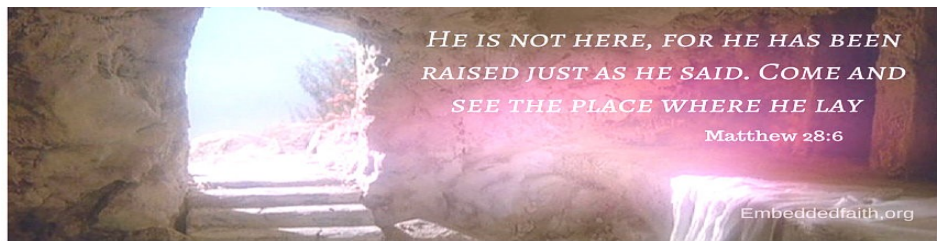


April 2, 2023

Volume XXXX, Issue 394

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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! The Good News is that Christ has conquered the grave. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 reminds us, <sup>55</sup> "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I am so excited to celebrate Holy Week and Easter with you! The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is perhaps the most profound celebration in the Christian church. We will continue our Holy Vessels on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maundy Thursday service will be held April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. On April 7<sup>th</sup> we will have two mostly identical Good Friday services at noon and 7:00 p.m. The chancel choir will sing at 7:00 p.m. only.

On Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will do something special with our pieces of sea glass that we used throughout the Lenten season.

The week following Easter we will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday. Holy Humor Sunday is an old Easter custom that was started by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity. Many have been raised with the idea that it was almost sacrilegious to laugh in church. That is NOT true! Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 'a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.'" I really believe that Jesus laughed more than once during His ministry. Can you imagine him not laughing while holding the little children?

I know for a fact that God has a sense of humor. Look at our lives. He created us in His own image but then gave us free will to do what we want to do. We have to make God not only cry but also laugh at some of our antics.

History informs us that churches in 15<sup>th</sup> century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis or God's Joke or the Easter Laugh. Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, told jokes, sang and danced. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. I hope you will join us April 16<sup>th</sup> to continue the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

Blessings ~ **Pastor Lori**

**April Mission Project:**  
**Sojourner Truth Ministries**

Our goal is to provide a place where God's love may be experienced. Our doors are open to all as we minister to those who are broken, whether that brokenness is financial, physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, or any other type of brokenness.

Sojourner Truth Ministries seeks to be a place of safety and healing through the grace, healing, and mercy of Jesus Christ.



## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT MARCH 2023

The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held March 15, 2023. This report is submitted to communicate to our congregation the work of the Council. By way of background, the Council serves as the Administrative Board, Trustees, Finance and Staff Parish Relations Committees in a governance and oversight role over all ministries. Church Council meetings are open meetings except when the Council deals with Staff Parish Relations matters.

The following are the major items from the Council's agenda discussed at the March meeting:

- For our spiritual development we discussed chapter four in the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church – 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" by Thom Rainer. We will identify those ways to stay healthy and alive. The prayer commitment for Chapter Four, The Church Refused to Look Like the Community, was the following: *Dear God, give my church and me a heart for our community. Let me see the people through Your eyes. And give me the courage and the wisdom to let go of this church, so that others who best reflect this community can lead us and teach us.* We encourage the congregation to also consider this prayer and the challenge it poses for us.
- Approved February Council meeting minutes
- Reviewed February Council newsletter report.
- As we do every meeting, we reviewed the monthly financial report and balance sheet. After two months of the year income and expenses are in line with budget numbers.
- Received minutes from the maintenance team meeting of February 13. That team continues to deal with maintenance issues on our campus. They have received three quotes from roofing companies to replace the sanctuary roof. Waiting on a fourth. Once received a decision will be made and we will replace the roof in 2023. We will be discussing a campaign to raise funds to complete the project.
- SOTA is moving forward with the formation of a 501c3 corporation. We will soon prepare and review an agreement for SOTA to lease space in the building.
- We received a check from the United Methodist Foundation for the Weaver and Walden SOTA Scholarships. Both will be invested under the umbrella of the church's investment account at Woodlands Bank.
- We reviewed SOTA and WECCC yearend financial statements. This is a yearly exercise to insure all is in order financially with both groups. We are satisfied that is the case with both.
- The worship team will prepare a survey for the congregation to determine our level of interest in the praise band service. That service is temporarily on hold due to the resignation of the director. Once we receive input we will decide on the future of that service.
- The church audit has been completed. Report to be reviewed and approved next meeting.
- We contacted our legal counsel to discuss the stormwater impact fee we are being assessed by the Williamsport Sanitary Authority for impervious areas on our campus. That fee is \$3,800 yearly. We learned the court case in southeastern PA will not apply to religious organizations. In that case the court ruled the assessment was not a fee rather a tax and the non-profit State System of Higher Education was not subject to it as a non-profit. That case is being appealed and likely will be overturned. We would need to file our own law suit to challenge the fee. There is limited chance of being successful, the costs would be significant, and with appeals the process could last years. We will not pursue this matter or a law suit any further.

- The Congregational Care Team is planning monthly fellowship activities for the congregation.
- We reviewed a draft of a policy for members of the congregation to borrow church owned items and equipment. It will be revised and approved at our next meeting.
- Moving forward we will continue the practice at the beginning of our meeting to provide time for any member of the congregation to address Council with any comments or concerns. Time will be limited to five minutes. This will permit input without the need to stay for our entire meeting.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please talk to me or to any member of the Council (Pastor Lori, Bob Burns, Mark Ertel, Scott Hall, Elaine Hinston, Nancy Jacobs, Erin Kuriga, Cathy Prowant, Ed Souter Sr., Jan Walters).

Bob Weaver, Church Council Chairman

## *Thank You*

On behalf of Mama Arlene Bower and the kids of Urukundo, The Mama Arlene fundraising team (Saint John's-Newberry, Saint Paul's-Calvary, Heshbon Park and Faxon-Kenmar UMC) would like to thank anybody who in any way participated in the Helping Mama Arlene's Kids dinner event. We especially would like to thank District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Paul Amara, for joining us. There was much good food, fellowship and fun for all.

Again, thank you,

Tony Mileto, event chair



Where:

*Saint John's-Newberry*

*United Methodist Church*

*2101 Newberry St, Williamsport*

*Phone (570) 326-5569 with questions*

When:

*Saturday, April 8 @ noon*

*Rain or Shine*

Who:

*Ages 1 through 12 years*

*(Age groups will be divided)*

## Prayer Chain Report

Please pray for: Beth Ziegler, Cheryl Kontz, Patty Wehr, Vicki Schneider, Dan Walmer, Denny & Kim Davis, Danielle Fantaskey, Barb, Riley O'Connell, Nancy Sanders, Dorothy Douty, Beth, Cody Michael, Art & Patty DeParlos, Merle Campbell, Bob Smith, Bernie Helminiak, Sarah Dyer, Cindy Cybulski, Sierra, Maggie Stack, Grant Fausey, Mark Lauchle, Barb Breining, Nancy Hembree, Frounchetta Keller, Suzanne Richard, Mike Jacobs, Bob & Faye Thomas, Frank & Robin Sanders, Heather Council, Greg Goodwin, Denise Miller, Wendy Keller, Robert & Nancy Eiswert, John Gummo, Rob, Sherry Paul, Linda Daughterty, Max Ameigh, Phyllis Ludwig, Frank Connor, Eric Barr, Norma Lockwood, Paul Cohen, Jim Bufford, Debbie Helm, Kiersten Daugherty, Colin, Stan Jacobs, Rick Jacobs, Janell Long, Cal Phillips, Nancy Gair, Rose Spriggle

Our love, prayers and sympathies to the families and friends of **Bryan Hunsinger** and **Carol Russell** upon their recent passing.

**The Prayer Chain contacts are Shirley Morris (570 323-4310). If unable to contact her, please call Ann Allison (570 326-4671).**

Prayer is an important part of being a Christian. It is important that we pray for each other daily. The prayer list is equally as important. When people are going through difficult times they need extra prayers. **The prayer chain team is asking that when you have someone added to the list that you keep them up to date on the situation. Prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 2 months. If after that 2 month time period they need to remain on, please notify either Shirley Morris or Ann Allison. Thank you for your willingness to pray for others!**

## Prayer for Others

### Our Bishops

Cynthia Moore Koikoi &  
Sandra Steiner Ball

### Our Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Amara

### Our Local United Methodist Churches

East Canton

### †Those serving in the Military...

John Affield, Jeffrey Bache, Joel Barr, Kaeden Barr, Josalyn Bradley, Nathan Byer, Chase Bower, Richard Campbell, Brian Clarkson, Joey Cummings, Robert Daugherty, Joe DeArment, Cameron Dickey, Aaron Fillman, Joe Fioreth, Ron Furman, Andrei Helminiak, Randy Hosier, Jeremy Johnson, Eric Miller, Andrew Pepperman, Taylor Prosba, Matthew Ricci, Jeffrey Richard, Sarah Sanner, Col. David Smith, Brett Snauffer Jr., Jason Starr, Charlie Wolf, Jason Work.

### † Our College Students...

Jocelyn Cruz, Juliana Cruz, Hannah Freezer, Maria Davis Johnson, Spencer Karasek, Makenzie Karasek, Kylie Kirkendall, Lydia Kirkendall, Ethan Kuriga, Emily Litz, Sam Litz, Jake Lusk, Lane Lusk, Gabe Manetta, Alicia Meyer, Katie Penman, Jordan Phillips



## APRIL CELEBRATIONS...

Jeff Lovell	1
Alex Nicholas	3
Krystie Britton	4
Deborah Wagner	6
Jordan DeArment	7
Jocelyn Cruz	8
Gayle Page	8
Nicholas Conklin	9
Avery Cero	10
Butch Hunsinger	10

Dan Cero	10
Anna Manetta	10
Bob Weaver	13
Lauren Zarzyczny	14
Betty Lou Hamm	14
Linda Kibbe	16
Mikki Ludwig	16
Mallory Goode	19
Angie Tyler	20
José Ameigh	22

## Happy Birthday

Carl Floyd	22
Matthew Ertel	23
Steve Martin	23
Liz Manetta	22
John Stuempfle	24
Melissa Bosch	25
Rosie Spriggle	25
Jan Walters	25
Don Cohick	27
Howard Lowmiller	28
Allyssa Souter	29

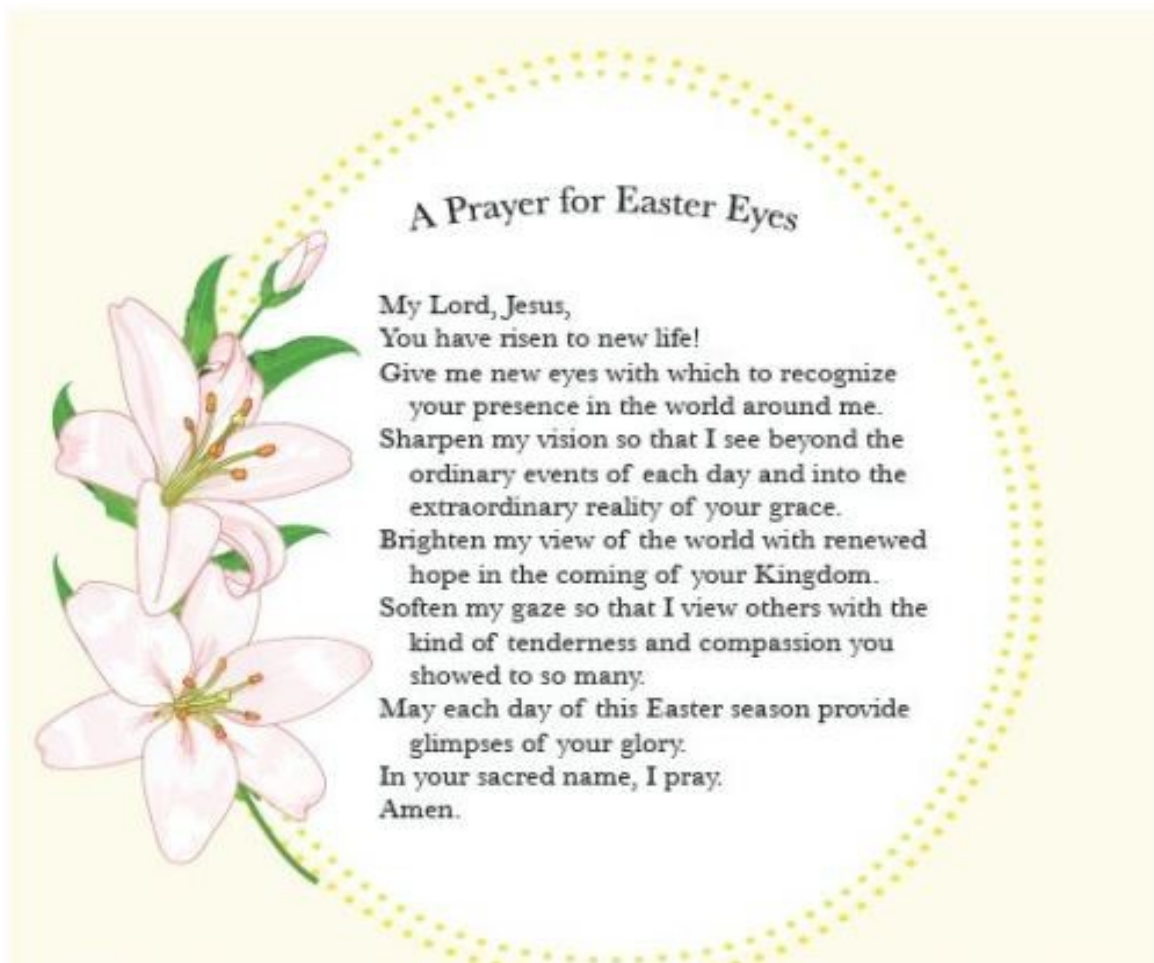
## Happy Anniversary

Scott & Michele Hall

April 20, 1974

## Memorials and Honors

The following have made contributions to the Memorial and Honor Fund to the Glory of God and in Memory of **Peggy Elder**: Anonymous; in Memory of **Ray Mahaffey**: Lori Mahaffey; in Memory of **Carol Russell**: Ed & Sally Souter, Mary Louise Wolfe, Marqueen Henry, Trojan Tube Sales & Fabrication, Inc., Donna Decker; in Memory of **Ron Barner**: Mary Ruth Barner



## SAINT JOHN'S-NEWBERRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### February 2023 Attendance & Financial Report

February	5:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Total	Sunday School
week 1	20	74	62	156	52
week 2	20	61	59	140	60
week 3	20	69	53	142	58
week 4	18	65	56	139	69
week 5					
<i>average</i>	20	67	58	144	60
Ash Wednesday	44				

**FINANCES:**      **Budget Fund \$343,845 for 2023      Needed each month \$28,654**

#### **Month End (February 2023):**

Offering envelopes	\$22,859.01		
Mission Conference Benevolence	\$90.00		
Endowment Fund Income	\$2,881.41		
Church Use/One Time Gifts	\$200.00		
SOTA Contribution for Utilities			
Miscellaneous	\$2,576.94		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$28,607.36</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,799.78</b>

#### **Year to Date (as of February 2023)**

Offering envelopes	\$46,383.47		
Mission Conference Benevolence	\$210.00		
Endowment Fund Income	\$7,162.12		
Church Use/Donations	\$430.00		
SOTA Contribution for Utilities			
Miscellaneous	\$5,307.07		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$59,492.66</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$55,191.25</b>

**If you have any questions regarding the financial report, please feel free to contact the church secretary/treasurer, Kris Michael, at the church office (phone 570 326-5569 or e-mail [secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)).**

**Should you have any questions about your giving, please contact Joyce Paulhamus at the church office (570 326-5569 or e-mail [administrator@stjnumc.com](mailto:administrator@stjnumc.com))**



# Thank You

Dear Pastor Lori, and the Members of Saint John’s-Newberry UMC,

We, the members of Newberry Branch of NGA (National Giving Alliance) are grateful for the use of your Fellowship Hall. For many years we have held our annual fall sale at Saint John’s-Newberry, and once again it proved to be a very successful fundraiser for us.

We benefitted financially from this sale, but we also distributed items to the Brown Library, Daniel’s Closet, Little Ones Clothing Closet, Embassy of Loyalsock, Veteran’s Backpack program, WECCC and the American Rescue Workers.

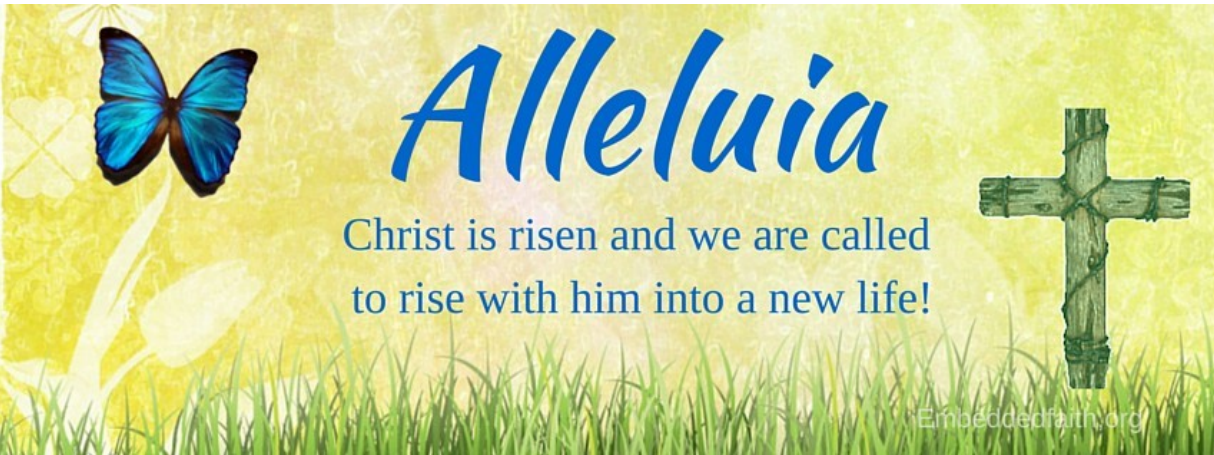
Without your generosity with your building none of this outreach could occur. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

May all of you be blessed in the many ways you have blessed NGA.

Regards,

Becky Miller Pryor

★★  
 ★ Name - Edward E. Souther, Sr. ★  
 ★ Branch of Service - US Army ★  
 ★ Years Served: 1966-1968 ★  
 ★★



## Saint John's-Newberry, UMC

2101 Newberry Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: 570-326-5569  
E-mail: [secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)

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<http://stjnumc.com>

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## Reminders

**Church Office Hours** are Monday - Thursday  
9am to 3pm, **Closed Friday**

During lunch breaks, staff meetings and after  
office hours you may leave messages on the  
voice mail answering system (570 326-5569).

**All general information and questions may be  
sent to:** [secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)

### DUE DATE FOR MAILED COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES

APRIL 20, 2023

COMBINED MAY/JUNE

### COMMUNICATOR MAILED:

APRIL 27, 2023

Articles may be submitted via e-mail to:  
[secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)

**Take a look at our website at:**  
**<http://stjnumc.com>**



<https://www.facebook.com/saintjnumc/>

- 
- Rev. Dr. Lori Betsworth, *Pastor* •  
• Joyce Paulhamus, *Church Administrator* • Kristine Michael, *Secretary/Treasurer* •  
• Steve Martin, *Sexton* • Jennifer Jacobs & Vanessa Bennett *Child Care Providers* •  
• Becky Ciabattari, *Director of the School of the Arts* • Cal Phillips, *Director of WECCC* •  
• Church Office, 570/326-5569 • WECCC, 570/323-6297 • Saint John's School Of The Arts, 570/327-5575 •  
• Communicator articles, [secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com) • Home Page, <http://stjnumc.com> •