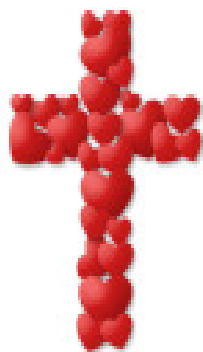


# Meeting House News



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***“Walking Through Lent”***

The journey through Lent involves a lot of walking. Abraham and Sara walked hundreds of miles when they left Ur and headed for the promised land. Moses and the people of Israel walked through miles of wilderness where they learned about themselves and God. Jesus walked in the wilderness of temptation and from there eventually headed to Jerusalem. As he taught and healed, he also walked. Disciples walked the streets of Jerusalem. The women walked in the garden on Easter Day. So this Lent, be up and walking!

As a community of faith, let's walk to Jerusalem! Our destination is a mere 5,862 miles. From Ash Wednesday through Easter Day, those who are able, take a walk. Keep track of the steps or miles you cover each day. On the following Sunday, write your mileage on a large poster which will be in Fellowship Hall. An inexpensive pedometer will help you to keep track daily.

As you walk, exercise your spirit, too. Pick up a list of suggested prayer themes for your journey. As you walk, pray. The topics will include some of our One Great Hour of Sharing projects, local outreach ministries, and a variety of people, places, and events.

Those unable to walk can participate by following the daily prayer exercises. As the phrase “a mile a minute” suggests, add one mile to your “spiritual walking” chart for every minute you pray. Add your “mile a minute” numbers to the chart each week, too, or phone them in to the church office.

Praying is something ALL of us can do as we walk together through Lent! So sign up as a “walker/prayer” as we move toward Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Maintaining your health on the way is important, too. A special event after worship in March will focus on healthy eating. Come to the Gathering Room and raise your awareness.

Come, let us WALK together--in body and in spirit--moving through the stories, disciplines, activities, services, and worship during Lent until we reach Jerusalem, the cross, and the empty tomb!

***Rev. Black***

# Worship Highlights – February

## FEBRUARY 5

(Ordinary 6)

9:15 AM: Prayer, in the Sanctuary  
 9:30 AM: Education Hour; classes for all  
 10:45 AM: Worship. Sermon: “Take My Hand”; Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31 & Mark 1:29-39  
 After worship, enjoy conversation & refreshments in Fellowship Hall.  
 “Souper Bowl of Caring” Sunday (see related article)

## FEBRUARY 12

(Ordinary 7)

9:15 AM: Prayer, in the sanctuary  
 9:30 AM: Education Hour; classes for all  
 10:45 AM: Worship. Sermon: “Diving In”; Scripture: II Kings 5:1-14 & Mark 1:40-45  
 After worship, come to a special Tea honoring the church’s handcrafters.

## FEBRUARY 19

(Transfiguration of the Lord)

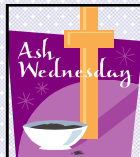
9:15 AM: Prayer, in the sanctuary  
 9:30 AM: Education Hour; classes for all  
 10:45 AM: Worship. Sermon by Rev. Charles Best, guest pastor.  
 After worship, Prayer Community meets. Also, come to a special Valentine-themed luncheon (hosted by the Parish Life Committee). Enjoy a light lunch followed by children’s craft activities. Sign-up requested.

## FEBRUARY 26

(Lent 1)

9:15 AM: Prayer, in the sanctuary  
 9:30 AM: Education Hour; classes for all  
 10:45 AM: Worship, with Communion. Sermon: “Flood Insurance”; Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17 & Mark 1:9-15  
 After worship, enjoy conversation & refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

### Ash Wednesday February 22



Begin the Lenten journey with a “Salad Supper” in the Gathering Room. Bring your favorite salad for the serving table. A variety of breads and beverage will be provided for this simple, nutritious meal. The salad buffet begins at 5:30 PM and is followed by a brief order of worship, with Communion, at 6:30 PM (around the tables in the Gathering Room).

### “SOUPER BOWL OF CARING”



On Sunday, February 5, we’ll participate in the annual “Souper Bowl of Caring.” It only takes a dollar! Just put it in the “soup pot” on your way out of worship, and you’ll help support our local food bank, Project SHARE.

The “Souper Bowl of Caring” began many years ago as a youth group project in a Presbyterian Church. Since then, it has grown to include churches of many denominations, across the country. And what does it ask from you, again? “For YOU -- one dollar!



## Lenten Noontime Organ Concert Series and Soup Lunches Announced



Our series of Lenten noontime organ concerts returns to First Church. This series provides an opportunity for meditation on the Lenten journey. Each concert begins shortly after noon on five Wednesdays beginning February 29 and ending March 28. A variety of organists from the area provide music for the season. The final concert will include spoken pieces for reflection. The concert series is organized by our own organist, Shirley King.

This year's dates and participants are:

- February 29: Brian Rotz (St. John's Episcopal)
- March 7: Shirley King (First Church)
- March 14: Andy Hoke (Second PC)
- March 21: Steve Middernacht (First Lutheran)
- March 27: Shirley King and Rev. Jon Black

Following each concert, a soup lunch will be held in the Gathering Room. Included will be a variety of delicious homemade soups, bread, and beverage -- warmly hosted by a team of volunteer soup-makers and hosts. Your donation of just \$5 will go to Project SHARE.

**Soup Makers:** Please sign up in Fellowship Hall!

### 2012 "ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING " "Sharing Brings Joy: To Others, To Us, To God"

A wonderful Lenten practice is to use the "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) offering as a daily discipline. You can use one of the "fish" banks or just a small bowl or jar placed on your table. At each meal offer a prayer for the wide work of so many people through OGHS; then put your gift into the "fish", bowl, or jar. On **Palm Sunday, April 1st**, bring your gift as part of the offering that will be received that day. Throughout Lent, more information will be shared on how OGHS helps people!



### ADULT EDUCATION

Adults will meet in the Gathering Room Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM (following prayer in the sanctuary), to finish the review of the Old Testament.

Beginning Feb. 26, Lenten focus will center on Martin Thielen's topic in his book, What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most. The title alone is worthy of discussion! Copies will be available in February (\$9 donation welcome).



### Presbyterian Women News

A new outreach mission has been started by our Presbyterian Women -- creating lap robes for guests at Cumberland County Nursing Home, Claremont Road. Help is needed in putting the three pieces of the lap robes together. If you can help or have questions, please call the project coordinator, Peggy McKeehen, at 245-0543.



**Session Notes**  
**(January meeting)**

All ruling elders were present for the first regular meeting of the new year, held on the second Tuesday of January (Jan. 10). Minutes from the December meeting and the special January 3 meeting were approved, and included adoption of the budget for 2012 and recommendation to the congregation for terms of the pastoral call. New elders were welcomed and a brief time of introductions followed. General business and discussion included: adoption of dates for Communion in 2012, reflection on committee structure and responsibilities, parish activities (watch for announcements!), a preview of Christian education opportunities, and comments on building projects. A significant discussion centered on security issues, due diligence, and related important issues. Action was approved to enhance security to protect members, especially children, while in the facility. Details are being handled by a task group and helpful information will be forthcoming for the benefit of the entire church community. Transportation plans for the officers' retreat planned for January 21 were announced. The meeting ended with prayer.

*(The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 PM.)*

**Your Ruling Elders are:**

**Class of 2012:** John Augustine; Matthew Crum; Nancy Jacoby; Laurie Longwell; Dennis Rydberg

**Class of 2013:** Chris Carvell; Peg Owen; Joe Shane; Richard Tritt

**Class of 2014:** Ann Gottlieb; Kay Hock; Brad Martin; JJ Patterson; Deborah Sweaney

**The Board of Deacons** did not meet in January. Your deacons are:

**Class of 2012:** Barbara Allen; Candy Gulotta; Jean Kretzing; Ray Thomas

**Class of 2013:** Kathy Mulvey; Marita Neslund; Scott Thompson

**Class of 2014:** Rachel Bailey; Steve Elsier; Lynda Mann; Peggy McKeehen

*“My Brother’s Table” will be served Feb. 5; the next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6, 7:00 PM.*

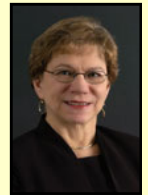
**FEBRUARY**  
**MEETINGS / GATHERINGS**

Feb. 2	6-7:30 PM	Girl Scouts
Feb. 6	7:00 PM	Board of Deacons
Feb. 9	7:30 AM	Men’s Breakfast, Fairground’s Diner
Feb. 9	7:00 PM	Book Club
Feb. 13	7:30 PM	“Space for God”
Feb. 14	7:30 PM	Session
Feb. 16	6-7:30 PM	Girl Scouts
Feb. 19	after worship	Prayer Community
Feb. 22	5:30 PM	Ash Wednesday “Simple Meal”
	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Communion
Feb. 27	2:00 PM	Faith Circle
Feb. 27	7:30 PM	“Space for God”
Feb. 28	9:30 AM	Presbytery of Carlisle at Mech. PC



**ORGAN RECITAL**

On Sunday, **February 12**, organist Shirley King will present her annual Dickinson College faculty recital. She will perform solo works by Bach and Lau. She will be joined by organist Brian Rotz of St. John’s Episcopal Church for selections by Soler, Rutter, Callahan and Merkel. The recital begins at **4:00 PM** at **First Lutheran Church**, East High Street.



**In the Life of the Church**

**In Memoriam:** Ruth Eppley, who joined the Church Triumphant Dec. 28th.

**A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 1:30 PM, at the church.**

**Baptized:** Emma Grace Weiser, Jan. 8th. Emma is the daughter of Matt & Danielle and sister to Noah.

**“My Brother’s Table”**

One of the ongoing projects of the Deacons is to serve meals at “My Brother’s Table” three times a year. This Salvation Army outreach fills an increasingly urgent need for those who suffer from joblessness, poverty, and hunger. The Deacons have recently seen a sharp rise in the number of people being served. It is evident that the impact of “My Brother’s Table” is vital to a growing number of individuals in our community.

With so many needs in the world, sometimes it’s difficult for us as Christians to discern how best we can help, especially when we may have financial stresses of our own. So, how can YOU help? The Deacons believe that serving people through “My Brother’s Table” can provide you an easy and affordable, yet meaningful way to serve. Here are some specific suggestions:

- ◆ **PRAY** for The Salvation Army and staff of “My Brother’s Table”, the Deacons, and the individuals and families whose desperate need for food is being met.
- ◆ **SERVE A MEAL** with the Deacons on one or more of the three scheduled Sunday evenings. The time commitment is approximately 4:30 - 6 PM. The dates are: Feb. 5 (yes, that’s Super Bowl Sunday!); June 10; and Sep. 2 (Labor Day weekend).
- ◆ **DONATE** money to help the Deacons purchase the following:
  - \$11.00 – tray of lasagna (feeds 12 people) (need 6)
  - \$ 4.00 – bag of mixed salad greens (need 6)
  - \$ 2.00 – bottle of salad dressing (need 4)
  - \$ 3.00 – pound of butter (need 1)
  - \$ 3.50 – package of rolls (need 8)
  - \$ 4.00 – package of 12 ice cream sandwiches (need 7)
  - \$ 5.50 – can of green beans (industrial-size) (need 3)

**READY TO HELP?** If yes, sign up in Fellowship Hall. If you wish to **donate** money, please give it to a Deacon. Checks should be made to “Deacons, First Presbyterian Church.” If you wish to **serve**, sign up and we’ll see you at The Salvation Army (ask any deacon for directions.) **Thank you, the Deacons**

**CAMP KRISLUND -- 2012 SEASON**



**MISSION:** Restoring lives by God’s grace in mountain solitude through worshipping community, purposeful spiritual adventure, and Christian hospitality to all ages.

**THEME:** “How great are God’s signs, how mighty God’s wonders!” (Daniel 4:3)

What better way to spend a cold winter’s day than by contemplating and planning for a summer adventure at camp?

*Art Devos, Program Director, writes:*

“Dear Campers, Parents, and Friends: Summer camp is fun! Why? Because kids have permission to be kids! They make friends, play games, get outside, and enjoy a variety of activities from swimming and rock climbing to Bible Study and Nitefest (camp-style worship). Krislund staff is trained to keep kids safe and engaged while having the time of their lives! It is always amazing to see the many ways the Lord is revealed and lifted up during a week (or two) of camp, and faith is deepened and nurtured. In a setting that provides natural inspiration in the mountains and woodlands, kids love to come back year after year!”

**The 2012 brochure is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.**

**Schedules are on the literature table.**

**For more info, call Krislund at (814) 422-8878; or e-mail: [info@krislund.org](mailto:info@krislund.org).**

**\*\*\* NEWS OF NOTE \*\*\***

**ANNUAL OFFICERS' OFFSITE** – Our church officers' offsite training session at Silver Spring PC scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21, 10 AM - 3 PM, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Our ruling elders and deacons will instead gather for a time of reflection, planning, prayer, learning, food, and fellowship on February 25th (the site is to be determined, and will be provided shortly).

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES** are available on the literature table in Fellowship Hall.

**SERVING IN WORSHIP.** *As of this writing*, several lists (counters, readers, ushers) are not final, so we will use the Feb. 2011 lists in Feb. 2012. Reminders continue to be sent to those who provide the office their e-mail address.

**GIRL SCOUTS.** The annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale is underway! The cost of a box of cookies is \$3.50. Proceeds from cookie sales help Girl Scouting everywhere, and locally pay for a fun field trip for our the troop which meets in our church, and allow for a donation to a local charity. Want to help but don't want the calories? You can donate your cookies to "My Brother's Table" (a Salvation Army meal program). To order, contact scout leader April Brymesser. Call her at 386-4379; or e-mail her at: [sillebeez@gmail.com](mailto:sillebeez@gmail.com).  
The local troop will meet at the church on Feb. 2 & 16, 6-7:30 PM.  
On Sunday, Feb. 26th, they will participate in "World Thinking Day" – looking back at Girl Scouting history.

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS.** THANKS to all who answered the call for Fellowship Time hosts in the near-term! Fellowship Hall is the site of our after-worship ministry of hospitality. People gather to share conversation and simple refreshments. Members meet newcomers and welcome them. Names are learned as people meet people in an informal setting. The friendliness of First Church is apparent to visitors. *Thinking of being a host?* The Parish Life Committee ensures that simple refreshments are in the kitchen. As a host, you may use these items or provide your own simple snacks. *Check available dates on the sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.*

**PROJECT SHARE.** On March 1st, the "Feinstein Challenge" begins at Project SHARE. Help them collect money from the Feinstein Challenge for the 15th year. \$1 million dollars will be divided nationally among participating agencies that fight hunger. Project SHARE receives \$1 credit for every food item or matching cash or check that is given (to include our contributions from the Lenten lunches). The more they raise from March 1 thru April 30, the more they receive. For more info, visit: [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org).

**FELLOWSHIP ABOUNDS IN FEBRUARY!** Mark your calendars so as not to miss these two after-worship events:  
– Feb. 12: **Special Tea** in honor and recognition of our church's handcrafters – those who make baby blankets, baby hats, lap robes, and prayer shawls.  
– Feb. 19: **Special Valentine-themed Luncheon**, hosted by the Parish Life Committee. Enjoy a light lunch, followed by craft activities for our children and youth. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to assist us in planning.

**REMAINING BOOK CLUB "PICKS" FOR 2012 are:**



2/9	<u>The Importance of Being Earnest</u> (1895)	Oscar Wilde
3/8	<u>Amish Grace</u> (2007)	Donald Kraybill
4/12	<u>Cold, Sassy Tree</u> (1984)	Olive Ann Burns
5/10	<u>Zeitoun</u> (2009)	Dave Eggers
6/14	<u>Treasure Island</u> (1883)	Robert Lewis Stevenson
9/13	<u>Gone With the Wind</u> (1936)	Margaret Mitchell
10/11	<u>Arundel</u> (1995)	Kenneth Roberts
11/10	<u>Other Wes Moore</u> (2010)	Wes Moore
12/13	Planning Meeting for 2013	

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## ***FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER***



Rev. Jon A. Black, Pastor  
Debby Madden, Director of Educational Ministry  
Shirley S. King, Organist  
Susan Shuey, Choir Director  
Jack Sprecher, Sexton  
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary

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