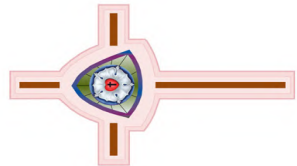


Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsumited.org

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Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



Given the Corona virus, much of what is contained in our April newsletter is subject to change.

Amid this trying time, it might help to think of changes this way:

Christ
Has
A
New
Gift
Every

Join us for Worship
Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (September thru May) 10:45
& Fellowship 10:30

Life Together at Christ's United





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

April 2020

CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
John Denchak President	570-875-4970	Feb. 2023
Terry Shilling Vice President	570-875-0412	Feb. 2021
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Angie Berger	570-875-3589	Feb. 2023
Vivian Brown	717-275-5277	Feb. 2023
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022

In This Issue:

Pastors Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Council Liasons	6
Easter Egg Hunt	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8
Youth Retreat to Gettysburg	9
Puzzle	10
Serving our Community	11
Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14
Matching Funds	15
Prayer List	16
1st Holy Communion Class	17
WELCA	18-19
Easter Candy	20



PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak

570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Administrator	Deb Hall	570-875-1591
	office@christsunited.org	570-789-9722
	Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	
Director of Music	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
Indoor Custodian	Susan Herb	

Status of Accounts as of February 29

Balance in Checking Account.....\$7,606.35.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2020 Annual Budget of \$202,094.00 is **\$16,841.17**

February income was \$15,293.29

Expenses for February were \$17,788.52 - resulting in a deficit of \$2,495.23 for the month.

Benevolence Gifts through February\$1,774.00
(12% of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2020)



Life Together at Christ's United



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
Evangelism/Outreach
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
Social Ministry
Stewardship
WELCA
Worship & Music
Multimedia Ministry
Security Team

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees
Endowment Fund
Mutual Ministry
Nominating

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative re-examination of our worship life; a quality educational program for all ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.

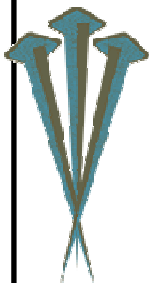


Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I had a letter all prepared for this newsletter. It was about our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11, and the egg dyeing party the week before. Then the coronavirus became a pandemic. As I write you in mid-March our worship services have been suspended. Locally and around the world folks are hunkering down in a valiant effort to contain the spread of this deadly disease..

Even for people of faith, it is a frightening time. Usually we can see what precipitates a crisis – the natural disaster, the bombing, the assassination of a world leader. Because it is a concrete happening, the options to combat it seem clearer. The trigger for this crisis is invisible, but we are quickly learning how it insidiously spreads from person to person, threatening the most vulnerable among us.

One friend described the effect this way, “I put on a brave face but I am barely holding on. This virus makes me feel out of control, unproductive, helpless. And the very time I need to be with my worshipping community, we cannot gather.” She understands why her congregation needs to suspend services. She knows a core value of Christianity is the care of the neighbor; that she could carry the virus and not even know it. But it is still hard to be apart from one another.

+Christian Symbol+



Nails

Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



22

— continued on page 4

Life Together at Christ's United



The times are so uncertain that Christ's United doesn't know if we should order Easter flowers. But the virus cannot change this fact: *you and I are Easter people.*

Before the time of Christianity, the egg was a widely used symbol of fertility and restoration. Christians found it to be a great symbol for Easter, celebrating that the One who died was three days later restored to life. The word *dye* comes from the Old English word *deah* meaning "a color, hue, tinge. We *dye* eggs not only to celebrate Jesus resurrection, but also the fact that he *died*. It is because Jesus died that God could then raise him to life. It is our Lord both crucified and risen who is with us in the very midst of the coronavirus outbreak. He is helping us hold on, to care for self even as we care for those most susceptible to the painful effects of the virus.

As we contend with the coronavirus, I encourage you to do the following: + *Pray.* + *Read a beloved Bible passage.* + *Sing a favorite hymn.* + *Call a neighbor who is alone; the friend unable to entertain family in their nursing home.* + *Mail or drop off your offering* (the

Pastor Mark Swanson and Pastor Laura will lead a four session Bible Study entitled "How Bible People Can Help Us Deal with Crises Today". It will take place at St. James Lutheran, Pitman at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings, April 28, May 5, 12, and 19.



Communities Coming Together



Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

Community Room
437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Thursday, April 2, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Debbie Hall or call
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit
www.redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!



If you or someone you know
would like to join Christ's



New Members Are Welcome

Life Together at Christ's United



2020 Church Council officers:

President: John Denchak
Vice President: Terry Shilling
Secretary: Beth Andrews
Treasurer: Anne Marie Dillman

- Pastor Laura expressed concern that we're running a deficit for a number of months now and asked for suggestions.
- The mortgage balance is \$31,539.37.
- Two lay voting members are needed for the Synod Assembly on June 4-6 which is over three days to elect a Bishop.
*Note: Synod Assembly will now take place on October 22-24.
- Ted Ambrose said that he and the pastor have taken on a project to secure entry to the building. DM2 Security gave us two estimates. Door Release System devices (keypad, exit button, mag lock, door intercoms) would cost \$2,495.00 and installation of CCTV devices would cost \$1,950.00. The whole package can be purchased or just part. Ted stressed that it's not a new door. It's a magnetic lock placed on the existing door. Property should look at the estimates and if they make a proposal, bring it to council.
- Terry Shilling made a motion that smoking, including all tobacco products and vaping, are prohibited anywhere on the church property and we will turn to the Property Committee to implement it,

**April Council Contact of the month
is Barb Stepanchick .**

The Council Contact of the Month is the “on call” member of council, the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building.

**Women of
Christ's United
Lutheran Church****EASTER CANDY****\$10.50 lb. or \$5.50 ½ lb.**

Coconut
Peanut Butter
Butter Cream

Peanut Rolls
P.B. Carmel
Cherry

*Also available:
Peanut Butter Crackers,
\$2.00 for a pack of 4*

**A limited amount of candy
is available.**

To Order Call:
570-875-2586
or 570-875-1591

Council Liaisons

The following are the new Council liaisons to CULC's teams and committees. Contact information is also listed to reach them if you have a question or suggestion for that team or committee's ministry:

Ministry Teams

Christian Education: Angie Berger -570-875-3598
Evangelism/Outreach: Vivian Brown -717-275-5277
Lutheran Church Men: Ted Ambrose -570-449-2193
Social Ministry: Barb Stepanchick -570-875-1114
Stewardship: Jim Gruber -570-875-2805
WELCA: Beth Andrews -570-874-2381
Worship and Music: Terry Shilling -570-875-0412
Youth: Jacob Tice -570-875-2681
Multi-media: Jacob Tice -570-875-2681

Operational Committees

Auditing: Helen Wolfgang
Endowment Fund: Suzanne Peel -570-875-2218
Finance: Anne Marie Dillman - 570-875-2422
Mutual Ministry: Pastor - 570-875-1591

On Thursday, April 9, we will be holding Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 p.m. As Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, so too will Pastor Laura wash the feet of representatives of Christ's United. If you would be willing to participate in the foot washing, please see Pastor Laura.



A SEASON OF HOPE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble 25 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

MARCH 1

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



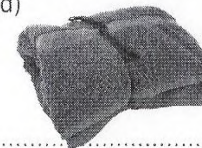
MARCH 22

Combs: sturdy combs (no fine teeth or Picks)



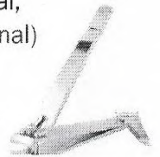
MARCH 8

Bath Towels (light-weight, (for quick drying) maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



MARCH 29

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



MARCH 15

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



A Thrivent Action Team grant is being received to support the project as well as

For more information contact

Donna Wallace



Women of the ELCA

All women of CULC are invited to attend the next WELCA meeting on **MAY 6th. 7:00 p.m.** **Note:** due to mid-week services there are no WELCA meetings in Lent.

SAVE THE DATE - WELCA Cluster Spring Event
May 16, 2020 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Orwigsburg

A reason to laugh



The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday — a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term “risus paschalis,” or “the Easter laugh,” saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan’s defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that “we are fools for Christ” (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile



Give Electronically

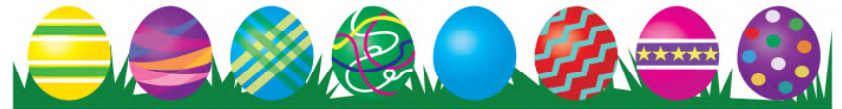
Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As Christ’s United prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.christsunited.org, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Or if



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11th
11:00 a.m.
Children ages 0 - 11



APRIL Birthdays

2	Gail Lorady	16	Jeremy Knorr
	Arianna McAnaney	17	Barb Liem
3	Lewis Pennypacker		Aaron Pancher
	Robert Rock		John Wagner
4	Heather Klinger	18	Caleb Dietrick
	Marisa Seritsky	20	Russell Hummel
5	Margaret Conner		Shale Waldick
	Bryce Hummel	21	David Pennypacker
6	Barbara Brown	23	Dustin Schreffler
	Darcie Gruber	24	Amanda Dillman
	Courtney Krise	25	Dianna Monaghan
8	Marjorie Lally	26	Azure Waldick
	Ivan Sweinhart	27	George Hepler
9	Stephen Harhigh, Jr.	28	Samantha Brennan
	Maxwell Miller		Jill McNeal
11	Kaitlin Neumeister		Marcus Peel
13	Natalia Mulhall	30	Joseph Anczarski
14	Ryan Wolfe		
	Dorothy Zangari		
15	Jessica Wright		

APRIL Anniversaries

04/05/86	Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.
04/16/15	David & Muoi Cunningham
04/21/71	Daniel & Bonnie Sisko
04/23/60	Jim & Darcie Gruber
04/26/01	Mark & Cheryl Varndell



PRAYER CHAIN



Each day members of Christ's United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need. For the past several years these Prayer Teams have been silently serving God, the world, and us.

If you are committed to the power of prayer, please join one of these teams. Prayer lists are available at worship services each weekend, and a phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.

2020 Sponsorships

The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

- Altar Flowers \$25.00
- Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- Special service bulletins \$10.00
- Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
- Children's Bulletins \$10.00
- Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.



Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to

First Holy Communion Instruction



Christ's United Church looks forward to celebrating the First Holy Communion of children on Palm Sunday, April 5 at our 9:30 a.m. service.

On Saturday morning, April 4 at 11:00 a.m. we will enjoy baking the bread for both Holy Communion services that weekend.



We Offer our Prayers to...



March 15 – Donna Kahler (T. Wolfe), Myla Davis (G. Marquardt), Jim Stevens (S. Wolfgang), Robby Meyers (B. Liem), Margariette Felegi (A. Berger), Richard Shoup (H. Brown)

March 8 - Jack Houser, Tommy Green, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes, Kathy Hower (J. Denchak), Bob Schmidt (J. Denchak), Nellie Schlorff), Mark Hepler (P. Hepler), Jacob Tice (S. Tice), Janice Kehler (V. Brown), Paige Ganes (S. Peel), Jean Dudley, Earl Heiber (A. Berger);

Families of Frank J. Staudenmeier & Susan Grant

March 1 - Tommy Green, Irene Morgan (B. Andrews), Allen Fertig (K. Berner), Richard Shoup (H. Brown), Mary Towey (P. Lute), Angie L., Donna Raller, Connie Weinreich; *Families of Tony Kurdilla (T. Ambrose), Joanne Zangari Clayton (Donna), Bob Yarnell (J. Wolfgang)*

February 23 - Richard Shoup (H. Brown), Bob Yarnell (J. Wolfgang), Mary Towey (P. Lute), Angie L., Donna Raller;

Families of Tony Kurdilla (T. Ambrose), Joanne Zangari Clayton (Donna), & Fr. Brennan

Please continue to pray for: Carl (Mickey) Lute, Irene Morgan, Gail Lorady, Corrine & Josh Coward, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Robert Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown & family, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Ron James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), Nancy Harner (R. Berner), Maddy Maurer (D. Wallace/C. Varndell), Anna James (E. Tice), Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Ruth Berner (R. Berner), Arlene Chillis (J. Pennypacker)

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for one month and then taken off. Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current. If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found

Praying Through the Directory

Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:

The Kurtz Family - Ruth, Christina

The Smith Family - Donald, Jr. & Traci, Nathan

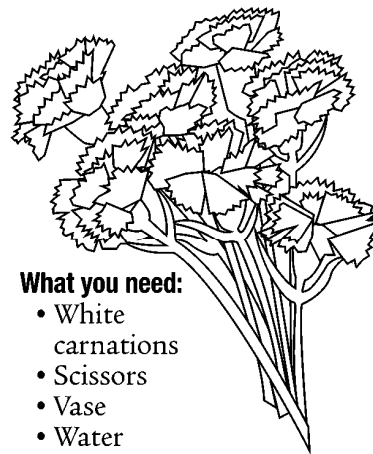
The Walacavage Family - Todd & Kimberly, Tanner, Logan



16

Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.



What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.

YOUTH RETREAT TO GETTYSBURG SEMINARY

We will have a **retreat for youth age 10-16 at United Lutheran Seminary Gettysburg on Friday May 1 and Saturday May 2.** The goals are fun, fellowship, and exploring the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering theme of "Boundless: God Beyond Measure".

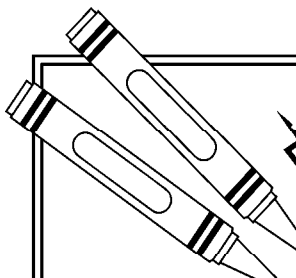
We will leave after school on Friday, May 1, getting to Gettysburg in time for dinner. We will depart mid-afternoon on Saturday, returning home around 5:00 pm.

We'll be staying at Singmaster Center. That facility is **limited to 10 youth and 8 adults.** The cost is **\$45/person/night** which includes room, linens and full kitchen. Food costs are separate. Financial assistance is available.



Life Together at Christ's United

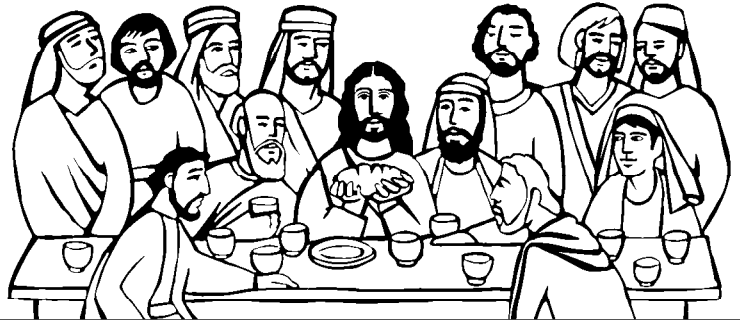






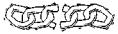





PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took , gave  and  it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my  given for you; do this in  of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This  is the new  in my blood, which is  out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured



Matching Funds

Many of you recall the year 2017 when our church was \$7,000 in debt to the point of not having enough money to cover our expenses. We rallied with our Matching Funds, raising \$26,750 in a 6-week period. We surpassed our goal of \$20,000 and began the year 2018 with a healthy balance and debt-free.

Currently our financial situation is on a downhill course. In a 9-month period from June 2019 to February 2020 we have had a negative balance for 7 of those months. In June 2019 we had a gain of \$1,208.76 and in December a gain of \$6,098.71 due to Advent and Christmas. But that gain disappeared in January as our expenses exceeded our income, which is the case for most months.

Our Stewardship campaign in the fall to "Grow-One-Step" resulted in increased giving but not enough that our monthly income exceeds our expenses. We are not wasteful at Christ's United and we follow the budget closely, but most months we are coming up short. I realize that everyone is doing their best but could we do better?

I would like to sponsor another Matching Funds effort in order to get as many members involved as possible to turn around our negative balances. My husband and I will be donating up to \$5,000 in loving memory of my parents Malcolm and Betty Boyer and my Aunt Hilda Tielman. Donations would be matched dollar-for-dollar with the potential of reaching \$10,000 or more. These Matching Funds would serve as a challenge for our members to increase their giving, since every gift made to the appeal would have twice the impact.

You may choose to memorialize or honor someone through your contribution. The words "Matching Funds" must appear on your church envelope or check so that the money goes into the General Account instead of Memorial Funds. This donation should not take the place of your weekly offering. Benevolence is excluded. You may also contribute electronically. The amount which you give will remain confidential.

Please be as generous as you can because every gift no matter how big or small will double in size, making this goal a reality. Please keep in prayer that this effort will be a great success!

Life Together at Christ's United



Serving Our Community of Faith in April:

SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following item for March:

Canned Fruit

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, April 16, 2020.

The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.




Committee Schedule

- April—LCM
- May—WELCA
- June – Christian Education/Youth
- July—Choir/Worship & Music
- August—LCM
- September— WELCA
- October—Church Council
- November—Evangelism-Outreach/Endowment/Stewardship
- December—LCM
- January—WELCA



Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter At Door
April 1 Mid-Week	Beth Andrews	Becky Spencer g		Nathan Berger		Erik Tice	
April 5 Palm Sunday	Barb Anczarski	John Wolfgang c Tyler Wolfgang b Nathan Berger b Thomas Wolfgang d	Kay Berner AM Barb Stepanchick p-w Becky Spencer o-w	Daniel Cunningham	David Cunningham	Barb Stepanchick	Barb Anczarski
April 9 Maundy Thursday	Kay Berner		John Towey AM Dennis Wolfe p-w Donna Wallace o-w	Kaitlyn Werner	Jacob Tice		
April 10 Good Friday	Darcie Gruber						
April 12 6:30 A.M.	Donna Lassen	Donna Wallace c Carrie Hummel b Laray Klinger b Becky Spencer d	Erik Tice AM Beth Andrews p-w Jo-Ann Young o-w	Ralph Johnson	Deidre Dengler	Barb Stepanchick	Donna Lassen
April 12 9:30 A.M.	Vivian Brown	Lowell Martin c Kay Berner b Jim Gruber b David Hall d	Vivian Brown AM John Denchak p-w Barb Anczarski o-w	Ava Hubler	Amy Johnson	Jim Gruber	Vivian Brown
April 19	Angie Berger	John Wolfgang c Tyler Wolfgang b Nathan Berger b Thomas Wolfgang d		Blake Olayo & Ava Hernandez	Nelson Berger	Pearl Lute	Angie Berger
April 26	Deb Hubler			Joey & Bianca McAndrew	Nathan Berger	Lowell Martin	Deb Hubler

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Seniors 7:00 Choir Practice	2 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	3 6:00 Youth Egg Dying / Pizza Party	4 11:00 First Holy Communion Class Bread Baking  5:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion
5 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion & First Holy Communion Easter Egg Hunt offering 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	6 7:00 Council	7  Holy Week	8 10:00 Seniors	9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship with Communion 7:45 Choir Practice	10 Good Friday 7:00 am – 7: 00pm Prayer Vigil 7:00 Worship	11 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt No Saturday Service
12 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 Sunrise Worship with Holy Communion 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion	13	14 9:00 Food Delivery & Pantry Set-up	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) 10:00 Seniors	16 10:00—12:00 Christ's Cupboard 7:00 Choir Practice	17	18 5:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Committee	20 7:00 Social Ministry	21	22 Administrative Professionals 10:00 Seniors	23 7:00 Choir Practice	24 Arbor Day	25 4:05 Scranton/WB RailRiders Base Ball Game 5:00 Worship
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Vacation Bible School Mtg.	27 6:00 Grief Support	28  BIBLE STUDY 7:00 Bible Study @ St. James, Pitman	29 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 Seniors	30 7:00 Choir Practice	