



The February Maple

On every computer there is a command or icon for adjusting the lines on the page to fit evenly within the margins on both sides of the screen. This is called justification. It means that all the words on the page are realigned so that they are in right relationship with each other within the margins on the page. The Apostle Paul didn't know about computers, but the metaphor of page justification is not far from what he was talking about when he said that we are "justified by faith".

When we come to realize that we have sinned, and confess our sin to God, we are justified. Through the actions of Jesus Christ, our life, put out of sync with God, is instantly put back in alignment. It is a breath-taking miracle that God acts so decisively and completely in our behalf.

While God's act of justification in our life is immediate, our walk in this new relationship with God is painstakingly slow and imperfect! As Paul says, "the very thing I want to do (and know that I should do) I cannot do, and the very thing that I don't want to do (and know that I should not do) is what I do! I can just see Paul holding his head in his hands, pathetically bemoaning his human limitations.

But I don't think Paul is trying to make us hang our head in shame. Rather, I believe Paul is reminding us that God is not surprised by our inability to live without sin...which is why, while we were yet sinners, God sent Jesus into our lives to forgive us and release us to live in grace rather than in sin.

As we move through this month's sermon series on "A Disciple's Heart" we listen for how God wants to pour is grace into us to set us free to grow in him and better serve one another in love. There is no reason for us to live "out of alignment" with God when grace is our gift, abundant and free.



Grace and peace
Pastor Wendy

ALL Church Stay at Home Retreat:



Discovering the Rebel Jesus

We often see Jesus through the lens of the pictures that have been hanging on the walls of our churches and homes for generations: Jesus laughing with a gleam in his eyes; Jesus holding a lamb on his shoulders while leading an entire flock to safety; Jesus walking with children racing around his legs laughing; or the more traditional picture of Jesus patiently knocking on the door of our hearts, waiting for a response.

How often have we gazed at a picture of Jesus knocking over the money changer's table in the temple courtyard, or standing up against the religious leaders trying to trap him? To help us better understand and accept why Jesus came to this earth for sinners such as us, the study for our pre-Lenten retreat will help us discover, not the tame and gentle Jesus we have learned to cherish and call on over the years, but the rebel Jesus who has gone to great lengths to break through the status quo; willingly be mocked and beaten; rebel against injustice; and give his life for us.

Join your church family in this "Stay-At-Home retreat" and discover the Rebel Jesus. The One who gave his life completely, so that our lives could be completely saved.

Schedule:

- Friday: 7:00 PM: Games and snack
- Saturday: 8:30 AM:
 - Continental Breakfast
 - First gathering
 - Lunch
 - Second gathering
 - Dinner and Love Feast
- Cost: \$10 per person; \$25 max per family



Tuesday Morning Lenten Bible Study

Our current study in the book of Isaiah will conclude in mid-February, and a new study will begin for Lent. John Davidson will lead us through the gospel of Matthew, choosing the texts of our church lectionary. The study begins at 10:00 am in the church lounge on Tuesday, February 28th.



It is wonderful to walk into church on Sunday morning, smelling the coffee perking, looking forward to the delicious snacks that have been prepared for our time of fellowship. Have you ever wondered who makes this possible week after week? There is a small group of women and men who volunteer to come on Saturday afternoon to set the coffee up, and another group of volunteers who bring homemade or purchased goodies for us to enjoy. Another group of volunteers sticks around after worship to clean everything up. These volunteers are gracious servants. Let's offer our thanks to them when we see them working behind the scenes: **Janet Fabian, Christine Bonno, Shirley Kamman, Rhonda Rea, Charlotte and Don Swenson, Barbara Althouse, Vera Straley, Nancy and Dave Sample, Cindy and Brian Doron, Jim and Flo Dugan, Beth Marucci, Tami Bernard, Becky Kent.**

More help in any of these areas of service would be greatly appreciated. Please talk to Rhonda Rea or Charlotte Swenson if you are able to be part of the volunteer rotation.



THE PURPOSE

- ✓ **To know God** and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ
- ✓ **To develop a creative supportive fellowship**
- ✓ **To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church.
- We welcome all women who commit themselves to our Purpose, including you. You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join. Our membership is diverse: women of many races, cultures, languages, young and old. There is no minimum age requirement.
- We hope you will prayerfully consider joining this **multicultural, multilingual, and multiracial** organization of women.

February Schedule

FEBRUARY 5 (Sunday)

UMW GENERAL MEETING – 12:30 P.M. in Ryan Hall

(Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided.)

Program: *“Forming an Alliance to Fight Hunger Locally.”*

(Diane Casey, President of the Interfaith Food Alliance)

UMW Pledge Opportunity

Mission Project: Bring feminine hygiene items to donate to the Family Backpack Center

FEBRUARY 15

ELIZABETH CIRCLE – 1:30 P.M. – Church Lounge

Hostesses: Ruth Harvick, Blanche Sherill

Study/Devotion: Charlotte Swenson

FEBRUARY 20

MARCIA-RUTH CIRCLE – 7:00 P.M.

Hostess: Janet Fabian

Program/Devotion: Chris Bonno



2017 Events

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 15 @ 10AM
- Vacation Bible School: July 9-13
 - Preparations for Vacation Bible School will begin soon. Please contact me if you would like to join in the planning and decision making process. We will once again be partnering with other local churches. Your input would be appreciated.

For information contact Kim Jakimowicz: kimyocho@comcast.net

- The Family Ministries committee is back. We will hold our first meeting of 2017 on Tuesday, January 31st, at 7:00 pm in the Library. Plenty of room for anyone with ideas to offer on events you would like to see offered. Please come to the meeting. For More info contact Kim Jakimowicz.



Dear Members and Friends,

Thank You for the generous Christmas gift. It is a pleasure to work and worship at MUMC. Blessings for Health and Happiness in 2017.

--Kim



Youth Spaghetti Dinner

Date: March 11th, 2017

Opens: 5pm

Closes: 8pm

Reservations recommended - especially for large groups!

Adults: \$12 (13 and up)

Children: \$5 (0-12)

All money raised supports our middle school and high school mission trips! Please join us for this unique dining experience!

Backpack Food Ministry

Two Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings a month, the Back Pack center is open to over 20 families in our community to shop for grocery and home cleaning needs. Christmas gifts were shared with every member of the families thanks to the generosity of the many sponsor partners of the center. Food donations, personal hygiene items and household cleaning supplies are in constant need for the center.



Like helping people? Like having fun? How about both at the same time?!

Family Promise is dedicated to helping homeless children and their families here in Lower Bucks. We're holding a bowling fundraiser at Brunswick Zone XL in Feasterville (100 E Street Rd) on Monday, February 20, from 2pm - 4pm. Bring the kids out on their day off for 2 hours of bowling (shoes included), pizza, soda or juice, and a \$100 Arcade Card all for only \$30 per person.

TICKETS: To purchase your tickets, please visit our website at:
www.fplb.org

DONATE: Unable to attend, but still wish to donate? Please do so on the website. Thank you!

LOWER BUCKS OVERDOSE PREVENTION COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

Join us for a community forum to learn more about the disease of addiction, community resources, and what's being done in Lower Bucks. Expert Panelists will include representatives from:

- Pennsylvania State Representative Gene DiGrolamo
- Bucks County District Attorney Matthew D. Weintraub
- Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. Executive Director, Diane W. Rosati
- Bensalem Director of Public Safety Fred Harran
- Gaudenzia Recovery Center CEO, Mike Harle
- Christian Life Prison and Recovery Ministries Bob Sofronski
- Bucks County Recovery House Association President, Bryan Kennedy
- EMS Medical Director Dr. Kenneth Lavelle
- Moderated by: The Honorable Rea Boyla, Bucks County Court of Common Pleas

When: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Where: Cairn University (Chatlos Chapel) 200 Manor Avenue Langhorne, PA 19047.