering. The music is dirgier. The major lifts have been exchanged for minor keys. Then, there's the fact that instead of receiving presents, Lent often requires us to give something up. All that considered, it's no wonder Lent arrives with such little fanfare.

And yet, one of the things I'm struck by every year when Lent arrives, is how ready I am for it. It's like, "Hello, darkness, my old friend." To me, it is fitting that Lent should follow Christmas and Epiphany—that a season of darkness should follow so closely on the heels of such light. I find it fitting because isn't that the way of life? Don't our lives often have seasons, too? Seasons of joy and light, and seasons of darkness. Christmas and Epiphany celebrate that Christ is Light, but Lent is a reminder that even in our seasons of darkness, Christ walks with us. And whether we currently find our lives in a season of darkness or not, that is always an important reminder.

Lent is a chance to face the darkness. To face it not necessarily in the hope that it will quickly depart. Instead, we face it in the assurance that Christ faces it with us—indeed, faces it **for** us—so that we do not have to be afraid.

So, let's get into the Lenten spirit! Let's step into the dark of the season in the trust and faith of having Christ at our side throughout this journey.

Peace,  
Pastor Matt

## **ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT**

### **January/February to date**

<u><b>Date</b></u>	<b>Amount Received 2020</b>	<b>Amount Received 2019</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Jan. 26	912.08	1,178.00	49
Feb. 2	1,016.00	795.00	37
Feb. 9	453.01	866.00	36
Feb. 16	954.00	858.00	48
Feb. 23	923.00	647.00	47

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,258.09</b>	<b>\$ 4,344.00</b>	<b>Avg. 43</b>
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### **Faith in Film Group**

Here are the upcoming showings for the winter/spring:

- March 20th - *Jesus de Montreal* (R) - Powerful Canadian film about an acting troupe hired to perform a Passion play, whose lives end up paralleling the characters they portray.
- April 24th - *On the Waterfront* (PG) - Marlon Brando stars in the story of a disgraced boxer who decides to take on the mob in a shipping town. Don't miss this classic redemption story.
- May 22nd - *Dogma* (R) - A raunchy comedy about two fallen angels trying to sneak back into heaven that features a star-studded cast and some unexpectedly deep theology.

All showings begin at 6 PM in Miller Hall (unless otherwise noted). Bring your own popcorn!

### **Here is the January 2020 Financial Report**

Checking Account Balance as of 1-1-2020 -	\$ 6722.57
Expenses —————	\$13,131.34
Income —————	\$ 4,036.08
Transfer from Memorial Savings _____	\$ 5,000.00
Closed United Church Funds Acct. _____	\$12,965.98
Ending Checking Account Balance _____	\$15,593.29

Full Consistory approved January 2020 Treasurer's report in posted on the church Narthex bulletin board.

*Sharon Burns PUCC Treasurer*



3/1: Abbigail Kern, Alyssa Soult  
3/4 Phyllis Horne  
3/13: Tiffani Gorkos, Brody Lash,  
Caitlyn Weller  
3/16: Joshua Bernhard  
3/16: Isla Soult

3/25: Martha Albright  
3/26: Kristen Ferguson, Chad Weller  
3/27: Bonnie Hess  
3/28: Audrey Reinhart  
3/30: Chelsea Weller  
3/31: Kylie Busch, Leroy Moll

**Thank you to everyone** who participated in this year's Adopt-A-Family. We know that the family appreciated all of the gifts they receive.

**The nursery is well stocked** thanks to all the donations of gently used toys. At the January Youth Group meeting we went through all the current toys to weed out any that were broken. We then cleaned, reorganized and re-shelved all the toys. The children are enjoying them thanks to all of you.

**On February 3**, we hosted and server 60 at the First Monday Meal. Thank you to those of you who donated money and other items towards the meal. Thank you especially to the 25-30 who came out and volunteered their time to help with the setup, cooking, serving and clean up. The Sunday School classes made Valentine's to give to everyone present. As we look forward on the church-wide-mission, we invite everyone to join us at our next meal. We will let everyone know when that will be. The March 2 meal will be served by Palm Schwenkfelder.

### **BIRTHDAY SOCIAL!!**

**Mark your calendars for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Our annual Birthday Social will be held after Sunday Worship in Miller Fellowship Hall. This year, we will celebrate by SEASON: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Sign Up sheets will be on the Bulletin Board in Miller Fellowship Hall. Each table can have two (or more) captains. Captains will provide decorations, cake or cupcakes, and snacks. Besides good food and fellowship, we will be hosting a BIRTHDAY OLYMPICS, with teams by seasons. Come out and bring your friends, neighbors, and relatives for a fun afternoon. Sign up by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**After church on March 8th**, the Stewardship Committee (yes, we still have one!) will be sponsoring a fun lunch event to enjoy together and break the ice on the stewardship conversation. The event will be a Jeopardy-style trivia competition that will test your general knowledge about church, the Bible, and Pennsburg UCC. The winner will receive a prize. We're looking for three players, and inviting everyone else to watch and cheer them on. Keep your eyes out for a sign-up sheet for lunch. To volunteer to play, see Pastor Matt or Aiden Lash.

## **MARCH 2020 VOLUNTEERS**

### **GREETERS**

Dana Heimbach, Christine Henry, Jane Bernhard, Gail Schmoyer

### **OFFERING STEWARDS**

3/1: Children & Youth

3/8: Bill Kurz, Cliff Lauchnor, Scott Mest, Aidan Lash

3/15: Frank & Donna Falk, Lori Kern, Morgan Dwornik

3/22: Helen Mensch, Donna Haws, Sandy Mest, Jana Butler

3/29: Dee Dee Smith, Ginger Witman, Bud & Ginny Wisler

### **NURSERY**

3/1: Holly Lash & Jana Butler

3/8: Jane Bernhard & Christine Henry

3/15: Jessica Huff & Hallie Huff

3/22: Jane Bernhard & Baylee Cleaver

3/29: Holly Lash & Jana Butler

### **ACOLYTE**

3/1: Magdalena Bittermann

3/8: Ezra Gorkos

3/15: Madison Dwornik

3/22: Chase Henry

3/29: Magdalena Bittermann

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**It's time to make the PICKLED RED BEETS!** Sure would appreciate your help for two hours...Saturday, March 21st starting at 9AM. The Pickled Red Beets will be ready for your Easter Dinner with pick-up Saturday, April 4th, 9AM-1PM. \$8:00 per quart.

An order sheet will be placed in Miller Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 215-679-7513 with your name and phone # or see a Fellowship member. Orders due by Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. 10% of proceeds to be used to defer medical bills for a local youth.

Thank You....The Fellowship Committee

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### **Super Souper Bowl Sunday and Winter SOS**

Thanks to everyone who donated the 147 cans of soup and stew for the Winter SOS mission and Souper Bowl Sunday. Along with the cans, \$42.14 was collected during our 2-2-2020 worship service. All this is being taken to The Open Link. (Thanks DeeDee and Bobby Smith for transporting the cans.)



For the following Wednesdays in Lent, we will be participating in a mid-week worship series with our fellow Lutheran and UCC churches. This year's theme is "Brokenness Restored in Christ," and the dates and locations are as follows:

**March 4 - PUCC - "Broken Vessel Restored"**

**March 11-** St. Mark's Lutheran- "Broken Trust Restored"

**March 18-** Palm Schwenkfelder- "Broken Bread Restored"

**March 25-** New Goshenhoppen UCC - "Broken Promise Restored"

**April 1st-** Friedens UCC - "Broken Justice Restored"

### **Midweek Community Lenten Service**

This year, Pennsburg UCC is hosting the first Wednesday Lenten service on March 4<sup>th</sup> for our community. Pastor Matt will be preaching. After the worship service, there will be a time of fellowship for all attending the service. Your help is NEEDED. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the tile Sunday school room for food donations.

Do you have a special dessert or baked good, you want to share.....now is the time. Or purchase a snack, pretzels, cheese, crackers, chips and dip, candy, fruit or veggies.....

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET AND GIVE US AN IDEA OF YOU**

**DONATION** - so we can fill in the gaps. Monetary donations are also welcome to purchase drinks and paper products. Have a question - ask someone on the Worship committee.



### **Update!**

**At the special congregational meeting held on February 16, 2020**, the congregation was presented with 5 choices for the future of Pennsburg UCC. Those 5 choices were:

1. Hire a full time minister
2. Hire a part time (approx..20 hours) minister
3. Hire a full time shared minister (with permission being granted to Consistory to join in conversation with other churches to explore this possibility)
4. Hire a less than part time minister
5. Close our doors.

Those present voted overwhelmingly to explore hiring a full time shared minister.

This is a process that will take place over the next 6 months or more. The congregation will be kept informed as the process goes on. There are two very important points to take note of: 1. **NO** final decision will be made without the approval of the congregation.

2. All through the process and even if final approval is granted, there is a way to exit the agreement. Consistory is looking forward to exploring this type of ministry and all the possibilities it gives us to continue doing Christ's work.



**Vacation Bible School will be held a week earlier this year from Sunday, July 12 to Thursday, July 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Children ages Birth to just completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate. **Children age 3 or under must be accompanied by an adult.** Pre-registration will begin in a couple months so keep your eyes open for registration forms.


In the meantime, we need to start the planning process to ensure that everyone has time in our busy schedules to fully prepare for this event. We are always looking for help for the week, please let me know if you are available to do so. Teenagers as well as adults are invited to volunteer. We have simple tasks that don't require much physical activity and more physical tasks. We will have people from St. Mark's volunteering, also, but all of the leadership rolls should be from Pennsburg U.C.C. as we are hosting. All volunteer's will need to have up-to-date clearances and I will provide you with the link if you need it. Please let me know if you are available for the full week or part of the week. We need help in the following areas.

- Games leader and assistant - these people will lead the children in each night's theme-related game.
- Snack coordinator and assistants. We will provide what is needed for each night's theme-related snack along with drinks and baskets of other items. A little more work is needed on Thursday night as snack is prepared not only for the student's but also their friends and family that attend the closing program.
- Imagination Station leader and assistant - these people will help the children make the theme-related pre-packaged activity for the evening. They will also lead the children in discussions as to how the item they are making relates to the theme.
- Storyteller/s - as the position says, this person or persons relays the story for the evening not only through the words of the story but actions.
- KidVid leader - this person introduces the evenings theme-related video and leads the discussion after the video is played.
- Song leader - this person is not needed until 8:00 p.m. each evening and teaches the songs and motions to the children and leads them in the closing program
- Escorts to assist in the movement of the age groups between activities and to help the leader of the activity with supervising the children.
- Registration on Sunday and Monday night from 6:00 to 6:45.
- People to sit at the sign in and sign out table to track who is in attendance for the evening and to assure the child is being picked up by the parent or permitted person. Sign in person is needed from 6:00 to 6:45 and the sign out person is needed from 8:00 to 8:45.

A leader book is provided for each area. We will meet throughout the spring and early summer to make sure we are fully prepared for this wonderful experience that our children look forward to each summer.

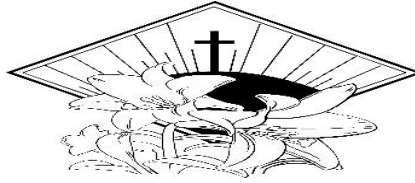
In addition to the above, we will be having monthly get-togethers from April to July in order to prepare the decorations for VBS. There will be Sunday afternoon and weeknight times that we gather to allow for everyone's different schedules. We will be making many of the decorations in order to save money on them. Please come out and assist even if you don't feel like you are a "crafty" person. Please look for announcements for dates and times. In addition, please keep those paper towel and toilet paper rolls coming in and look for additional items needed.

## March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div>9am-SS 10:15 am Worship</div> 	<div>2</div> <div>6pm-1<sup>st</sup> Monday Meal</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5pm-Worship Committee 7pm-Lenten Worship Service at PUCC</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>7</div>
<div>8</div> <div>9am-SS 10:15 am Worship (Stewardship Lunch event) 6-8pm Youth Group</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6pm-1<sup>st</sup> Monday Meal</div>	<div>10</div> <div>8am-noon Office Hours 7pm- Christian Ed meeting</div>	<div>11</div> <div>7pm-Lenten Worship Service at St. Mark's Lutheran</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9am-noon  Office Hours</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>14</div>
<div>15</div> <div>9am-SS 10:15 am Worship</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>8am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>18</div> <div>7pm –Lenten Worship service at Palm Schwenkfelder  Deadline for Red beet order</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours 6PM-Movie “Jesus de Montreal”  (Deadline for April newsletter)</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am-Make Red Beets</div>
<div>22</div> <div>9am SS 10:15 am Worship (<i>Birthday Social</i>)</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>25</div> <div>7pm-Lenten Worship service at New Goshenhoppen</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am-noon Office Hours</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9am-SS 10:15 am Worship</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>8am-noon Office Hours</div>				



**EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM 2020**



It is once again time to order the Easter flowers  
which add so much color and beauty  
to our sanctuary on *Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>*.  
The deadline for placing your order is **Sunday, March 22**.  
Please fill out the order form below and return it,  
along with your payment to any member of the Worship Committee:

Kathy Badman, Sharon Burns, Ginger Witman,  
Mary Jane May or Tom May.

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth (3 bloom) \$6.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip: (5 bulbs) \$6.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \$6.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily: (4 bloom) \$7.00

Total # of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Total of order \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write checks payable to Pennsburg UCC**

Any flowers left at the end of the 10:15 a.m. service will be donated to a local  
nursing home unless prior arrangements have been made.



### Lenten Worship Mission

In recent months, we have dedicated the front corner of our sanctuary to supporting a number of different missions—from collecting toiletries for the Open Link and toys for the nursery to cans for Souper Bowl of Caring. During this Lenten season, we are going to do something slightly different. Instead of asking for donations of money or goods, we are asking for your hands.

Because we're focusing this Lent on the theme of Jesus' hands, our mission is to be the hands of Christ ourselves. When you lend someone a help, perform a random act of kindness, offer a touch of comfort or healing, or share a gift of love, that's being the hands of Christ. When you do any of those things during the course of your week, you are invited to write the instance on a paper hand cut out and post it on the cross in the mission corner of the sanctuary. Let's see how hand-y we can be!

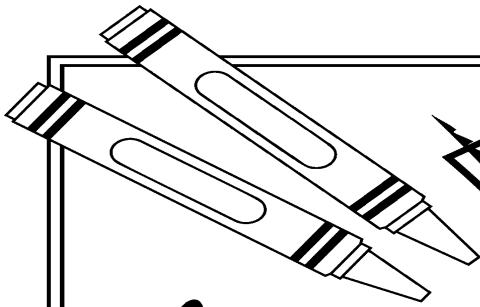


### Community Book Study

The group of local churches who helped organize the Community Day of Service are looking to organize a community book study for the weeks between Easter and Pentecost (April 13-May 23). The book is Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. The goal is to have multiple location/day/time options in order to have the broadest chances for engagement and congregational cross-pollination. We are looking for one member from each of the involved churches to serve as the point person facilitator for a discussion group. Please see Pastor Matt if you are interested. And, whether you are interested in being the facilitator or not, please plan on being part of the book study.



Daylight Savings time start on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Don't forget to **SPRING FORWARD!**



# PUZZLE

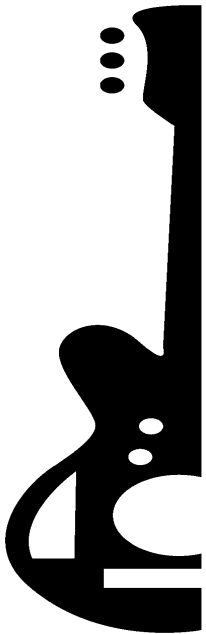
## MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD



People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.



**Directions:** Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



A type of horn

\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ☐

MURTETP

Played by  
King David

☐ \_ \_ \_

PRHA

Plucked to  
make sound

\_ ☐ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

IGSNSTR

Similar to a  
tambourine

\_ \_ \_ ☐ \_ \_ \_

MRBELIT

A type of harp

\_ \_ \_ ☐

ELRY

Blown through  
to make sound

\_ \_ ☐ \_

EPPI

A percussion  
instrument

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ☐ \_

YBLACMS

Le\_ everyt\_ing tha\_ has \_r\_ath  
\_raise the \_ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals;  
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

# Bible Quiz

Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

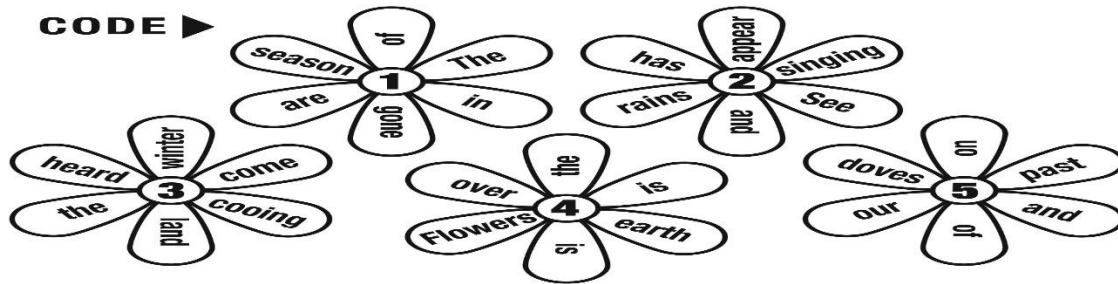


Answer: D (See John 3:1-16.)

# Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.

CODE ►



\_\_\_\_\_ ! \_\_\_\_\_ ;

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

Answer: See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV

