

Mount Nittany United Methodist Church
1500 E. Branch Rd., State College, PA 16801
phone: 814-237-3549 e-mail: mtnittanyumc@juno.com
Church Website is www.gbmg-UMC.org/mtnittanyumc

' ' '
April 2003 Newsletter
“Reaching Out to Give Good News”

Dear Friends:

As we come to the final weeks of the Lenten season and prepare for the experience of Holy Week and Easter, I share with you words that I found in an old Lenten devotional book:

“Only those who take God seriously discover Him at all.”

What does it mean to take God seriously? I believe it means that we take God at God's word and give God the chance to act as promised. For example, God has promised us forgiveness of sins if we are repentant and believe. When we take God's word of forgiveness seriously, we accept His love and live as forgiven sinners and share that forgiveness with others.

Martin Luther suggested that when our fists are clenched or our hands down we cannot receive anything. He says we must reach out hands in request and “spread our beggar's mantle.” In this way we discover that in all good times and bad, in all the high points and frustrating times of our lives, that it is God's hand that reaches to us, shepherds us along, bears our burdens, strokes our brow in times of trouble, and makes death easier.

That's the way it is with God. When we listen, God speaks; when we obey God, God acts. Jesus said, “He who comes to me I will not cast out” (John 6:37). Christ died for those words. He took us and our condition seriously. He deserves our giving Him a chance.

During this Lenten season, let us attempt to take God seriously as we share in the worship experiences of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Carl E. Hill, Pastor

April Worship Service Helpers

Morning Worship: 9:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:00 A.M.

Greeters

Apr. 6 Rick, Dawn, Michelle & Sarah Edmiston

April 13 – Palm Sunday

Rebecca Berg and Barbara Stahl

Maundy Thursday

2:30 P.M. John & Kathleen Waple

7:30 P.M. Myra Lines and Jane Baughman

Good Friday

7:30 P.M. Jo Moore

Apr. 20 – Easter Sunday

7:00 A.M. Bill & Elaine Smiles

9:00 A.M. Steve & Kelly Clemons

Apr. 27 Richard & MaryLou Duck

Liturgists

Apr. 6 Vincent Scalamogna* Jerry Park**

Apr. 13 – Palm Sunday

Cathy Rideout* and BJ Wurst**

Apr. 20 -- Easter Sunday

Rebecca Berg* and Ron Taverno**

Apr. 27 Edie Hertzog*

Sound System Team Attendants

Apr. 6 Rick Edmiston* and Ron Taverno**

Apr. 13 – Palm Sunday

Allen Bonsell* and Roger Wurst**

Maundy Thursday

7:30 P.M. Rick Edmiston

Good Friday

7:30 P.M. Ron Taverno

Apr. 20 – Easter Sunday

7:00 A.M. Bob Kidder

9:00 A.M. Shawn Kopp

10:30 A.M. Vincent Scalamogna

Apr. 27 Ryan Spotts* and Jim Young**

Ushers

Barbara Derzak and Patricia Kidder*

Bob Jones**

First Time Visitor

Tom Kline

Acolytes

Apr. 6 Allie DeCapria and Julia Wilkinson*
Alex Park and Andrew Park**

April 13 – Palm Sunday

Maddie Neidigh and Erin Gallagher*

Ben Jones and Alex Rowland**

April 20 – Easter Sunday

Kevin Spotts and Alex Vavreck*

Ilana Black and Kristin Bergman**

April 27 Cody Goss and Tom Kondash*

Norman Harris and Matthew McChesney**

Money Counters

Apr. 6 Ed & Donna Jane Benner and
Barbara Dean

Apr. 13 & 20 Karen Rowland, Jean Juba,
Barb Gotwalt

Apr. 27 Ed & Donna Jane Benner and
Pat Fenton

Tape Ministry Visitor

Apr. 6 BJ Holderman

Apr. 13 – Palm Sunday

Ric Rowland

Apr. 20 – Easter Sunday

BJ Wurst

Apr. 27 Bob Kidder

Memorial Gifts Received in Memory of.....

Wilbur “Spike” Tressler by:

Robert & Jean Tressler

Wilden Nuss, Jr.

Pat & Betsy Vernon

Donna Kisslak, Skip Reese, David Reese

Patrick Gianopoulos

Hoot Owl Hunting Club

Joseph & Maria Dilkes

James & Edith Herron

Janet Kelley and family

Amy Tressler Burkholder

Miles “Mike” Bloom by:

Robert & M. Esther Jordan

Interfaith Mission Update

If you don't volunteer, who will?

Interfaith Mission helped 55 adults and 33 children in February 2003.....

- \$5,583.64 was paid out for client services for housing, fuel, utility and medical assistance to help local families.
- 7 families were provided permanent housing to end their homelessness.
- 5 families were saved from being evicted from their homes.
- 44 utility terminations were prevented.
- 4 families were provided with fuel.
- 6 persons were provided emergency medical, prescription, or dental help.
- 60 pieces of furniture were given out to clients.

ASAP Armed Services Assistance Program:

Human Service Safety Net organizations and others, including Interfaith Mission and United Way, in the Centre County area have formed the Armed Services Assistance Program to provide support to families who are left behind when a member of the family is called to active duty.

Interfaith Mission's Second Annual Choral Festival will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2003, starting at 7:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

As a result of the new law concerning car seats for older children, Park Forest Day Nursery has a need for both more drivers and more car seats. Because of the car seat requirements, drivers can have only two children in a car. If you are interested in helping out, call Park Forest Day Nursery at 231-8492.

Reserve September 21 on your calendar for **Interfaith Mission's Dinner and Silent Auction** at Toftrees, and call Interfaith Mission at 234-7731 if you would like to help plan the event.

FOOD BANK NEWS

Food Bank Needs: canned peaches or pineapple, applesauce, evaporated milk, coffee or tea, toilet tissue, doubled brown paper grocery bags. Special needs: diapers (infant and children's sizes), cleaning supplies.

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

Palm Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. with Palm Processional by the Children at both services.

Holy Thursday Communion

2:30 P.M. Altar Communion in the Sanctuary

7:30 P.M. Table Communion in the Family Life Center with our Senior Choir presenting special music. In order to provide adequate seating, you are asked to indicate your attendance for this service by calling the Church Office at 237-3549 or signing the forms on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Good Friday Worship

7:30 P.M. Our drama ministry group will present the drama, "Hindsight - Always a 20/20 Look at Today's Events" by Marian E. Hartman. The drama group will be assisted by the Senior Choir.

Easter Morning Worship

7:00 A.M. Early Morning Worship

8:00 A.M. Easter Breakfast hosted by the United Methodist Men. Reservations will be appreciated.

9:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. Celebration of the Resurrection. There will be special musical presentations at all services.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones once said, "Life's last word is not a cross, but an Easter morning." In this very difficult time of world tensions and conflict, we will join again as the Christian community on Easter morning to celebrate this great affirmation of the Christian faith. Please make your affirmation with your presence.



PRESCHOOL NOTES

with Bonnie Spotts ~ 234-3938

Spring is the perfect time to explore

God's miracles all around us. We'll be witnessing rebirth by planting flowers and watching mealworms, caterpillars, and tadpoles grow and change. We'll be searching for signs of spring all around us. Earth Day will give us the opportunity to discuss taking care of God's creation. We'll learn to do our part by conserving and cleaning the yard around the Church. It's an exciting time in the classroom!

We have spaces available in our summer and fall programs. We would love to have your child join us and benefit from our program! Please call for information.

FOOTBALL DINNERS ARE BACK!

We will resume our post-game football dinners this season. If you can help in any way, please contact BJ Wurst. Following are the dates of the dinners:

August

30th Temple

September

6th Boston College

20th Kent State

27th Minnesota

October

4th Wisconsin

November

1st Ohio State

15th Indiana

EDUCATION NEWS

Easter Egg Hunt hosted by our Sr. High and Middle School Youth Groups on Palm Sunday, **April 13, at 3pm**. This is open to children through 5th grade—bring a basket. (The Egg hunt will be INSIDE this year since we seem to be missing a lawn right now!!) Children from the Church are welcome to bring a friend. The youth would really appreciate **donations of individually wrapped candies** to help fill our 900+ eggs.

Family Fun Night will be held on **April 11 from 6:30 until 8:30**. If you plan to play volleyball, please wear non-marking shoes. There will be games and refreshments, and activities for the little ones too, and a chance for them to play in the "big room." Everyone of every age is welcome to join us!

The elementary children are currently studying **Holy Week** with "Journey to the Cross." **Thank you** to our rotation leaders: Steve Clemons, Lisa

Narehood, Kim Knepp, Jennifer Boucher and Lori Williams; and our shepherds—Brenda Harpster, Lisa Glantz and Bob Jones. Parents are reminded that their children are to be picked up in the Family Life Center—we are not letting them leave that room to meet you elsewhere. The last rotation begins April 27—Peter and John: Dance for Joy!

Part of teaching our children about leading Christian lives is helping them to help others. **Please remember** to send your child or youth to their Sunday morning program with an offering so they can contribute to the missions of the Church. It isn't about how much they bring, but about learning to give.

April 13: **Palm Sunday** processional (preK-5th), followed by basket project for shut-ins

We still need delivery people for our baskets

April 20: **Easter Sunday** all children and youth should attend church with their family. PreK-5th will be dismissed to the Family Life Center for some special take-home crafts.

Splish Splash! We'll be having some fun in July with the stories of Elijah, Jonah, Jesus and the disciples as we dive deep into VBS 2003! **Preschool parents should know** that we are limiting preschool enrollment to 30 children ages 3-5, with pre-registration set to begin in late May.

Volunteer slips will be out after Easter. Do you want to be a crew chief? A preschool helper? A station assistant? A decorator? A check-in specialist? Do you have seashells we can use, or ocean-y decorations? There's plenty of work to go around, and plenty of fun to be had, so **don't miss SCUBA!**

Thanks to everyone who donated oatmeal containers and coffee cans. We have enough of those for now, but butter tubs are always useful.

MT. NITTANY SENIORS LUNCHEON

The April luncheon of the Mt. Nittany Seniors will take place on Wed., April 9th at Noon, in the Family Life Center of the Church. There are no plans for a speaker for this luncheon -- just plan to eat and socialize!

To reserve your spot for the luncheon, either register on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board, or call the Church Office at 237-3549.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

United Methodist Men's Meeting: Please plan to join us at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 15 for dinner, followed by a program by Jeff Wert, retired Penns Valley school teacher and noted Civil War historian and author. Jeff's interest in the Civil War goes back many years, and he has conducted much research on the battles associated with this War. He is widely published on the subject, and is a noted national authority on the Civil War.

ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS

Please note that the minimum order for altar flowers is \$30.00. After you put your name on the Flower Chart in the narthex, please be sure to contact Phyllis Dreibelbis (238-3610) by Wednesday of the week you indicated, so she place the flower order for you. Also, please contact the Church Office (237-3549) and let Audrey know how you'd like the information for the bulletin worded.

SPRING CRAFT SHOW!

Our first Spring Craft Show will be April 4th and 5th from 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. each day. Please bring packaged and priced baked goods, priced homemade craft items and priced white elephant merchandise to the Church Thurs., April 3rd, or before 9 A.M. on Fri., April 4th. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers. We will also have the kitchen open to serve food and a table set up for sale of our peanut butter eggs. Please contact Sharon Brown at 238-1982 if you have any questions. Thank you for helping to make this event a success!

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST Fellowship and Bible Discussions

Join us Sundays at 6:30 P.M. or Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. to discuss selected Upper Room meditations. Stop by when your schedule allows. Enjoy fellowship and discussion. What do these passages say to you?

April Themes

April 13, 15 Theme #7 (from April 1)

Christ with Us

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35; Matthew 18:20

April 27, 29 Theme #8 (from April 16)

Not Me! Never!

Scripture: James 4:7-12

Organized by the Companions in Christ
Study Group

For more information, please contact
Cathy Rideout (237-9372)
or Edie Hertzog (237-7737)

*

NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ Phyllis Field

+

The Cherub Chimers will be playing on Mothers Day, May 11, at the 9:00 service. If you have a Pre-school through 2nd grade child who wishes to play the chimes, let me know. Practice will be held on Sunday Mornings from 8:45 until 9:00 a.m. beginning April 13.

+

The Children's Choir will be rehearsing for Mother's Day from 10:00 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings. All children from grades kindergarten to grade 5 are welcome to sing.

The Contemporary Choir will be singing on the first Sunday in May. Rehearsals will be held Tuesday evenings April 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7:30 p.m. If you are a youth or simply young at heart, join us for rehearsals.

PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS

The cold and snow of winter seems to keep its grip over our lives as we enter the winter season. When I awoke this past Sunday morning, there was snow on the ground and our winter conditions continue today, March 31 with more cold and snow. However, there have been many bright moments during the month of March.

Our Power Express Program for the children during the Sunday School hour continues to receive favorable comments from children and parents alike. Thanks to our Education Assistant, Joanna Jones, and her legion of helpers who make this program possible. The final rotation for the academic year will begin the Sunday after Easter.

Thanks to the many, many persons who have contributed to the success of the Peanut Butter Easter Egg Program. On Day One of egg making, there were 26 people present at 9:00 A.M. to make and shape the candy eggs.

A special thank you to Betty Williams, our Nurture and Care Chairman, for her leadership in providing for three funeral meals plus the Choral Festival supper during the month of March. She has had many wonderful people respond to the more than usual requests for covered dishes and kitchen and dining room helpers. You have responded in a most wonderful manner.

As your Pastor, I wish to express my appreciation to the Administrative Council for supporting the sponsorship of the Choral Festival on March 23rd. The seven choirs combined to create a hundred-member chorus as we shared in a musical celebration. My thanks to Brian Peters, Phyllis Field, Susan Park and the members of our Senior Choir and our Adult Bell Choir for their support and participation. It was a great night and meant very much to me as I as celebrated 40 years of ministry within the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Again, thanks to Betty Williams and her assistants for a wonderful supper.

The Youth of our Congregation and their leaders are to be congratulated for a great worship experience on Youth Sunday, March 30th. The music and drama were presented by approximately 24 Middle School and Senior High Youth at both morning services. They demonstrated poise and sincerity as they led in the various acts of worship. The youth were assisted in the preparation by leaders Jerry Park, Jayme Michael, Jess Mulberger, Bob

Jones, Brenda Harpster, and Phyllis Field.

Special Easter Offering - Your special Easter Offering envelope is enclosed with your newsletter. Over the years, we have designated our special Easter offering for several different causes. This year, we ask you to consider making a significant second mile contribution during the Holy Week and Easter season. This year, your gifts will be directed to our General Fund (Current Expense). The winter months have taken a heavy toll on our General Fund due to high cost of heating and the unexpected amount of funds expended for snow removal and salting. Please be generous! Your gifts may be presented at any of our Holy Week and Easter services.

Daylight Saving Time - Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, April 5th. You do not wish to be late for the morning services on Sunday, April 6!



Mission Focus for April Housing Transitions

Housing Transitions provides a continuum of services, from emergency shelter, to housing related information, referral and intervention, to money management and the educational component of the First Time Home Buyers Program. Founded in 1984, in response to a Centre County Council for Human Services task force recommendation, Housing Transitions is able to provide continuity for persons working toward self-sufficiency. Evolving from the original Centre House, which provided "three hots and a cot," Housing Transitions now provides options and a logical progression that rewards the hard work necessary to achieve a satisfying and independent life style. All clients of Housing Transitions sign a contract upon entry, agreeing to rules of conduct and to participate fully in all aspects of the program.

Clients may first come to Temporary Housing through referral to Centre House for emergency shelter. Residents receive education and referral to local agencies providing medical services, rehabilitation, and child care as appropriate. From there, they may move to transitional housing for 1 to 2 years. While in this program, residents are typically enrolled in job training and educational programs, in preparation for reentering the work force and becoming financially stable. Residents pay a portion of their income as rent. With the restructuring of state and federal welfare programs, there has been increased emphasis on programs like Housing Transitions, which aim to help clients move to self-sufficiency.

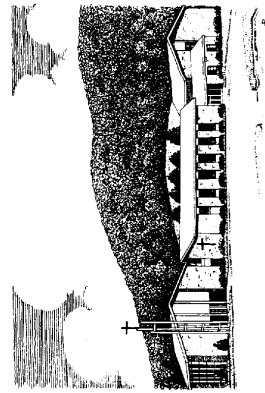
Housing Transitions also provides services to clients working toward permanent housing through State College's First Time Home Buyer's program, the Community Housing Development Organization, and Section 8 funding.

Housing Transitions provides one year of follow-up to assist former clients in their transition. Since 1984, Housing Transitions has assisted over 3,900 adults and children, with approximately 47,000 nights of stay and 75,000 meals. Follow-up data indicates that 85% or more of the Centre County residents who participate in Housing Transitions' programs remain in stable housing and employment situations for at least a year after leaving Centre House.

Our goal is \$400.00. Your contributions can be placed in the regular

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LEMONT, PA 16851
Permit No. 1

Mount Nittany United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 1167, Lemont, PA 16851



**APRIL 2003
Newsletter**

* Return Service Requested *

April

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | 1 Egg Making Paper Pickup 9:00-1:30 7 P.M. Admin. Council | 2 LAST DAY TO ORDER PEANUT BUTTER EGGS! 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir | 3 Egg Making 3-4:30 P.M. Brownies meet in FLC 7P.M. set up for bazaar 7P.M. PPR meeting | 4 Spring Bazaar 9A.M.-3P.M. | 5 Spring Bazaar 9A.M.-3P.M. |
| 6 5 th Sunday in Lent Baptism of Rachel Burger 5:30 P.M. Youth Bell Choir Praise & Worship Ministry Youth Quilting 6:30 P.M. Adult Bell Choir Middle School & Sr.High Youth Groups | 7 Egg Making 7-8 P.M. Cub Scouts | 8 FINAL PEANUT BUTTER EGG MAKING 7:30 P.M. Contemporary Choir rehearsal | 9 Noon - Senior Citizen luncheon 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir | 10 9A.M.-1P.M. Retired Ministers Fellowship and Dinner | 11 6:30-8:30 P.M. Family Fun Night in FLC | 12 1- 4 P.M. Nursery painting 6P.M. Eastern Star Banquet |
| 13 Palm Sunday 3 P.M. Easter Egg Hunt 5:30 P.M. Youth Bell Choir Praise & Worship Ministry Youth Quilting 6:30 P.M. Adult Bell Choir Middle School & Sr. High Youth Groups Upper Room Bible Group | 14 7-9:30 P.M. State College Cluster UMW Service | 15 6 P.M. United Methodist Men meeting 7 P.M. Upper Room Bible Group Discussion 7:30 P.M. Contemporary Choir rehearsal | 16 Noon - International Hospitality Council luncheon 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir | 17 Maundy Thursday 2:30 P.M. Communion Service 3-4:30 P.M. Brownies meet in FLC 7:30 P.M. Communion Service | 18 Good Friday 7:30 P.M. Worship | 19 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>20 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 A.M. Worship 8:00 A.M. Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Worship</p> | <p>21 8:30-Noon - International Hospitality Council meeting in Board Room</p> | <p>22 Healing Springs using FLC 7:30 P.M. Contemporary Choir rehearsal</p> | <p>23 7:00P.M Nursery painting 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir</p> | <p>24 3-4:30 P.M. Brownies meet in FLC 7-9 P.M. Girl Scouts meeting in FLC and old Conference Rm. 7 P.M. Building Committee meeting in Board Rm.</p> | <p>25 Healing Springs Overnight ~ (6 P.M. - 10 A.M. Saturday) 6 - 9 P.M. Respite Program</p> | <p>26 Tina Akimor wedding - Sanctuary and FLC</p> |
| <p>27 2nd Sunday of Easter 10 A.M. Fellowship Hour 1:30 P.M. Habitat HouseWalk 5:30 P.M. Youth Bell Choir Praise & Worship Ministry Youth Quilting 6:30 P.M. Adult Bell Choir Middle School & Sr.High Youth Groups Upper Room Bible Group</p> | <p>28 7 P.M. Board of Trustees 7-8 P.M. Cub Scouts</p> | <p>29 10-11:30 A.M. C.A.L.L. Class meeting in old Conference Rm. Healing Springs using FLC 7 P.M. Upper Room Bible Group Discussion 7:30 P.M. Contemporary Choir rehearsal</p> | <p>30 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir</p> | | | |