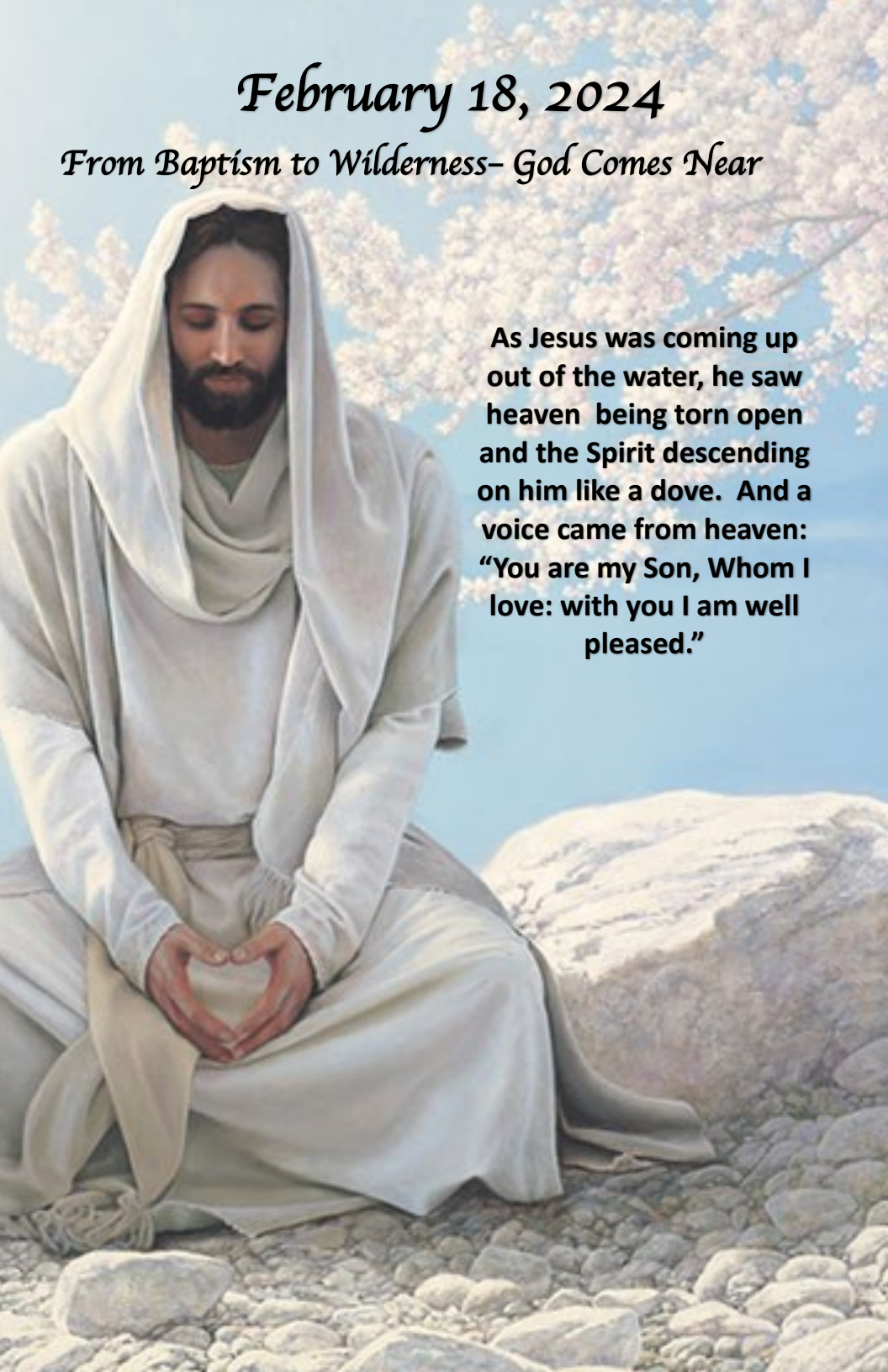


# February 18, 2024

## *From Baptism to Wilderness- God Comes Near*

A full-page background image featuring a depiction of Jesus with a beard and long hair, wearing a white robe and a white head covering. He is kneeling on a rocky, uneven ground. His hands are clasped together in front of him, forming a heart shape. The background shows a clear blue sky with soft, pink cherry blossoms in the upper right corner. A large, light-colored rock is visible behind him to the right.

**As Jesus was coming up  
out of the water, he saw  
heaven being torn open  
and the Spirit descending  
on him like a dove. And a  
voice came from heaven:  
“You are my Son, Whom I  
love: with you I am well  
pleased.”**

**10:00 am Worship Service  
Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**\*OPENING TIME OF WORSHIP**    "Awaken Me"    Worship Band

**CALL TO WORSHIP-**

Leader: Lenten Travelers, when you feel the security of God's love, affirmation of God's call, and covered in God's grace...

**Congregation: God Comes near.**

L: When you feel deserted and alone, starving and [parched for a caring hand or an encouraging word, troubled and uncertain as the ground under you shifts like sand...

**C: God comes near.**

L: When you feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak, energized to live as bearers of the good news that the kingdom of God is here...

**C: God comes near.**

L: In all the seasons of our lives, God comes near to us and does not forsake us.

**ALL: WE GATHER TO COME NEAR TO GOD WHOSE EVER-PRESENT LOVE REMAINS NEAR NO MATTER WHERE OUR JOURNEY TAKES US.**

**TIME OF PRAISE**

"At The Cross"

"Praise You In The Storm"

**PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

**BLESSING OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**    Genesis 9:18-17

Carol Lawton

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE/ LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN**

*"My Soul Longs For Jesus"*

**SCRIPTURE READING**    Mark 1:9-15

Laurie Barrick

**SERMON**    *"From Baptism to Wilderness— God Comes Near"*

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**    *The Apostle's Creed*

*UMH #881*

**MAKING MINISTRY HAPPEN**

**GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**\*HYMN**

*"What Wondrous Love Is This"*

**BENEDICTION**

**\* Stand as you are able**

## **LET US REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS AND CARDS**

***Please use the Connection card to convey your prayer concerns. Prayer concerns are included with permission and by request only, to protect the privacy of individuals. Requests remain on the prayer list for one month, unless requested otherwise. Thank you for your passion for prayer!***

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Rhea Sheffler (Linda Kimmel's mother), Haley Stevens (Jim Stevens daughter) Tim Hansen, Todd Eckenrode, Michael Ohler, Randy Clouse (Travis Clouse), Cheryl Lauks, Liz Lehman (Sandi Lehman's DIL)

### **LONG TERM ILLNESS:**

Teresa Bellish, Harry Schulz, John McAllen (Asonia Wolf's son), Alesha Holsinger (Linda Kimmel's friend) Jenny Sunderwirth (Mary Groshan's sister), Barb Elting, Gaylea Kelly, Loretta Calaman, John Edwards (Andy & Mary Groshans), Asonia Wolf, Vera Egolf, Jackie Weary, Ed Hair, Stewart Lamma, Anne Stanford, Dick Lindsey, Charles Sherman, Josiah Claire (Becky Smith), The Matrese Family, Steven Hair, Jeannie Wagner (Mary Jayne), Freddy Rodriguez (Deb Kraft).

### **GRIEF:**

Family of Jenny Sunderwirth (Mary Groshan's sister),  
Family of Ricky Stitt (Donna Hockensmith's grandsons father)

**OUR WORLD MISSIONS:** Mountains of Hope, Furcy, Haiti; Gideons.

### **THOSE DEPLOYED IN MILITARY SERVICE:**

Jadyn Barrett (Navy), Alex Myers (Army), Gerad Calaman (Air Force), Dylan Kupp (Navy), Justyn Padua, Brandon Padua, Dustin Jeardoe (Marine), Erin Driver (Army), John Durnin II (Marine).

### **NURSING HOMES:**

Thorwald Home: Pauline Hollenbaugh COG: Jane Sunday

**Susquehanna**

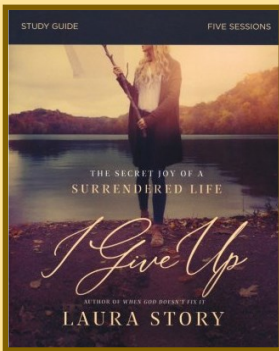
**Conference of the UMC**

**Circle of Prayer Churches**

**For the week of**

**February 18 - 24**

Clear Ridge UMC, Hustontown  
Dellville UMC, Duncannon  
Trinity Mifflin UMC, Mifflin  
First Chambersburg UMC, Chambersburg  
Paupack UMC, Paupack  
Mill-Green UMC, Millville  
Stoverdale UMC, Hummelstown  
Warfordsburg UMC, Warfordsburg  
Calvary Lawrenceville UMC, Lawrenceville  
Springville UMC, Springville Waynesboro



## *Lent Study*

**Beginning on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:30pm. Join us for a 5 week study leading up to Easter.**

*A study by Laura Story "I Give Up"*

**Living in total surrender to God is the only pathway to true joy and an abundant life, no matter what challenges you face. In this 5-session video study, walk alongside Laura Story in her continuing journey of accepting God's plan for her life and living it out in total surrender.**

## SERVING OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY CARES BREAKFAST



Join us as we serve breakfast  
to residents of the Resource Center!

You are invited to join us inside or drop items off  
at **50 West Penn Street, Carlisle,**

on the first **Saturday of each month at 8:00am;**

**March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd,  
Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd, December, 7th.** If you have

questions, please email **Sue Walsh** at [sew1251@gmail.com](mailto:sew1251@gmail.com) or  
sign up on your [Connection card](#).

**"Attention"** we have an urgent need for more contributions of food  
on these mornings. Lately there haven't been enough food for  
everyone at the Center.

Dear MUMC family;

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to thank everyone who joined us in our prayer vigil for my sister, Jenny Sunderwirth, as she bravely battled the stage 4 brain cancer diagnosis she received last January. She endured chemotherapy, radiation, traditional brain surgery and experimental laser brain surgery in an attempt to fight the aggressive cancer. She lost her battle and passed peacefully at home on 1/29/24. Jenny was so thankful for all the prayers and she wore the prayer shawl that was blessed by our church until her last days. Thanks everyone for supporting me through this journey with your kind words, hugs, texts, emails and beautiful cards. I cannot thank you enough! Mary Groshans

*Thank  
you*

### Shoe collection



Friends we would like to collect shoes for Mission Central. All donated shoes will be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of microenterprise partners in developing nations. Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain and grow business in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and

Africa. Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send her son to law school. By donating shoes to Mission Central, you are giving someone a second chance and making a difference!

There will be a collection area in the gathering for these shoes. Thank you!

## **Little Lights**

**When:** Thursdays at 10am

**Who:** Ages Birth to Preschool

**Location:** Church Gym

**What:** Enjoy an hour of indoor fun with your child! We will supply the toys, a craft and circle time. This is an on-going event: no registration required.



**F.I.R.E. EVENT**  
(*Families Inviting Relating Encouraging*)

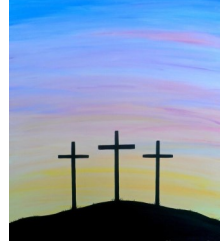
**FAMILY PAINT FUN**

**DATE:** February 24<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 3 – 5 pm

**LOCATION:** Church Gym

Learn the basics of mixing colors and blending acrylic paints. Please be sure to sign up on your connection card, so that we have enough supplies for everyone. **This event is open to everyone!** A \$5 donation is appreciated.



MUMC Event “A Butterfly Celebration”

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 am to 12 pm

Come experience the amazing transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly. There will be a photo booth, games, crafts, and science fun. This event is free and no registration needed. **Looking for volunteers to help with new event.**

**ignite**

**“Ignite” - MUMC Youth**  
**6th through 12th Grade**

Join us **1st & 3rd Sundays**  
**at 6 pm–8pm (Sept. thru June)**

Email [office@middlesex.com](mailto:office@middlesex.com) for information.

**Follow Ignite MUMC Youth on Facebook & Instagram**



Each Week it takes many hands to prepare for worship. Thank you to our Worship team who are serving this Month and to those scheduled to serve next week!

	FEBRUARY	
ROLE	18	25
Acolyte	Needed	Needed
organist/pianist	Needed	Needed
Praise Band:		
	Brian Moore	Brian Moore
	Elizabeth Peters	Elizabeth Peters
	Travis Clouse	Travis Clouse
	Seth Lawton	Seth Lawton
Tech Team	Tim Walsh	Joe O'Donnell
Sound Team	Needed	Needed
Ushers:		
Gathering/Downstairs	Glenn Kimmel	Rick Orner
Pastor/Sanctuary	Earl Smith	Linda Eckenrode
Greeters:		
Hospitality Greeter	Mary Groshans	Linda Kimmel
Bulletin	Darlene Smith	Barbara Preston
Lector	Laurie Barrick	Linda Eckenrode

# Middlesex United Methodist Church

*Our Vision: Alive in Christ in the Community  
so that the Community is Alive in Christ.*

*Serving Christ for over 150 years!*

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Carlisle, PA 17013

717.249.2449

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[office@middlesexumc.com](mailto:office@middlesexumc.com)

[www.facebook.com/middlesexumchurch](https://www.facebook.com/middlesexumchurch)

## 2024 Bulletin Sponsorships

Bulletin Sponsorship is a unique way to honor or remember a special day or person. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin in 2023, **please see Betty Witmer in the Gathering Space on Sunday mornings**, or contact the church office with a Sunday that interests you.

The cost is \$15.00 per sponsorship and information will be printed in the bulletin.

### Available dates:

March— 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April— 7, 14, 28

May— 5

June— 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

July— 14, 21, 28

August— 4, 11, 18, 25

September— 1, 15, 22

October— 6, 13, 20, 27

November— 3, 10, 17

December— 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

*Bulletins are sponsored this week in Memory of Fred L. Witmer  
by Betty Witmer & Pam Dunkleberger*