



# The Messenger

March 2024

## West County United Methodist Parish

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### Worship

9:30 a.m. (L) (W)  
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (F)  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School (W)  
11:00 a.m. (G) (F)  
11:15 a.m. Children's Church JUMP (F)

Pastor Wade  
(724)777-4795

Pastor Ali  
(814)241-2269

### Inside this Issue:

Ali's note.....2  
Wade's note....3  
Birthday/prayer requests.....5  
Education/UWF.....6  
Worship/readings.....7  
Looking Ahead.....8  
Parish Events.....9  
Health concerns.....10  
Mission opportunities.....11  
Prayer calendar.....14  
Shoe box update.....15

## Pastor Ali's Note

*Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message." Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him...Jesus...gave his charge: 'God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age'." Matt 28:5-7,16-20*

Jesus is Risen! Death has lost it's sting! Victory has been won for us! Amen! That is not the end of the story though, Matthew shares the next part of our journey in the words above –the Great Commission – to go and make disciples in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!  
Easter in many ways can be the beginning of our story as Christians – without Easter we would have no hope, no eternal life, no victory to rejoice about so this is the beginning of a new story in us. No matter how many years it has taken us to come to know Jesus as our Savior, we know this to be true today so Jesus tells his disciples (those that follow him) to spread the Word far and wide until all hear and are baptized!

Many people ask me, how are we supposed to make disciples? What does Jesus tell us – share his story, share your story as to how your life was changed because of Jesus, help them to believe in Jesus as well so they too may be baptized. Is there a strict formula to follow – no! Is that why we find it difficult to accomplish, we want a step by step instruction set to do this but Jesus doesn't want us to be cookie cutters because there are so many different types of people out there, they all have their own stories, we have our own as well. Jesus wants us to share those great stories we have with others,

touching everyone in a unique way, so that our personal touch is placed on calling someone to know Jesus Christ.

But how do we do it – we do it by building relationships, Christian relationships with others! We do it through working with our youth, helping the troubled in the community, offering Messy Church/Community Café/Family Night Out/Easter Egg Hunt experiences, praying, walking a journey with another, befriending someone, sharing a gift/ talent you have with others, reaching out to another and showing them you care for them! We give ourselves in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

Have you ever thought of some so crazy as talking about your faith in a dog park, at a nail salon, at a coffee house, to a group of fishermen, etc. Other than the fishermen, these all have been places that have started reaching new people for God through ministry at these locations. They even have Taco Tues at the local Taco shop in Florida where these ideas originated and are still going strong today. Laity took to these places their stories and invited friends and friends of friends to come and hear a devotion (many times personal) and discuss it together. And just like when Jesus spoke to the crowds, some left, some stayed through intrigue, and others wanted to learn more. And this is how we start the journey of making new disciples for Jesus

Christ. Where would you like to start a new ministry? Share it with your pastors and others! Lord, when we do not know how to reach out and touch the lives of others, show us a way, when we feel we have nothing to share, remind us how we became the person we are today, when we whine because we want our way, show us that your way is the best. Thank you for what you have done for us and continue to walk with us each step of the journey we are on as your disciples. Amen.

Until the Whole World Hears...

Pastor Ali

## From Pastor Wade's Desk

Siblings in Christ!

Time! Do you think much about time? I want to share with you just a couple of quotes regarding time! I hope that will be okay.

Unfortunately, the clock is ticking, the hours are going by. The past increases, the future recedes. Possibilities decreasing, regrets mounting – Haruki Murakami. Haruki Murakami is a Japanese author, and his view of time might be compared to a ball of string; the more you use it the less there is.

The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is – C.S. Lewis. Leave it to C.S. Lewis to ground us in reality!

Whatever your view of time, for Ali and me it is hard to believe that we have almost finished our third year with you! We both hope for many more to come!

Think about what these three years have meant to us. We arrived near the end of a world-wide pandemic. Never before in our history have we seen such times. Together, we had to start looking at the world as a different place and a different era of our time. Together, we had to begin thinking about our churches and our future. When we arrived here in 2021, we also had a new name as four churches that included a word we never used before, our charge became a parish as we began to adopt the name West County United Methodist Parish!

In 2022, we began to look at what this new name might mean to us. The short answer is this—four United Methodist Churches living into the connectional system that I believe John Wesley imagined nearly 200 years ago. We are not closing churches. We are not minimizing churches. We are doing the opposite—we are empowering each of our churches to become the best that they can be! We are offering hope in our future together. Ali and I are hopeful that as we work together, our individual churches will become stronger.

In 2023, at our Annual Church Conference, we adopted a strategic plan that some have labeled as simplistic and some have called relevant. Both words are very descriptive of the plan. Never before have we ever thought of a future together as four churches! Our plan had to begin with small steps hoping to take bigger steps in the future.

So far this year, each of the church councils have begun to read through and discussing a book entitled *An Effective Approach to Cooperative Parishes* by Kay Kotan and Jason Stanley. We have talked about what Radical Hospitality might look like in our churches and we received some relevant feedback in our small group time.

There is a small group of members of each church that worked through a learning experience called The Empowerment Group. They are in the process of a project to hold one event each month just to make sure we know each other!

We have two more things to share. Make certain you continue reading on the reverse side of this letter!!

In a few weeks, each of you will be receiving a letter from the Parish asking for current contact information. It is not that we don't know who you are or where you live, we just want to make sure!! As we update each of the membership lists in each of our churches, we hope to create a Parish-wide directory. Additionally, we are hopeful to create a one-call system to be able to connect with everyone at one time. Please take the time to make sure we have your current contact information!!

Lastly, I am proud to preview for you a logo and letterhead that unites and identifies our Parish. I ask you to begin to think like this—we are ONE church in FOUR locations. While each church may continue to have their own logo, our Parish is now united by these symbols!





The smaller of the two will be used for letterhead and the bigger, circular logo will be used wherever a larger logo is appropriate!

I am excited about our future together!

If you have any questions or concerns, PLEASE let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Pastor Ali', is shown on a white background with a faint horizontal line.



Please contact Pastor Ali directly if you would like a home visit from her and/or communion at 814-241-2269

**Changes in notifying the pastor from the hospital!** When you go into the hospital you may be asked if you are a member of a certain church, etc. and asked if you would like your pastor notified. If you respond “yes”, that does not mean the pastor will be notified, just that you are okay for it to happen. The system runs on volunteers checking that information and calling the pastors. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of volunteers and most often a pastor is not notified from the hospital when a parishioner is in the hospital (or may be discharged before the call is made).

**Please contact the pastor directly to let us know you are in the hospital so she may visit you.**

## Family Matters

### Prayer Concerns

Fairview  
Marilyn Pease  
Theresa Gebhardt  
Harriet Grace  
Jean Pepicello  
Melanie (Becky Morrison)  
Kathy Rudd  
Wilma Portzer  
Marilyn Mehl  
Kathy Pytlarz  
Peace for Israel  
Russians  
Ukrainians  
People of Gaza  
Betty Reninger (Downey)

Girard  
Martin Duran-health  
Iva Sue Tyson-stage 4 cancer  
Cliff and Kathy Teribery-health concerns

Ongoing health concerns:  
Jacob Hickman  
Rick Hossman  
Lorraine Weaver  
Samuel William (wife Peggy as well)

Weis Library

Charge Shut-ins  
Shirley Hall (W)  
Dan Honard (G)

### Birthdays

Fairview  
10-Ed Steele  
12-Kathy Rudd  
18-Stephen Hetz  
24-Vladimir Kanazin  
25-Doris Wells  
27-Timmy Kanazin  
31-Lisa Searing

Weis Library  
1-Nancy Gruver  
1-Amber Rouchey  
2-Amy McGee  
3-Dan Ore  
10-Barbara Fox-Hagle  
15-Mary Belle Griffiths  
18-Heather Craig  
20-Sharon Trojanovich  
21-Kimberly Barnes  
21-Shirley Hall

Girard  
1-Bill Miller  
1-Noah Hickman  
3-Jerry Michael  
4-Michael Fails  
9-Paul Adamaszek  
12-Barb Bolt  
13-Michael Wright  
14-Kathy Erikson  
15-Lucy Mondy  
17-Trey Mondy  
19-Emma Osterberg  
26-Trill Dreistadt  
27-T J Faulkner  
30-Russ Teribery

## Fairview UMC Preschool Wesley Station Preschool

Registration is now open for the 24-25 am school year! Call us at (814)840-1559 to schedule a tour! Classes are filling up!

We are looking for donations of: Large cork or other boards to be used as additional bulletin boards in our classrooms, and 2 portable CD players. Used items are welcome!

Thank you to everyone who helped out at our open house February 18th. Many families tour our church and preschool.

## Education

### JUMP/Education

Our JUMP class will be singing "Hallelu Hallelu" during the Palm Sunday service. Please remember to practice at home. If you need the music, you can email Hillary Kanazin [dashingdachs@gmail.com](mailto:dashingdachs@gmail.com)

JUMP meets in our upstairs classroom Sundays after the Children's Moment of the service.

## United Women in Faith

The Fairview UWF will be collecting ingredients for Flood Buckets. You need not purchase all items for one bucket. A bucket for collected items will be in the Narthex coatroom. Please see page 12 for a list and further instructions for buckets.

The Fairview UWF are working on their rummage sale for May 10 and 11. Thursday evenings are work nights as needed from 6:00-8:00 on March 14 and 28, and April 11 and 25. Call Lisa Searing or Sally Clark to see if it is a work night.

The Girard UWF are collecting dues for membership. Please see Nancy Drury and let her know you are interested in joining.



## Worship

Girard	3/24
3/3	A-Chloe and Hailey
A-Nick Newell	Birkener
U-Pam and Dan Wilson	U-Karen Platz
L-Trill Dreistadt	L-Gail Fees
3/10	3/31
A-Chloe and Hailey Birkner	A-Nick Newell
U-Gail Teribery	U-Karen Platz
L-Doug Wright	L-Iva Housler
3/17	
A-Nick Newell	
U-Bob Bensus	
L-Cheryl Newton	

## Readings

March 3: John 2:13-22, Raise Up!  
March 10: John 3:14-21, Light Up!  
March 17: John 12:20-33, Lift Up!  
March 24: John 12:12-16, Sit Up!  
March 31: Acts 10:34-43, Look Up!  
\*Holy Thursday: UpEnded!

March 24: Palm Sunday at all four churches

March 28: Holy Thursday service at Girard UMC, 7:00 p.m.

March 29: Good Friday service at Fairview UMC ,7:00 p.m.

March 31: Sunrise service at Girard Cemetery, 6:45 a.m.

Regular services at each church

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Girard UMC is collecting paper products, i.e. paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, for the Christian Cupboard.

The Girard UMC is taking orders for Easter flowers. Our flowers will be purchased through Mason Farms. Available options are daffodils, tulips, lilies, pansy basket, viola basket and primrose. Orders must be received by March 17. Please use the order form in the bulletins or call the church office at (814)774-3069.

## Looking Ahead....

### Daylight Savings

March 10, Turn your clocks ahead one hour.

### Messy Church

March 11

5:00-7:00 p.m. at Girard UMC, parish event

### March 70 Something

March 17

Girard UMC

A special celebration of the birthdays of those in the congregation in the 70+ age group

Following worship

### Coffee and Hat Contest

March 17

Coffee hour and Hat Contest at Weis Library

### Pasta Dinner

March 19

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Girard UMC; meals are \$10 and include salad bar, pasta with meat sauce or meatballs, bread/butter, dessert, and beverage. Dine in or carry out.

### Spaghetti dinner

March 21

4:00-6:30 p.m.

Weis Library UMC: meals are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, dine in or carry out.

### Easter Egg Hunt

March 23

Fairview UMC will be having our Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 p.m. A sensory friendly hunt will be at 11:00 a.m. Volunteers for the day of the event are needed as well as candy donations. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Samie at (814)366-5101.



## West County Parish Events for March 2024

- Mar 3rd – Communion – all churches  
Trustees – Noon – Girard UMC
- Mar 5th – Community Council – 11:45 – Fairview  
Council – 5:30- Lake City UMC
- Mar 6th - Devotions – 11AM – FB Live  
Lenten Study – 6:30pm – Fairview UMC
- Mar 10th – Daylight Saving Time Change – Spring Forward!
- Mar 11th – Messy Church – 5PM – Girard UMC
- Mar 12th – Pauline’s Closet – 3-5PM – Lake City UMC  
Council/Trustees – 6:30PM – Weis Library UMC
- Mar 13th - Devotions – 11AM – FB Live  
Lenten Study – 6:30PM – Fairview UMC
- March 15-Newsletter deadline
- Mar 19th – Pasta Night – 4:30-6:30PM – Girard UMC
- Mar 20th – NO Devotions – 11AM – FB Live  
Lenten Study – 6:30PM – Fairview UMC
- Mar 21st – Spaghetti Dinner – 4-6:30PM – Weis Library UMC
- Mar 23rd – Easter Egg Hunt – Sensory 11AM, Larger 1PM - Fairview UMC
- Mar 24th – Palm Sunday – all churches
- Mar 25th – Community Café – 11:30-1PM – Girard UMC  
Council – 6:30PM – Fairview (tentative)
- Mar 26th – Pauline’s Closet – 6-8PM – Lake City UMC  
Council – 6:30PM – Girard UMC
- Mar 27th - Devotions – 11AM – FB Live; Newsletter folding
- Mar 28th – Holy Thursday – 7PM – Lake City UMC
- Mar 29th – Good Friday – 7PM – Fairview UMC
- Mar 31st – Sunrise Service – 6:45AM – Girard Cemetery  
Light Breakfast following Sunrise service at Girard UMC  
Regular services at all churches as well!

## West County Parish Events for April 2024 (to date)

- Apr 2nd – Community Council – 11:45AM – Fairview  
Council – 5:30PM – Lake City UMC
- Apr 3rd – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live  
Empowerment Group – 6:30PM – Zoom
- Apr 7th – Communion – all churches  
Trustees -Noon – Girard UMC
- Apr 8th – Solar Eclipse – 3:15PM  
Messy Church – 5PM – Girard UMC
- Apr 9th – Pauline’s Closet – 3-5PM – Lake City  
Council/Trustees – 6:30PM – Weis Library UMC
- Apr 10th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live
- Pfeiffer Burleigh Reading Program – 2:15-4:30PM- PB
- Apr 10-12th – Hatchathon Event for pastors – Olmsted Manor
- Apr 15th – Tax Day – remember to file

Apr 16th – Pasta Night – 4:30-6:30PM – Girard UMC

Apr 17th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

Pfeiffer Burleigh Reading Program – 2:15-4:30 – PB

Apr 18th – Spaghetti Dinner – 4-6:30PM – Weis Library

Apr 22nd – Community Café – 11:30-1PM – Girard UMC

Council – 6:30PM – Fairview (Tentative)

Apr 23rd - Pauline's Closet – 6-8PM – Lake City UMC

Council – 6:30PM – Girard UMC

Apr 24th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

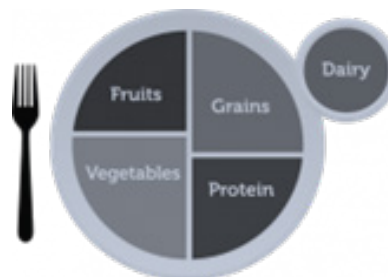
Pfeiffer Burleigh Reading Program – 2:15-4:30PM – PB

Apr 26-27-Rummage sale at Girard UMC

## Health Topics

National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

Get the My Plate app



Buying on a budget

- Homemade soup is a healthy and tasty way to use vegetables. Make a big batch and freeze leftovers in small lunch-size containers.
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) and Senior Farmers Market coupons can be used by WIC participants and older adults to purchase locally- grown, delicious fruits and vegetables.
- When trying new fruits and vegetables, buy in small amounts. Taste test before you change your grocery list.
- Keep it simple. Buy dried beans, peas, and lentils in their raw or uncooked form instead of the processed and packaged versions which cost more.
- Avoid buying single servings. Purchasing many small packages of produce is often more expensive than buying in larger amounts.
- Shop at discount grocery stores for good deals on fruits and vegetables, especially canned items.
- Shop at large grocery stores instead of small convenience stores when possible. There is more choice and the produce is often less expensive at larger stores.

- To make many fresh fruits and vegetables last longer, store them in the refrigerator or freezer soon after getting home from your shopping trip. Many cookbooks offer specific freezing instructions.
  - Clearly label your foods in the freezer and refrigerator with the contents and date to stay within a safe time frame.
  - Get creative with your leftover fruits and vegetables. Make salsa from your tomatoes and smoothies from your fruits! Visit [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov) to learn how.
  - Look for sales and deals on fruits & vegetables at the grocery store or through coupons.
  - Cut your fruits and vegetables at home. Pre-cut produce can cost much more than whole fruits and vegetables.
  - Don't shop hungry. Eat a healthy snack, such as an apple, before going to the grocery store so that you stick to your budget and avoid spending money set aside for fruit and vegetables on less healthy temptations.
  - Maximize your time and money. Cut coupons for foods, such as fruits and vegetables, only on your grocery list.
  - Canned fruits and vegetables will last a long time and can be a healthy addition to a variety of meals. Choose canned vegetables that have no added salt and fruit that is canned in 100% fruit juice.
  - Frozen fruit and vegetables store well in the freezer until you're ready to add them to a meal.
  - Pick your own at local farms. Late summer and early fall is a great time to pick your own fruits and vegetables. This can be a fun and less expensive way to buy in bulk and freeze, can, or dry for later.
  - Dried fruit lasts for a long time, but can be expensive.
  - Buy in bulk with friends and share the cost.
  - Store-brands can be a great budget choice for many forms of fruits and vegetables.
  - Buy frozen fruits and vegetables in large bags to stretch your budget (e.g., green beans and blueberries). Avoid those with added sugar, salt, or sauce.
- 

Is anyone searching for a mission opportunity? Project List UMVIM

Searchable and easy to navigate!

Have you seen the new Project List at [umvim.org](http://umvim.org)? The 254 projects - US and International - are all in one place. You can search on your favorite project, the type of work, location, or you can look for project sites that are good for youth. You can search on multiple pieces - youth projects in MN, WI, and DAK. Or search on Health and Education to see what projects are available for teams with those gifts and graces.

And remember - this list is very fluid. New projects are added and some projects are deleted when they are completed. Email Tammy at [ncj@umvim.org](mailto:ncj@umvim.org) if you have updates are needed and the most current information is available.

#Stillinmission episode 63

We are excited to invite you to join the next #StillinMission 63 on Thursday March 7, 2024 @ 7 p.m. (ET)

Are you interested in learning more about United Methodist missionaries? Do you wonder what day-to-day life is like in mission? #STILLINMISSION is a monthly Zoom event where you can hear first-hand experience from missionaries about their call to mission and the communities they serve. Join us to see how missionaries share God's love in partnership with communities around the world.

You will have the opportunity to meet in a small group to hear a presentation from a single missionary during the call. Find out more about these missionaries below, or at [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org)

- Y. Cho serves as a Church Developer & Partnership Support Coordinator with the Central Asia Mission Initiative in Central Asia. D. Yang serves as the Congregational Development Specialist with the Methodist Mission in Southeast Asia.

- Minkyu Lee serves as a Professor of Biblical Studies with Wesley Divinity School in Fiji.
  - P. Santos serves as an Assistant for Christian Education with the United Methodist Mission in Southeast Asia.
- (Cont.)

United Methodist Missionaries are an extension of the church's work in the world, and we hope that you will join us to learn more! Registration is limited. You will get a confirmation email once your registration is accepted. If the limit is reached, you will get priority for future events. See Pastors Wade or Ali if you wish to register for this event.

**CLEANING BUCKET CHALLENGE** This fall, our annual conference's Mission Barn made a plea for cleaning buckets. Multiple natural disasters across our nation and our world have significantly impacted the supply of buckets. The Mission Barn is currently collecting this important and tangible expression of God's love. In response to this need, the Erie-Meadville District is sponsoring a friendly cleaning bucket competition among the district churches. Congregations are being challenged to purchase the components and assemble the buckets for shipment to the Mission Barn. The contest will end on Easter Sunday (March 31, 2024). Participating congregations are asked to record the number of assembled buckets and provide a digital picture of their collection as part of a District Conference celebration in April.

If you wish to purchase any items used in a flood bucket, Fairview is collecting these items. They have to be these exact items for them to fit in the bucket properly. We can collect at each church and then redistribute to Fairview in the end.

#### Cleaning Kit Materials

One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)

No screw lids

May be used, but must be free from all residual product

Advertisements on the outside acceptable

One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent

One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner

No spray cleaners

One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap

One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)

One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)

Pump spray bottles must have protective covers

One scrub brush

With or without handle

18 re-useable cleaning wipes

No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels

Remove from packaging

Five scouring pads

- No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
- Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
- Remove from packaging
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
- No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
- Durable for multiple uses
- Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves
- Cotton with leather palm or all leather

SPRING DISCIPLESHIP SPEAKER SERIES Thursday, March 14th , 12pm to 1pm, online  
Sponsored by the Conference Discipleship Team, this FREE discipleship opportunity will feature Rev. Dr. Roger Owens, who will discuss “The Quiet Center: Meditation in the Christian Tradition.” These sessions will be held on Zoom over the lunch hour. Individuals are encouraged to join, but why stop there? Gather your church staff, small group members, or anyone who is interested for a lunch and learn! If you would like more info, see the Pastors to register.

MINI MISSION U CONFERENCE Sunday, March 17th to Tuesday, March 19th, Olmsted Manor and Retreat Center Enjoy the teaching of the annual Western PA Mission u event in a smaller, relaxed setting! “Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation” gives fresh eyes to the Lord’s Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord’s Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God’s kin-dom in our lives. Step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of eight one hour sessions. The retreat also includes a collection of items for the Ruth M. Smith Center and participate in a hands on mission project. More info – see Pastors.



# March 2024

West County United Methodist Parish Monthly Prayer Calendar  
Consider how God is asking you to pray through these concerns!



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

Pray for Pastor Ali and Pastor Wade.

Pray for our nation! Pray for everyone, by name, who has a February birthday

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

Read Psalm 19. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?

Raise Up Jesus around you today!

Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Fairview UMC!

Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Girard UMC!

Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Lake City UMC!

Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Weis Library UMC!



Daylight Savings Time Begins

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Read Psalm 107. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?

Light Up a room with Jesus today!

what r u up 2!

Pray through the prayer list from the church bulletin!

Pray for someone who is angry at you!

Look for the flowers of Spring as they begin to sprout!

How have I given up or lost faith recently?

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Read Psalm 51. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?

Share an Uplifting message with someone today!



Go for a walk today!

what r u up 2!

Go outside and let the breeze Lift you up today!

Pray for the churches of our Parish!

24

25

26

27

28

29

30



Sit Up and pray for an injustice in the world.

Pray and give thanks for our District Superintendent, Rev. Dennis Swineford.

Pray and give thanks for our Bishop, Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koi Koi.



How can you pray for your neighbor?

31



## WHERE DID THOSE SHOE BOXES GO?? (Girard UMC)

Our shoe boxes this year went to four different countries: Haiti, Columbia, Peru, and a Hard-to-reach area. The shoe boxes are sent to different locations so the children don't all receive the same items in their boxes. Here is some information on where our shoe boxes went:



### Haiti

Haiti is located in the Caribbean Sea on the western part of Hispaniola, the island it shares with the Dominican Republic. This historically poor nation has suffered much from disasters including a major earthquake that struck near its capital Port-au-Prince in 2010. Samaritan's Purse began delivering Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children here in 1996.

### Colombia

Colombia is the only country in South America to border both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Its geography ranges from snowcapped volcanoes in the Andes Mountains to beautiful beaches on the coast. Samaritan's Purse started delivering Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts to children here in 2003, and we launched The Greatest Journey, our follow-up discipleship program for shoe box recipients, in Colombia in 2009.





Girard UMC  
48 Main Street East  
Girard, PA 16417



NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALBION, PA  
PERMIT No. 17

**ECLIPSE RETREAT APRIL 7-9  
PATH OF TOTALITY  
AT OLMSTEAD MANOR RETREAT CENTER**

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a much-anticipated solar eclipse will occur, and the "path of totality" will pass right over the Olmsted area! You are invited to enjoy the eclipse together in community at the beautiful retreat center. Throughout the retreat, we'll explore a few Biblical images of the majesty of God's creation, and, on Monday, plan to view the eclipse together using telescopes with solar filtering and other safe viewing means.

REV. JEFF STERLING-A retired Methodist pastor and self-proclaimed "cosmos peeper", Jeff sees his role as convener, not expert.

**\$225 INCLUDES PRIVATE ROOM, ALL MEALS, & TUITION**

Ways to register:

go to [www.olmsteadmanor.org/events](http://www.olmsteadmanor.org/events)

call (814)945-6512