

# Into the Wilderness



**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. Luke 4:1-2**

## MUMC Worship Service on March 9th, 2025

### **WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

### **PSALM 91:1-2, 14-16**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

**God, rescue us in the wilderness!**

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

**God, rescue us within the wilderness!**

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

**God, rescue us through the wilderness!**

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

**Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.*

### **SONGS OF PRAISE** *"Take Time to Be Holy" "Waiting Here For You"*

### **SIGNS OF PEACE**

### **TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER /OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

### **PRAISE SONG** *"Better Is One Day"*

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Luke 4:1-13* Laurie Barrick

### **HOMILY** *Living In Love As We Wander the Wilderness* Pastor Deb

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** *Apostle's Creed #881*

### **MAKING MINISTRY HAPPEN**

### **GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS** *"Worthy You Are Worthy"*

### **WE OFFER PRAISE** *"His Love Goes On Forever"*

### **BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE** *"A Closing Prayer"*



**Prayer requests cards are now in each pew. Prayer requests can be placed in the offering plate or in the black offering box in the back of the sanctuary.**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Owen Engle (Mary Groshan's nephew), Liz Rusnik, Alesha Hollinger, Mike Ohler, Chris Fine, Betsy Herron (Mary Jo Churlick's sister)

**LONG TERM ILLNESS:**

Dick & Esther Ocker, Michael Alexander (Bellish' son), Liz Lehman, Todd Eckenrode, Teresa Bellish, Harry Schulz, John McAllen (Asonia Wolf's son), Alesha Holsinger (Linda Kimmel's friend), Barb Elting, Gaylea Kelly, John Edwards (Andy & Mary Groshans), Asonia Wolf, Vera Egolf, Jackie Weary, Ed Hair, Stewart Lamma, Anne Stanford, Charles Sherman, Josiah Claire (Becky Smith), The Matrese Family, Steven Hair, Freddy Rodriguez (Deb Kraft).

**GRIEF:**

The family of Conner Martinez (CV student), The Family of Robert Waggoner

**OUR WORLD MISSIONS:**

Mountains of Hope, Furcy, Haiti; Gideons.

**THOSE DEPLOYED IN MILITARY SERVICE:**

Samantha Orner (Air Force), 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:**

**Let's remember our shut-in MUMC family this year by sending them notes, letters or visiting them. Addresses are provided below.**

Thorwald Home: 442 Walnut Bottom Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013

***Pauline Hollenbaugh***

Church Of God Home: 801 N Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013

***Jane Sunday***

Allen's Cove: 25 Cove Rd., Dunacannon, PA 17020

***Liz Rusnik***

**Susquehanna Conference of the UMC  
Circle of Prayer Churches for the week of March 9-15**

First New Milford UMC, Milford  
Dillsburg Community Church, Dillsburg  
Slocum UMC, Wapwallopen  
Queen UMC, Claysburg  
Wayne UMC, McVeytown  
First Muncy UMC, Muncy  
South Montrose Community UMC, Montrose  
Faith UMC, Huntingdon  
Daniels-St Thomas UMC, Mount Pleasant Mills  
Sweden Valley Faith UMC, Coudersport



*Anniversary and Birthday  
Celebrations*

**MARCH**

- 5 Amber Earhart**
- 5 Keith Hershey**
- 9 \*Gary & Cinda Whistler**
- 14 Holden Beddia**
- 14 Earl Smith**
- 19 Ruth Smith**
- 20 Jim Cohick**
- 22 Jackie Weary**
- 23 Jack Coulson**
- 28 Jo Gelbaugh**
- 30 George Bellish**
- 30 Jennifer Lopiano**



**It's Easter Flower Ordering time again!!**

**Order forms are inserted in this bulletin for your convenience and envelopes with order forms are also available in the gathering area.**

**Order forms are due by Sunday, March 23rd.**



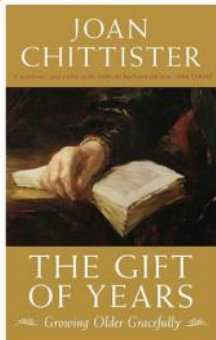
March Madness is about to begin!

We have scheduled our **Spring Cleaning** for MUMC for again on **March 22nd**.

Many hands make light work, please consider joining us for this project. Thank you to Kim Coler and Mary Groshans who agreed to be the leads for this project. If you are interested in helping you can contact the church office or sign up on the **connection card** provided in the worship bulletin.



## Book Study with Pastor John

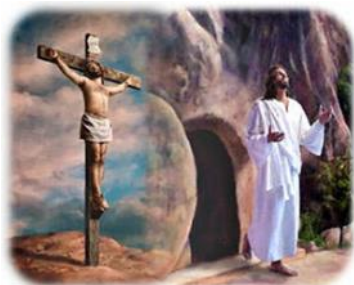


It's been a couple of months now since I retired. Note the word "re-tire", as in "put on new treads," because there is more life to travel, to experience, to give and receive. And there are those who are further down the road who can help us prepare for our ongoing journey. A person who can steer us well is Joan Chittister. In her book, **The Gift of Years**, she does just that, helping us reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and how we can prepare for our later years so that they may become some of the most fulfilling years of our life. So, I invite you to join me in reading, reflecting, and discussing Joan's book about "Growing Older Gracefully". Doing so will help us re-tire/re-tread our lives with ongoing meaning, purpose, gratitude, and friendship. We will meet on **Wednesdays, beginning March 5th, at 2:30 at the church**. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me (Pastor John), Pastor Deb, or the church office. If you are interested in this study, please sign up on the connection card. I am looking forward to our study and especially to getting to know each other better.

## Family Sunday School

**March 9 - April 20**

Join us at 9:30 am in the Nursery as we rediscover the Easter story, enjoy yummy treats and play fun games. The whole family is encouraged to attend. Hope to see you all there!



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## Save the Date

### True North VBS

**June 15 - 19**





To our faithful and humble servants. It takes many hands to prepare and lead worship services each week, and we are so very grateful for each one of you!

| ROLE                        | MARCH                |                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                             | 9                    | 16                 |
| <b>Acolyte</b>              | Holden Clouse-Beddia | Ella Lawton        |
| <b>organist/pianist</b>     | Linda Kimmel         | Linda Kimmel       |
| <b>Praise Band:</b>         |                      |                    |
|                             | Dave Billman         | Dave Billman       |
|                             | Seth Lawton          | Seth Lawton        |
|                             | Elizabeth Peters     | Elizabeth Peters   |
|                             | Travis Clouse        | Travis Clouse      |
| <b>Tech Team</b>            | Joe O'Donnell        | Todd Eckenrode     |
| <b>Greeters:</b>            |                      |                    |
| <b>Hospitality Greeter</b>  | Mary Groshans        | Linda Kimmel       |
| <b>Bulletin</b>             | Darlene Smith        | Shelby Hockenberry |
| <b>Ushers:</b>              |                      |                    |
| <b>Gathering/Downstairs</b> | Andy Groshans        | Glenn Kimmel       |
| <b>Pastor/Sanctuary</b>     | Earl Smith           | Becky Smith        |
| <b>Lector</b>               | Laurie Barrick       | Marian Smyser      |

In response to the truth that it is important for all of God's people to pray for Christ's church in this world. The Leadership Council would like you to pray for MUMC each day. The women of the Wednesday morning bible study, wrote a prayer to get us started and want to share it with the whole congregation in hopes that everyone will use this prayer as part of their daily prayer life.

Awaken our hearts, Lord that we may be a beacon of light and hope to each other, our community and our world. Ignite a fire and passion in MUMC so that we may grow in our desire to know and love and serve you more. Empower us to welcome and encourage people from all walks of life. Give us the wisdom to prayerfully embrace new ideas that we might truly have open minds, hearts, and doors. Amen



## *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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