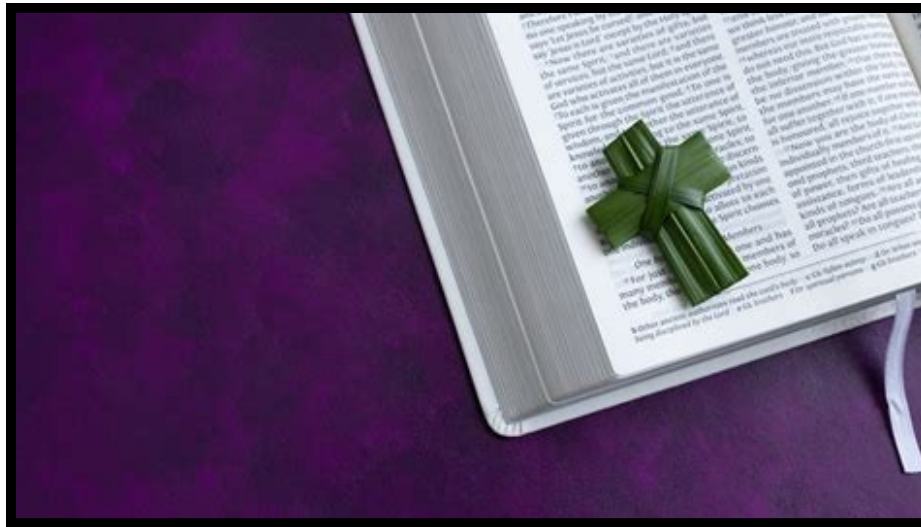


CHRIST CHRONICLES

March 2025



Worship Services For March

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

March 2—Holy Communion

Forty Days and Forty Nights

1. For - ty days and for - ty nights Thou wast fast - ing in, the wild;
2. Sun - beams scorch - ing all the day; Chil - ly dew - drops night - ly shed;
3. Shall not we Thy sor - row share, And from earth - ly joys ab - stain,
4. And if Sa - tan, vex - ing sore, Flesh or spir - it should as - sail,
5. Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior clear, Ev - er con - stant by Thy side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
Prowl - ing beasts a - bout Thy way, Stones Thy pil - low, earth Thy bed.
Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Glad with Thee to suf - fer pain?
Thou, his van - quish - er be - fore, Grant we may not faint nor fail,
That with Thee we may ap - pear At th' - et - ernal Eas - ter - tide. A - men.

St. Augustine:

"He who sings prays twice."

CONTACT US

Administrative Assistant, Caryn Dettling
Church Email: ChristChurchUCC@verizon.net
1414 Ligonier Street, Latrobe, PA 15650
Church Office Phone: 724-537-4901
Website - www.ucclatrobe.org

Concerns of the Congregation

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 for the week of...

March	2	Jonathan, Hannah, and Uzziah Marasco; Aubree, Brian, Eli, Cason, and Kiara Maus; Danette Meredith
	9	<i>Evelyn Neighly; Joshua, Julie, Zachary, Luke, and Lily Neighly; James and Karen O'Connor</i>
	16	Mel and Dorthy Paulovich; Sharon and Robert Peretti; Sandy Pezek
	23	<i>Dorothy and Clinton Piper; Kenny Repko; Linda Repko</i>

PRAYER LIST:

Richard and Ruth Burns, Mary Cernetic, Mary Crawford, Andrew Crouse, Ruth Eversole, Ralph France, Pam George, Carolyn Grapes, Todd Hudson, John (Brandy Eberhart's Friend); Barb Keefe, Beverly Keefe, Scott McCully, Men of Union Mission, Evelyn Neighly, Connie Nelson, Harvey Noel, Karen O'Connor, Desiree Patterson, Mary Ann and Andy Phillips, Bonnie Pickle, Joe Pickle, John Porterfield, Joyce Puzak, Winter Reese, Christy Repko, Melissa Ruth Sager, Janice Seigle, Ken Sible, Elena Sillaman, Dottie Stahl, Brooke Stutzman, Jean Thomas, Amy Thropp, Melissa Whited, Sara Young, Amy Zomisky

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office.

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.

**ARTICLES FOR THE
April
NEWSLETTER ARE DUE
Saturday, March 15**

**Please send to
ChristChurchUCC@verizon.net**

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 each month.



What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, and spiritual preparation leading up to Easter. Traditionally observed by Catholics and now embraced by several Protestant denominations, Ash Wednesday serves as a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance.

During Ash Wednesday services, a priest or minister applies ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of worshippers, often while reciting the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19). The ashes, typically made from the burned palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday, symbolize grief over sin, humility before God, and the hope found in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Ash Wednesday also sets the stage for Lent, a season reflecting on Jesus' 40-day fast and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). The day before, known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday, is often a time of feasting before the fasting and discipline of Lent begin. Many cultures celebrate with indulgent foods like pancakes or pastries as a final moment of enjoyment before the season of reflection and self-denial.

Excerpt from <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/ash-wednesday-its-biblical-meaning-and-purpose.html>

Easter Flower Order Form

Order deadline is Sunday, March 30, 2025

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 \$10.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" TULIPS \$10.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" HYACINTHS \$10.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" HYDRANGEAS (4 bloom) \$25.00 each	_____	\$ _____
6" EASTER LILY \$12.50 each	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL ORDER \$		_____

PLEASE CHOOSE: IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY (your name) _____ Env. # _____

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

Members of Christ Church,

We have just finished our first month without a pastor. I believe Ann and her committee have done a great job lining up people to lead us in worship.

I would like to thank this new committee, Pulpit Supply and Worship; Ann Baltich, Ellen Sautter, Julie Sexton, and Sally Walker. I don't think we could ask for a more capable, dedicated, and knowledgeable group.

They have worship leaders lined up into May, and they are a very diverse group of people. Many of them are familiar faces, since they have been here in the past.

This is a very exciting and challenging period we are in, and it will show how strong of a congregation we are.

I would also like to mention that, this year, Christ Church is celebrating its 165th year anniversary.

As I mentioned in last month's Chronicles coming this June, we will have our annual meeting, and we need one more person for either deacon or elder. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the operations of our church and appreciate more of what goes on, not only on Sundays. If you are interested, please see me. We need you.

*Thank you,
Art Dira
Consistory President*

Lay Readers

MARCH

- 2 Ryan Cribbs
- 9 Rich Baker
- 16 Sally Walker
- 23 Debra Stahl
- 30 Ryan Cribbs



*"Bible Study"
will meet each Wednesday at 10:00am.*

Come and join the discussion!

USHERS

MARCH

- 2 Art Dira and Jim O'Connor
- 9 Dana and Dewey Silvis
- 16 Elena and Jim Sillaman
- 23 Carolyn and Bob Stutzman
- 30 Art Dira and Jim O'Connor

SUNDAY MORNING GUESTS:

- 2 Rev. Dr. William B. Randolph
- 9 Rev. Wayne Sautter
- 16 Maureen Ceidro
- 23 Dan Carney, Union Mission
- 30 Lay Leaders



A Note from Julie



I was kind of hoping that Phil the groundhog, would somehow find it in his burrow to predict an early spring,, but I guess he had other ideas!

While we're all waiting patiently for the warm weather, I would like to explain an element of our weekly worship that you have probably heard about, but may wonder what its purpose is. That element is The Revised Common Lectionary.

What is the Lectionary and why do we use it? The Revised Common Lectionary provides a structured way to study the Bible through a pattern of readings that follow the Christian calendar. By using the RCL, all of us here at Christ Church will be hearing the same readings and reflecting on the same readings at the same time as millions of Christians all over the world.

By using the Revised Common Lectionary, we also learn to value the Old Testament and see the continuity of the ancient stories and how they teach about the church and the story of Jesus.

The Lectionary is a cycle of three years, A, B, and C. We are presently in Year C. Each year ends on the last Sunday of the liturgical year which is the Sunday before the first Sunday in Advent. When Year C ends, we will move to Year A. Each year focuses on a different gospel. You may have noticed that many of the gospels you have heard the last few months have been from Luke. Luke is the focus gospel in this Year C. The readings are organized according to the Christian calendar which means they follow the liturgical year, with emphasis on the seasons of the church like Easter, and Christmas, and others. There are Lectionary readings available for every day in the year. Using the Lectionary makes worship planning cohesive. It helps with themes and especially helps with the music choices.

I would invite anyone who would be interested in being a lay leader for a Sunday, to talk to me or Ann Baltich . We would welcome the involvement.

Wishing all of you a blessed March! I know that I am looking forward to days with more daylight and some warmer weather!

Blessings! Julie

Dear Children,

March Sunday School dates are the 9th and the 23rd.

The children will learn the meaning of Ash Wednesday as the beginning of Lent. Our discussion will include the importance of John the Baptist and a few of the early miracles of Jesus.

We look forward to seeing all the children!

Blessings,

Ms. Elena, Ms. Marsha, and Ms. Rosella



LayLife and Mission

The Lay Life and Mission Committee will meet on *Tuesday, March 4 at 2:00pm* in the Conference Room.

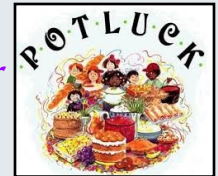
The Lay Life and Mission Committee would like to thank all who donated to the February mission, The Neighborhood Academy.





The Lay Life and Mission Committee will be cleaning the Church kitchen on Saturday, March 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (bring your own bucket and gloves). If anyone can help, that would be awesome!

A 'Pot Luck of the Church' is planned after the worship service on March 16th in the Fellowship Hall; plan to stay and share a dish with your Church family. Don't forget to wear your green! A sign-up sheet is available at both entrances.





*The Lay Life and Mission Committee will be packing lunches for Meals on Wheels on **March 31st thru April 4th**. If you would like to give a monetary donation to defray the costs, please see Stephanie. Thank you in advance.*

The Lay Life and Mission Committee will hold their, first of the season, Soup and Salad Bar on Wednesday, April 23rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The price is \$10.00. Don't forget to mark your calendar!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Lay Life and Mission Committee will hold their annual Flea Market and Book Sale *August 16, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.* We will be accepting Flea Market items and Books **STARTING APRIL 1, 2025 THRU JULY 31, 2025!** (The Flea Market item(s) will go downstairs in the backroom, and the Books will stay on the main floor.)

MARCH MISSION

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - PERIOD PACKS

Here's what you'll need:

- One 1-gallon size re-sealable bag
- Two 2oz bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of Wet Ones
- 5 regular Tampons
- 5 super absorbency Tampons
- 12 Pads (Unscented. Long super ultra-thin)
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented. 42 count)
- Six fragrance-free laundry sheets (placed in small, Ziploc bags)

Assembly Tips

- Place all items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.
- All items must be new.
- Do not enclose personal notes, money, or extra items in the kits.



MARCH MISSION



The Lay Life and Mission Committee have chosen the Church World Service - Period Packs for the March mission. The Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Please bring period pack items (a list is available at both entrances of the Church) to the Church by March 30th and place them in the box located in the Chapel. The Lay Life and Mission Committee will make hygiene kits for women and girls, and forward them to the Church World Service. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



The Blessing Box is an ongoing mission, if you would like to donate to this cause, there is a blue Rubbermaid box in the Chapel marked "Blessing Box" for food and personal items. Thank you in advance for your support.

**“C” Dollar Bills
for the Union Mission**



As of February 23, 2025, the accumulated total donated to the Union Mission is \$2907. Thanks to all who have helped to reach this amazing total one dollar at a time.

SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, March 18



**Volunteers will be needed at
8:30 AM**

Thanks so much for your help as always.



BIENVENUE

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 12:30PM

Valley Dairy

229 Colony Lane, Latrobe

All the ladies of the Church are welcome.



MARCH 2025 SUPPER CLUB

Friday, March 21, 2025, 5:30PM

SHARKY'S CAFE

3960 State Route 30, Latrobe

Hosts: Art Dira and Dottie Stahl

For reservations: rtdira@aol.com

Come and join us for food and fun!



BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 10:30 am

By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Told in intertwining timelines and rooted in historical research, this novel centers on two women determined to create and succeed despite the prejudices they face.



You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!

— Matthew 5:14-15



SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just *work* with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

“Be The Light” - ONE GREAT HOUR UCC OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED SUNDAY, MARCH 30.



When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



ucc.org/oghs



LENTEN SERVICES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH – WELDON STREET

ASH WEDNESDAY (March 5)

Communion and Ashes – 8:00AM and 7:00PM
Drive Through Communion and Ashes - NOON

WEEKLY SERVICES (Beginning March 11)

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 8:00AM

Wednesdays – 8:00AM and 6:30PM

SPY WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, April 16 – 7:00PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17 – 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18 – Seven Last Words Service –
NOON to 3:00PM

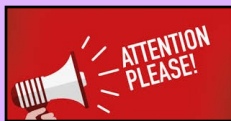
Centering Prayer - 3:00PM

Tenebrae – 7:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Easterfest – 7:30PM

There will be a UCC Community Ash Wednesday Service on Wed. March 5 at 7:00PM at *St. John's Harrold Reformed UCC Church*, 103 St. John's Church Road, Greensburg, PA.



Correction

Folks,

I am writing to correct a mistake in the Annual Report I presented in January. There are no problems with the budget. Rather, in the Repair Fund report, I quoted a balance due on our mortgage loan of approximately \$8,289. I pulled this number from an amortization schedule which I requested from Westmoreland Federal in December (not waiting for the year-end, so that I would have time to prepare the report). Later, when I received our usual end-of-year report in January, I noted a different balance due, namely \$19,648.40. I took these two disparate reports to Westmoreland Federal for review. It turns out that an incorrect series of dates were entered on the December amortization schedule. So, to be clear, our true balance as of the end of December 2024 is \$ 19,648,40. Accordingly, we won't be retiring our mortgage loan in October of this year as I had reported. Instead, if contributions continue in our same amounts, we will retire the loan in October 2026.

I apologize for this mistake and any confusion it may have caused you.

Jim Sillaman

March 2025 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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.</p> <p>—Hedley Vicars (adapted)</p>						1 Pray for the well-being of children everywhere.
2 Pray for students at The Neighborhood Academy.	3 Pray for staff, teachers and volunteers at The Neighborhood Academy.	4 Praise God for	5 Ash Wednesday Pray for God's guidance for our church.	6 Pray for those struggling financially.	7 World Day of Prayer Pray for all people to live in harmony.	8 Thank God for flowers and plants.
9 Ask for wisdom to better understand God's word.	10 Thank God for times of joy and laughter.	11 Praise God for blessings received.	12 Pray that cancer researchers may one day find a cure.	13 Praise God for answered prayers.	14 Thank God for the love you have known.	15 Thank God for the joy and companionship of animals.
16 Thank God for the freedom to worship.	17 Thank God for rivers, lakes, the sea and the delights of the seashore.	18 Pray for those hesitant to respond to God's call.	19 Praise God for forgiveness and mercy.	20 First Day of Spring Offer prayers for farmers.	21 Pray for conservationists who guard the heritage of the earth.	22 Thank God for mountains and valleys.
23 Pray for the well-being of your neighbors.	24 Pray for our sponsored child at Rawdat El Zuhur.	25 Pray for all the children at Rawdat El Zuhur.	26 Pray for the teachers and administrators at Rawdat El Zuhur.	27 Thank God for those who respond to disasters.	28 Praise God for the amazing world in which we live.	29 Thank God for never giving up on us.
30 Pray for those who live in fear.	31 Pray for scientists and technicians who probe the secrets of the earth.	<p>As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have fashioned me, O Lord, for joy. Share with me the vision to find that joy everywhere: in the wild violet's beauty, in the lark's melody, in the face of a steadfast man, in a child's smile, in a mother's love, in the purity of Jesus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—Scots Celtic Prayer</p>				

Christ United Church of Christ Consistory 2024-2025

Art Dira, President
Ann Baltich, Vice President
Dana Silvis, Secretary
Josh Neighly, Karen O'Connor,
Ryan Cribbs

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

March

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ANNIVERSARY: 25 Dana and Dewey Silvis 						1
2 11:00AM Worship COMMUNION	3 Communication Team Meeting	4 2:00PM LAY LIFE	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00am BIBLE STUDY 12:30PM Bienvenue at Valley Dairy	6 6:00PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	7	8 9:00AM— NOON Lay Life Cleaning Kitchen
9 11:00AM Worship Children's Sunday School	10 6:00PM Consistory	11 10:30AM BOOK DISCUSSION	12 10:00am BIBLE STUDY	13 6:30pm BELL REHEARSAL	14	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
16 11:00AM Worship "Pot Luck of the Church"	17 	18 8:30AM SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION	19 10:00am BIBLE STUDY	20 6:00PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	21 5:30PM SUPPER CLUB At Sharky's Cafe	22
23 11:00AM Worship Children's Sunday School	24	25	26 10:00am BIBLE STUDY	27 6:30pm BELL REHEARSAL	28	29
30 11:00AM Worship Easter Flower Deadline	31	BIRTHDAYS: 1 Stephanie Albaugh 6 Thomas Davis 25 Andrew Banocy 2 Ann Baltich 8 Richard Crawford, Jr. 25 Jim O'Connor 2 Jim Sillaman 18 Cason Maus 30 Zachary Neighly 5 Ashley Batsa 20 Stevie Batsa				

MEALS ON WHEELS WEEK BEGINS