



The April Maple

Jacen Arruda	Yvonne Bruner	Arthur Carlen
Paul Chapman	Helen Chokey	Diane Davis
Mia Doron	Pat Dromboski	Doris Gafgen
Emily Garner	Barbara Lombardo	Shirley Malmsbury
Robin Martin	Joseph Massaquoi	Chris McCormick
Vera Straley	Austin (friend of Rhonda Rea)	

George B. (brother-in-law Estella Smires)
 Nancy J. (Mother of John Jakimowicz)
 Paula (friend of Linda Herbster)
 Rich S. (friend of Pam Manners)
 Nicole (friend of John Koba)
 Robin (friend of Phyllis Patterson)
 Mike Pugh (Nephew of Vickie Katona)
 Keith (friend of Charlotte Swenson)
 Jill M. (friend of Pam Manners)
 Infant Holden (friends of John Koba)
 Madelyne L. (friend of the Trimble family)
 Pattie B. (friend of Charlotte Swenson)
 Teri M. (Linda Mier)
 George L. (Helen Chokey's nephew)
 Tim (cousin of Linda Mier)
 Danielle C. (Jamie Lombardo)
 Ryan M. (grandson of Allan & Lillian Mannon)
 Barbara G. (mother of Jenn Arruda Ayling)
 Abbey (friend of Sue Gotta)
 Julie J. (cousin of Kim & John Jakimowicz)
 Dan C. (brother-in-law of Bev Hoyer)
 Ginny (friend of Vera Straley)
 Trish G. (friend of Kim & John Jakimowicz)
 Carolyn K. (friend of Charlotte Swenson)
 Forrest (friend of Abby)
 Kay G. (nephew of Phyllis Patterson)
 Reuben (grandfather of Dawn Pabers)
 Evelyn (aunt of Dawn Pabers)
 Cheryl (friend of Susan Friend)
 Abbey (friend of Sue Gotta)
 Edward Codd



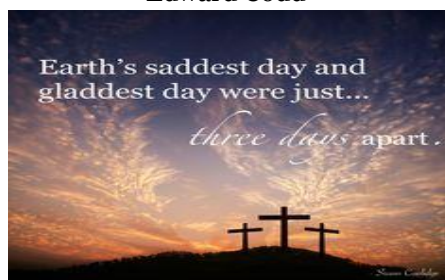
Everywhere we turn, we hear about COVID-19. I would like to ignore the news, and we all hope and pray it goes away soon. The reality is, this crisis cannot be ignored, and it is here to stay for longer than any of us want. Every aspect of our life is being affected. You will see in this issue of the Maple that all ministry and mission planned for April has changed. In fact, from the time I write this “pastor’s page” to the time you read it – something will have changed!

But one thing that has not and will never change is the love God has for each one of us, and the promise that God is always working for our good. We will soon move into “Holy Week” where we are reminded that while God sent Jesus into our world to save us and all creation from the consequences of sin, it didn’t look possible as he was arrested, beaten, crucified and laid in a tomb.

God made the impossible possible! Jesus rose from the tomb to show that God is more powerful than death! I believe this to be true and turn to God daily for the strength and courage to live as though I believe this is true. God is more powerful than COVID-19.

Join me, daily, in prayer for our world. Join me, daily, in our email devotions. Turn your heart and mind, daily, to the promises of God’s Word. Be encouraged in this terrifying journey by the steadfast faithfulness of our God who is ABLE to bring life from death.

*Peace and Joy,
 Pastor Wendy*





The Tale of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

As my friend Chris Bonno was browsing a UMW Book Table in 2007, she picked up and then bought the book, "Knitting into the Mystery" by Susan Jorgenson and Susan Izard (2003). This book was about Prayer Shawl ministry and Chris, shared it with me and said, "Do you think we could do this at our church?"

After some consideration, prayer, and persistence, a Prayer Shawl Class started at MUMC. Some folks learned how to knit or crochet and others learned that they are *not interested in knitting or crocheting!* We learned that since each stitch is prayerfully made, a completed prayer shawl represents thousands of prayers! Over the past 13 years, our group has presented more than 250 shawls to those who are sick, grieving, or in need of encouragement *as well as* those who are celebrating a wedding or baptism or those who are beginning their freshman year of college.

I treasure moments when I have wrapped a shawl around a mourning widow and prayed with her, when I have *received* a prayer shawl from a traveling companion who has since passed away, when photos of students wearing shawls were texted to me and when we laugh and converse together at our Prayer Shawl gathering on Thursday nights.

There are several ways that you can join us!

1. When the public health emergency is over, you can join our group on Thursday evenings from 7pm-8:30pm in the Lounge.
2. You can knit or crochet a shawl at home and we will pray over it and give it away to someone in need.
3. You can donate money for yarn purchase since some of our stitchers spend considerable out-of-pocket funds to keep our shawl supply adequate.

If you know of someone who would like a Prayer Shawl, please contact Pastor Wendy, Linda Herbster, or myself. Like the Good Samaritan, who showed compassion, the Prayer Shawl group hopes that our stitching helps people to encounter God's love in a tangible way. Our work and care link us to God's grace. Praise the Lord.

Rhonda Rea,

Prayer Shawl Ministry stitcher.

Email: jrpiz@aol.com



April Schedule

UMW Event – INDOOR YARD SALE: Postponed until further notice

****Circle meeting dates are tentative. Please check with your circle leader closer to the scheduled dates below.****

APRIL 15

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

Hostess: Charlotte Swenson

Devotion/Study: Blanche Sherrill

APRIL 20

MARCIA-RUTH CIRCLE

7:00 P.M. – Church Lounge

Hostess: Linda Mier

Devotion/Study: Rhonda Rea



Take Me Out to the Ballgame- (pending public health situation)

- The Interfaith Food Alliance invites you join them at the Trenton Thunder on Friday, June 26th at 7pm (vs. Hartford Yard Goats)
- Tickets-\$10, **must be purchased by 6-1-2020**
- To purchase tickets, see Rhonda Rea (jrpiz@aol.com or 215-493-9505)

A portion of your ticket price benefits our local mission to feed our neighbors in need at the Family Backpack Center.

faith and finances

On March 15 our worship services were cancelled, and we held a Prayer Service to discuss how MUMC will continue to be the church for each other and our community. We dared to dream and set forth goals for how we would move forward into the unknown. The following Sunday we held our first live streamed worship serviced with more than 200 people interacting! What a blessing!!

We also committed to calling each other and caring for each other as best we can in this time of scattered isolation. AND, we committed to continue to feed the hungry and those in need. In the following couple of weeks, we gave out over 200 HOT takeout meals, kept our food closet open, and passed out grocery bags to 40 families in partnership with the Interfaith Food Alliance.

Our building is shut down, and our ministry and mission looks completely different – but God is still God and we are still called to BE THE CHURCH TO THE WORLD. And so we shall!

This means expenses continue.

There are ways for everyone to be generous during this time frame.

The easiest method is to mail your offerings to the church so they can be deposited on a weekly basis.

A second method is through your online banking portal where you can set up a disbursement through the Bill Pay section. The bank will then mail a check from your account to the church in the amount you direct. You can direct this as frequently as you wish, and it should be free (Saves Postage).

The third method is by accessing the online giving portal through the church's webpage, www.mumcpa.org. At the bottom of the home page is a link to give through the online giving site. You can designate your giving either by credit card or through your bank account and make it re-occurring. This will go to the General Fund.

If you want your giving to go into another church account i.e. Communion Fund or Faith Promise Misson, please email Jim Rea at jrpiz@verizon.net and provide instructions.

Thank you for your continued generous giving.



On my birthday, Saturday Feb 22, I attended the pancake breakfast at church; that evening I went back to church to attend Holy Grounds Café – our first coffee house. Smiled that God should be proud of me starting and ending my birthday in His house! Later that night as I got ready for bed, I noticed a huge rash down the front of my legs to my toes and on my hands – hundreds of tiny purple pin head size spots – not raised, no itch! So, what does one do? Google of course! I spent 30 minutes and couldn't find a similar picture but noticed during that time the rash had spread more on my hands. No other symptoms – felt fine! I assumed a fast-moving allergic reaction that might get worse while I slept – maybe my throat would close up and I'd be dead in the morning! I called my daughter to take me to the ER!

Bloodwork results showed I had ITP – extremely low blood platelet count (normal count level 150,000-400,000, and I only had 2,000! Platelets coagulate your blood and mine were so low, if I had a hard fall I could have bled to death! Wow! Needed immediate IV steroids and immune globulin to kick start raising levels; immune system sometimes just acts up and destroys platelets! A man wheeled me up to my room and I shared with a laugh how I had bragged to God about starting and ending my birthday in church and now looks like God didn't like my bragging so was “punishing” me! As we approached my room, the man said something like this....” No, God is sending you on a birthday getaway! Here's your big private room, great meals included, maid service, people to wait on your every need, and you can even get a massage! Relax and enjoy it. It's your birthday gift from God!”

As I thought about it, I cried a little. Yes, bad me had bragged to Him, but I know He loves me and He knew exactly where I needed to be later that night. It took that man – my Birthday Angel – to remind me and he helped change my attitude to gratitude and thanksgiving!

Barb Lombardo



You might remember that through your Faith Promise Mission Giving in January, \$3,200 was given to partners in our community and around the world who love God's children in practical and meaningful ways. We continued this important work in February:

- \$1,000 was given to Family Services of Bucks County to offer support to the homeless population in our community through counseling, housing and food. They also come alongside people fighting against personal addictions and those coming out of prison.
- We held our first of many Holy Grounds Coffee Cafe experiences in our Hall on February 22. Over 60 guests enjoyed the music, worship and fellowship of the evening. What a blessing!

We are planning our next Coffee House for April 25th but understand that it will most likely be postponed.

- \$500 was given to Livingrin, an organization that helps people in recovery.
- We have an on-going ministry with the children of the Morrisville Schools. Until our schools were closed for health and safety reasons, we supplied a weekly meal, a weekday after school program, and use of our space for weekly programs for Jr and Sr High students. We look forward to beginning again as soon as we are able. In the meantime, we are staying connected with our After School Adventure children with weekly "gift bags" filled with Bible story activities and fresh snacks.

Believe in their dream TO STEP OUT OF POVERTY

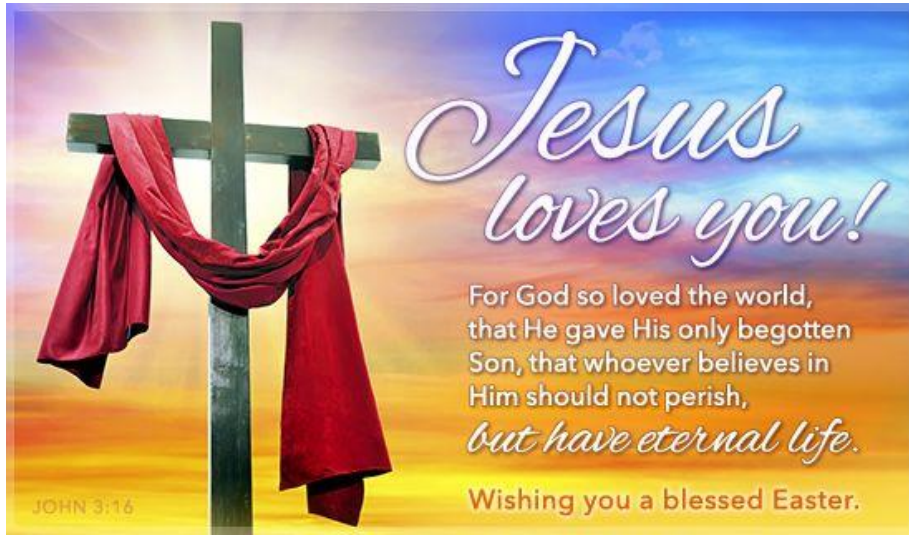


In March, we decided to be a partner with ZOE Empowerment. This commitment of \$4,000 per year for three years helps mission workers in Liberia, Africa, work with 40-60 child led families (100 children total) move from poverty to independence.

Check out this link to learn more about ZOE Empowerment:
<https://youtu.be/mMDMrk51hdg>

Your mission giving supports these ministries and makes it possible for us to share the love of Jesus in profoundly meaningful ways.

Your generous giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund helps our neighbors in critical needs during this time.



**Our Future for Now...
Streaming Worship LIVE
From Studio 501 West Maple Ave.
11:00 Sunday morning**

Live streaming is not the same as being there ... but it is connecting us in ways that are not possible face to face. If you have not yet discovered how to live stream our worship services, please go to our website:

MUMCPA.ORG

Click on the Youtube button.

If you missed a week, every Sunday since March 22 is archived.

On our first Sunday together, over 200 people joined the worship experience! Can you remember the last time we had 200 worshippers all together! A small team is working hard to make our technology better and our worship experience diverse.

Palm Sunday

April 5

11:00 Streaming Live ...

It is hard to think of Palm Sunday without the traditional hymns and anthems, as we wave our palm branches, singing The Palms. But this year is going to be very different!

We have palms!

We are going to put the palms in a bucket outside the church doors so you can come by and pick a few up before Palm Sunday. If you would like to have some delivered to you, please let Pastor Wendy or a neighbor know. We want you to have palms to wave as we sing “The Palms” in our live streamed worship service.

Holy Week

We will not hold our traditional services this week, but we can join in reading through the passion of Christ each day to prepare for the greatest miracle of all ...

Resurrection Sunday

Easter Morning

11:00 Streaming

Special Music is being planned with a few other surprises. Plan to join your church family – and invite others to join us.

Christ is Risen

He Is Risen Indeed!!