

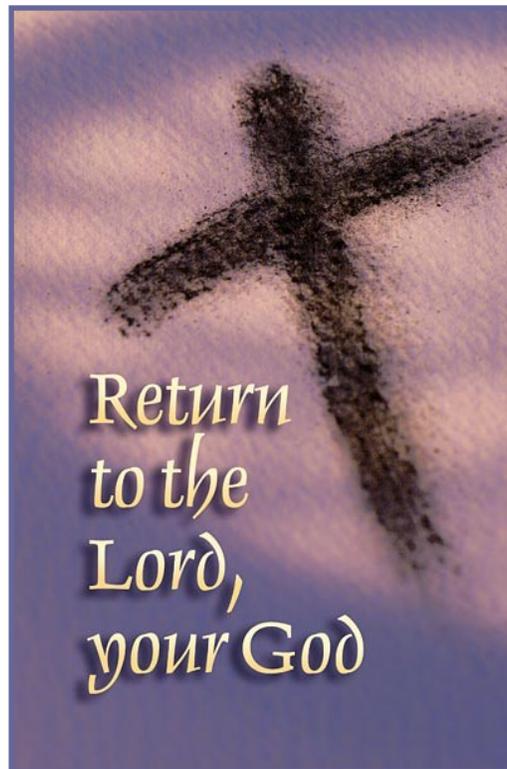
CHRIST CHRONICLES

**Christ United Church of Christ, 1414 Ligonier Street
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650**

March 2023

Jeremiah 24:7

I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.



Worship Services For March

March 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

March 5 - Holy Communion 11:00 AM

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesdays at Noon—March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

When life is hard

PRAY

When life is great

PRAY

clergheartsyou.tumblr

Concerns of the Congregation

PRAYER LIST: To add or remove a name from the prayer list, contact the church office.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION - PRAY FOR OUR WORLD

PRAYING THE ROLL: We are family, and families pray for one another.

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

PRAYER LIST: To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office. Names will remain on the list for one month unless otherwise instructed.

Henry Arett, Kelsey Bray, Valerie Demase, Ruth Eversole, Evie Hlzer, Rosella Hlzer, Beverly Keefe, Virginia Marciniak, Men of Union Mission, Patrick Miller, Mundell Family, Bob and Evelyn Neighly, Bonnie Pickle, Chris Puzak, Joyce Puzak, Julie Sexton, Ken Sible, Family of Richard Stahl who passed away, Larry and Loretta Staruk, Melissa Whited, Family of Aria Woznick who passed away, Sara Young

Week of March	5	Ryan, Kristin, Emerson, and Sinclair Cribbs; Thomas and Lauren Davis; Margaret Delle and Asrat, Gebreyesus, Biruk, and Mimi Eyosias
Week of March	12	Valerie and Riley DeMichele; Caryn and Geary Dettling; Donna Dinco
Week of March	19	Art Dria and Dottie Stahl; Ruth Eversole; Sandra Fircetz
Week of March	26	Bradley Fritz; Richard and Robin Fritz; Sandy Gregory

USHERS

March

- 5 Jim and Elena Sillaman
- 12 Bob and Carolyn Stutzman
- 19 Art Dira and Jim O'Connor
- 26 Harvey Noel and Sally Walker

LAY READERS

- | | | |
|-------|----|----------------|
| March | 5 | Elena Sillaman |
| | 12 | Ann Baltich |
| | 19 | Harvey Noel |
| | 26 | Sally Walker |



Happy Birthday!!!

- | | | |
|-------|----|-----------------------|
| March | 1 | Stephanie Albaugh |
| | 2 | Ann Baltich |
| | | Jim Sillaman |
| | 3 | Larry Staruk |
| | 6 | Thomas Davis |
| | 8 | Richard Crawford, Jr. |
| | 25 | Andrew Banocy |
| | | Jim O'Connor |



Celebrate

PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Dear Friends,

At this special time of the Christian year when we are moved to deeper prayer, fasting, and giving, I invite you to pray about your relationship with stuff. Do you have more stuff than you need or use? Maybe now is the time to consider getting rid of this stuff--the church flea market will be coming, someone in need might really love it, and you will find joy and freedom in having less. Consider not buying anything except what you really need. Give creation a rest from your wants. You might find that you have extra money to give to your favorite charities.

Our relationship to money and stuff is a big hindrance in our relationship with God. You can't serve both--at least, that's what Jesus said. And I think Jesus might take a look at our lives and have a pretty good idea who we truly serve.

Let this Lent be a time of getting to know yourself and God in a whole new way!

Bobbie

NOTE: If you receive anything by email or text from Pastor Bobbie that appears suspicious, please do not open it. Notify Pastor Bobbie.

LOOKING FORWARD: This month we are collecting songs! Songs that inspire you, speak to you, and express your joy and meaning. Songs that you might want sung at your funeral. We are looking for songs that aren't hymns. If you have a story to tell about the song, please include it. We will tell the stories and sing the songs at a service on April 30th.

“Faith Sharing” will not meet during Lent but will gather for the NOON services on Wednesdays.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

March 5 Communion-Pastor Bobbie
March 12 Hezekiah Foster
March 19 Gospel Music with singers-Pastor Bobbie
March 26 Pastor Bobbie



***Blessings and peace to you as we begin our Lenten journey
for 2023!***



It has been a few months since I have written an article for Christ's Chronicles, and it is good to be doing it again.

The past few months have been filled with lots and lots of therapy and healing, and I am glad to say that I feel stronger now, both physically and mentally.

I was overwhelmed with your cards and words of encouragement throughout my recovery. This is a church full of loving and caring friends. Thank you so much!

The adult choir will be singing songs appropriate to the Lenten season on the Sunday's that we sing an anthem. The handbell choir will be playing for worship at the end of March. Pastor Bobbie has lined up two gospel singers to join us in worship on March 19th. The children are preparing a song that they will be singing during the worship service one Sunday in March, as well. I am excited for that! I love to hear the sound of children's voices lifted in praise!

On another note - no pun intended! Two years ago, I asked you as a congregation to pray for my son's step grandson who was born almost 4 months premature and weighed 2.2 pounds at birth. Emmett had a rough beginning, spending those many months in the NICU in the hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. I believe strongly, passionately, in the power of prayer, and I feel that the prayers this congregation lifted up for him truly helped in his growing process. Emmett turned 2 at the end of December 2022, and I wanted to share a recent picture of him. He is thriving! He is a sweet, funny, and very smart little guy! I know that his parents Alison and Jim, his older brother Sammy, his grandma Peggy, and my son Pappy J are thankful for the love you shared. I am thankful, too. Thank you church family!

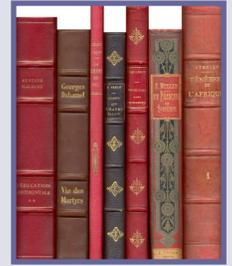


Pray daily and be kind!

Julie

This month we are collecting songs! Songs that inspire you, speak to you and express your joy and meaning. Songs that you might want sung at your funeral. We are looking for songs that aren't hymns. If you have a story to tell about the song, please include it. We will tell the stories and sing the songs at a service on April 30th.

Neil deGrasse Tyson is a popular astrophysicist who has written a number of books intended for reading by the general public. He has also hosted science programs on PBS television, such as NOVA and an updated version of “Cosmos,” a series originally done by Carl Sagan, an earlier popular astrophysicist. Recently, my neighbor loaned me a copy of “Starry Messenger,” Tyson's latest book. It's subtitled “Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization,” a “grabber” phrase if ever there was one, right? “So,” I thought, “what does an astrophysicist have to say about 'civilization'? Shouldn't he just be talking about the stars and the galaxies?”



As it turns out, he has also given much thought to our communal life on earth and often speculates on how our human interactions and institutions might appear to an intelligent life form which has come to visit us. The view from this alien's spaceship isn't always reassuring, often showing behaviors, customs and thought processes which can be difficult to understand from a rational perspective. Yet, Dr. (PhD) Tyson is happy to be living in a world where science and engineering have produced the highest standard of living in human history for many, but not all, people. But he also is well aware of the factors, human and otherwise, which seek to undo much that has been accomplished. In this light, he examines how we came to our current conflicted state of affairs and the forces which might lead us further astray.

A few chapter titles will give a sample of some of the issues discussed: “Conflict and Resolution (tribal forces within us all),” “Risk and Reward (calculations we make in our daily lives),” and “Color and Race (...people are more the same than different),” Within these and other chapters, Tyson discusses some of the contradictions and disagreements within our society, and how such issues might be resolved or improved if we could all agree to think and act more rationally. For example, within the chapter “Law and Order,” he reviews the history of how various cultures have tried to arrive at the truth of whether a person is guilty of a crime or not. The Code of Hammurabi in 1750 BC Babylon required that the accused person be thrown into a river. If he sank, he was guilty, if he floated he was not guilty – in which case, the *accuser* was then to be thrown into the river! Later, some societies resorted to torture, others used a ruling by a single person in authority, and some even let a crowd decide the fate of the accused. Gradually, at least in most western countries, we evolved into a trial by a jury of peers, yet even this system does not always accurately arrive at the actual truth. Tyson points out that logical processes and science have helped tremendously in improving the validity of a judgment. While no system is guaranteed to be perfect (there have even been incorrect decisions with the “gold standard” of DNA analysis), none of us would want a return to a reliance on less empiric methods of proof.

Tyson's general theme throughout the book is that science, and its underlying framework of logical thinking and rationality, have advanced our civilization to a high standard of living, both economically and socially. Yet, despite this, there continue to be irrational forces at work which have the potential to undo much of what has been accomplished. While even the scientific method and logic do not always or quickly arrive at the true facts of a particular problem, by their very nature they allow for more experimentation or unfettered, dispassionate discussion to further refine or clarify the issue. Although we will never live in Tyson's described, idyllic world of “Rationalia,” we should still make efforts to rely on reason and careful research to solve problems and resolve issues. Further, we should be sure our young people learn of the advantages of critical thinking and scientific methods.

Starry Messenger is not a large book, but it covers a lot of material in a readable and conversant style. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in a concise review of how we might appear to an intelligent being trying to understand who we are and how we relate to one another. It can be disconcerting, but also not without hope for further improvements in our attempt to make our world a better place to live.



Jim Sillaman

We are looking for a gardener for the church grounds. If you have a passion for growing things, this is your opportunity. Contact Pastor Bobbie or a member of Consistory to show your interest.



Spring is Coming!



Daylight Savings time begins **Sunday, March 12, 2023.** Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday night, March 11, 2023.

MISSION MOMENTS with Rev. David Ackerman United Church of Christ

History, Theology, and Polity

Reverend Ackerman has provided short videos that are available on the church website ucclatrobe.org.



Click on the Mission Moments tab at the top of the Home page.

"C" Dollar Bills for the Union Mission

As of February 19, the accumulated total donated to the Union Mission is **\$1636**. Thanks to all who have helped to reach this amazing total one dollar at a time.



Children's Sunday School

Christ Church welcomes all children to Sunday School. March dates are the 12th and the 26th. Topics will include New Testament stories and the miracles Jesus has preformed. The children will practice a song to be presented on March 26th.

As always, we practice saying Grace and The Lord's Prayer.

Blessings,
Your Sunday School Teachers



LayLife and Mission

Lay Life and Mission Committee will meet on
Tuesday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.



LOVE CARDS: Just a reminder to sign the monthly love cards for the shut-ins. They will be located on a table in the Chapel.

Lay Life and Mission Committee will hold their annual Flea Market and Book Sale

August 12, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We are now accepting flea market items.





The Lay Life and Mission Committee will hold their first of the season Soup and Salad Bar on
Wednesday, April 19th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00pm

The price is \$8.00. See you there!

*Lay Life and Mission Committee is filling Easter gift bags for the men at the Union Mission. If you would like to make a monetary donation to this worthy cause and are donating by check, please make it **payable to Lay Life and Mission Committee** by March 19th. With the monetary donations, Lay Life will purchase the gifts to fill these Easter gift bags. Thank you in advance for your support.*



No matter who you are or where you've been, you are welcome here!

Mission Statement: To reflect Christ's love in everything we do

Vision Statement: Not our will, but God's

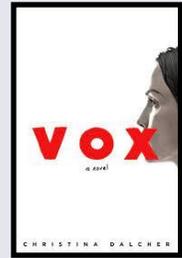


BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, March 14 at 10:00 am.

VOX by Christina Dalcher

The government decrees that women are no longer allowed more than 100 words per day. And this is just the beginning!



MARCH SUPPER CLUB

March 17, 2023, 5:30PM

Gino Giannelli's, Thompson Street, Latrobe.

Call Art Dira 724-539-8095 or email rtdira@aol.com to make reservations.

Come and join us for food and fun!

BIENVENUE

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:00PM

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE due to Lenten Service



Eat'n Park

1026 Mountain Laurel Plaza, Latrobe.

All the ladies of the Church are welcome.

SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, March 21

Volunteers will be needed at 8:30 AM

Thanks so much for your help as always.





Aspire

Bible Teacher
MARY SHANNON



Comedy by
KAY DODD



Music by
LINDSAY McCAUL



*1 night – 3 hours
Just for Women
An evening full of laughter,
learning, stories & music*

**SUNDAY
MARCH 26, 2023**

**UNITY COMMUNITY
CHURCH**
215 UNITY TRESTLE RD.
PLUM, PA 15239

5:00PM SHOW
4:30PM GA DOORS OPEN
4:00PM VIP DOORS OPEN

ADVANCE TICKETS

\$25 Gen. Admission | \$35 VIP
\$20 Groups of 10 or more.
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP tickets include early entry for
preferred seating and Q&A session
with all the speakers and artists.

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100**
or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com



Open-Mic Night

at Christ UCC



Whether you
are a



professional musician or a
professional shower singer,
Everyone is Welcome!

**Friday,
March 17, 2023
7:30PM**



If you play an instrument
or sing or just enjoy
hearing someone
who does—



Just Come !

Easter Flower Order Form

Order deadline is Monday, March 20, 2023

Please include payment with your order.
Place in the offering plate or send to the church office.

***Export Floral will do their best to honor any specific color requests, but they may need to substitute colors if they do not come in or do not come in good condition.

FLOWER TYPE	HOW MANY #	Total \$
6" MUMS \$12.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" TULIPS \$10.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" DAFFODILS \$10.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" HYACINTH \$10.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" AZALEA \$20.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" HYDRANGEAS (4 bloom) \$25.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" EASTER LILY \$12.00 each	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL ORDER \$		_____

PLEASE CHECK ONE: IN MEMORY OF: _____ **OR** IN HONOR OF: _____

NAME (their name) _____ GIVEN BY (your name) _____ Env. # _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY EXACTLY AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN



IT'S TIME TO SHARE

In Galatians, the Apostle Paul encourages followers of Jesus to generously help and care for others. Though there is great need in the world and we can grow weary because we do not know how to help, God's Spirit energizes and re-energizes us in every season.

We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. **It's time to share.**

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Esmerelda Robles lives in rural Honduras. She and her neighbors participate in a "pass chain" program. A family receives a pregnant pig, sheep, or cow. Families are taught how to feed and care for the animals. When the next piglet, lamb, or calf is born, it is passed on to another family, which in turn will do the same. "A dream we have as a family is to have a micro-business for the production and sale of meat," Esmerelda says. Families now envision a future not possible before. This is just one part of a program to improve food security. This program and its components are made possible because of your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.

So let's not allow ourselves to get
fatigued doing good. At the right
time we will harvest a good crop
if we don't give up...
— Galatians 6:9



One Great HOUR OF SHARING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ucc.org/oghs

Top photo by Craig Thompson

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken on Sunday,
March 19, 2023.

March 2023 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pray for a fresh perspective on God's word.	2 Ask God to help us set a good example.	3 World Day of Prayer Pray for all people to live in harmony.	4 Thank God for never giving up on us.
5 Pray for those who have not attended worship recently.	6 Ask God for the strength and wisdom to live as we should.	7 Pray for our shut-ins today.	8 Thank God for everyone who makes Jesus real to other people.	9 Pray for scientists and technicians who probe the secrets of the earth.	10 Pray that cancer researchers may one day find a cure.	11 Offer prayers for farmers.
12 Pray for the Search Committee	13 Pray today for those who live in fear.	14 Thank God for those who serve on the Christian Education Committee.	15 Thank God for mountains and valleys.	16 Pray for the well being of your neighbors.	17 Pray for God's guidance for Christ Church – to know and follow His will.	18 Thank God for rivers, lakes, the sea and the delights of the seashore.
19 Pray for the congregation at St. John's in Darlington.	20 First Day of Spring God loves you so much that he sends you flowers. Thank God for flowers and plants	21 Pray for those struggling financially.	22 Pray for the well-being of children everywhere.	23 Thank God for the joy and companionship of animals.	24 Praise God for forgiveness and mercy.	25 Thank the Lord for all His love, demonstrated in so many ways.
26 Pray for guidance for clergy everywhere.	27 Pray for our sponsored child at Rawdat El Zuhur.	28 Pray for all the children at Rawdat El Zuhur.	29 Pray for the teachers and administrators at Rawdat El Zuhur.	30 Praise God for beautiful sunrises and sunsets.	31 Praise the Lord for birds that sing.	

O Lord, in your great mercy, keep us from forgetting what you have suffered for us in body and soul. May we never be drawn by the cares of this life from Jesus our Friend and Savior, but daily may we live nearer to his cross.

–Hedley Vicars (adapted)

CONTACT US

Administrative Assistant, Caryn Dettling
Church Email: ChristChurchUCC@verizon.net
Church Office Phone: 724-537-4901
Christ UCC Website - www.ucclatrobe.org

ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER ARE DUE
Wednesday, March 15
Please send to ChristChurchUCC@verizon.net

March

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Noon Lenten Service <i>1:00PM</i> BIENVENUE	2	3	4
<i>5</i> 9:45AM Choir 10:30AM Usher/ Greeter Meeting 11:00AM Worship COMMUNION	6	<i>7</i> <i>2:00PM</i> <i>Lay Life</i>	<i>8</i> Noon Lenten Service Consistory Reports Due	<i>9</i> <i>6:30PM</i> BELLS	<i>10</i> 	<i>11</i> TURN CLOCKS FORWARD
<i>12</i> 9:45AM Choir 11:00AM Worship <i>Children's Sunday School</i>	<i>13</i> 2:00pm Consistory	<i>14</i> 10:00AM Book Discussion	<i>15</i> Noon Lenten Service Newsletter Articles Due	<i>16</i> 	<i>17</i> 5:30PM SUPPER CLUB at Gino's in Latrobe 7:30PM OPEN MIC NIGHT	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9:45AM Choir 11:00AM Worship POT LUCK AFTER SERVICE One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	<i>20</i> <i>Easter Flower Deadline</i>	<i>21</i> 8:30AM Senior Food Distribution	<i>22</i> Noon Lenten Service	<i>23</i> <i>6:30PM</i> BELLS	<i>24</i> 	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:45AM Choir 11:00AM Worship <i>Children's Sunday School</i>	<i>27</i> 	<i>28</i> 	<i>29</i> Noon Lenten Service <i>6:30PM</i> BELLS	<i>30</i> 	<i>31</i> 	

Christ United Church of Christ Consistory 2022-2023

Carolyn Stutzman, President
 Stephanie Albaugh, Vice President
 Elena Sillaman, Secretary

Art Dira
 Linda Repko
 Dana Silvis