



The Friendly Chronicle

Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church

February 2012

A Message from Pastor Bill

“Refocus for Lent”

While I grew up a United Methodist and was not directly the product of a Roman Catholic upbringing, I must have been influenced by my Catholic friends and classmates who would regularly discuss giving up something as an act of penance for Lent, (e.g., giving up dessert or chocolates or smoking or television or something else which represented a sacrifice during Lent.) I still find myself wondering what I might “give up” for Lent!

Lent is the 40 Day season, excluding Sundays, leading up to Easter. The Lenten season begins this year with Ash Wednesday, on February 22, and concludes with Easter on April 6.

I recently came across the following suggestions of things we might give up for Lent:

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

What if we adopted one or more of the above as we observe the Lenten time of self-examination and reflection this year?

Speaking of Lent, I look forward to sharing a six part series of Lenten messages with you beginning the weekend of February 25/26, entitled, “Facing Life’s Fears with Faith.”

See you in church?

Bill



From the Desk of Pastor Mark



Then Jesus told His disciples, *“If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”* Matthew 16:24-26

Last month we had two powerful teams of missionaries speak to us, and share not only what has been going on in their work, but also share powerfully from the Word of God. I always love hearing from missionaries, because they are living examples of Matthew 16:24-26. Their messages, their victories AND their failures never cease to amaze and inspire me. And we need to see them, hear from them and talk to them. They aren't super humans with some extraordinary gift. They are regular people who have been deeply touched by the gospel of Christ. They remind us, sometimes convict us, that we, too, could do something for Jesus. Just recently a young gal, Jenni, has had quite an effect on her family and has gotten nearly all of them to attend church and a number of them have become members. She's a wonderful example that we don't have to go to some far off country to do mighty things.

We get totally caught up in the “stuff” of life. It's normal. But we need to remember the question that Jesus asked, “For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?” In other words Jesus is cautioning us to be careful, to watch out, or we'll get lost in our plans for living busy, successful lives and end up missing the everyday joy of being a Christian. What will it cost us to become successful by the world's standards? Will we miss the kingdom of God? Will we, in effect, lose our lives as we gain status, comfort and power? Those things are not necessarily wrong, *if* kept in proper perspective. Listen for God's whisper. If He say “go,” will you go? If he says “do,” will you do?

St. Valentine's Sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost. First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage. Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.



New Directors for Weekend Children's Ministries

It is our pleasure to announce that Jeff and Lori Wheeler are our new leaders for the weekend children's and youth ministries, replacing Linda Vallet, as of January 1, 2012. Jeff and Lori will be coordinating all aspects of the Nursery ministry for both weekend services, the Children's Church program held during Saturday's 6:11 service, and the Sunday School program held during the Sunday worship service.

Jeff and Lori bring a new vitality, fresh ideas, and renewed vision for these ministries of PAUMC. They have been involved at PAUMC for over 10 years, having taught elementary and youth classes and helping with youth group for many of these years. Most recently, they have led Vacation Bible School and have started up a Kidz Club for the children of the food cupboard patrons on Saturday mornings.

Please join me in welcoming them, support them with your prayers, and offer to help out in one of these important ministries. I want to personally thank everyone who has helped me these past 10 years in helping our children to grow in their faith and support God's work at PAUMC. I am excited about the new vision, ideas and energy that Jeff and Lori bring to the programs.

In His service with you,
Linda Vallet

A Word from Jeff & Lori— Introducing Faithbuilders Children's Ministries



New things are heading our way! Our children's ministries, Sunday School, nursery, and Children's Church are all going to be known under the new name, Faithbuilders! Why Faithbuilders? Well, why not?! Faith is defined as a strong or unshakeable belief in something, and a builder is someone who molds, forms, or creates. Together they illustrate the perfect example of what we are trying to do with our children, create in them a firm and unshakeable belief in God.

Under the Faithbuilders banner, the nursery kids will be Weebuilders, the elementary ages (PreK-4th, including Children's Church) will be UK² or Under “Konstruction” Kids, and the youth (5th-12th) will be Faithbuilders in Training. We believe God has called us to build a new generation for Him. “Train up a child in the way he/she shall go, and when they are older they will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) We are super excited about these changes and look forward to continuing to build and grow together with the kids!

NEWS FLASH: Christmas Offering Is Close to Goal!

Despite the setback caused by the Christmas Day break-in and the stolen Christmas Eve offering which had been given to our first “Living Beyond Myself” Christmas offering meant to feed bodies and souls, church treasurer Judy Carson reported this week that we have received \$11,097 toward the original \$12,000 goal for our 2011 Christmas Offering!

Although we are well past Christmas, I have included another Christmas Offering envelope with this February Friendly Chronicle. Since we are so close to that original goal, I would like to give you one more opportunity to help PAUMC overcome the loss of that offering. Will you join Linda and me in making one additional contribution to help us exceed that goal?

Thank you in advance for considering this request!

Pastor Bill

Suicide Prevention Training Available

There will be a SafeTALK Suicide Prevention Training offered Wednesday, February 22nd, 1:00-4:00 PM, in Room 322 at the Human Resource Center at 425 Pennsylvania Ave. There is no charge for the training. Go to the website, www.walkamile.net for more information and to download a registration form.

Wayside Shrines

Along European and Latin American roads, especially in Catholic countries, it's common to encounter sculptures of Jesus, Mary or another religious image, often set within a little shelter. People have erected these wayside shrines for centuries to mark an important event's location, indicate a parish boundary or help a traveler find the way. They may be at a crossroads, on hilltops or along stretches of open road. The shrines allow travelers to pause, offer prayers and turn heart and mind to God.

What places in your life serve as wayside shrines, encouraging you to turn to God? For many Christians, weekly worship is such a place. Daily devotional reading might be a wayside shrine for you.



Let's have a “BLAST from the PAST!”

Mark your calendars now for a fun evening of ‘oldies’ music performed by the ‘best of the best’ in our area...

Friday, February 24th at 8:00pm
PAUMC Fellowship Hall
Tickets \$10 per person



Enjoy an evening of entertainment with yummy, mouth-watering gourmet desserts served at intermission. All proceeds will go to fund our growing Food Cupboard ministry. Join us for fun and fellowship—bring a friend—you won't want to miss it as we rock ‘n roll our way through the decades!

Food Bank Needs Help!

There are several volunteer opportunities each week to help the Food Bank fight hunger in our community. Currently, there is a **huge** need for help in sorting and repackaging bulk food for distribution to the local food pantries. Will you consider volunteering a few hours to help get food from the Food Bank, to the food pantries, to the family table? **The hours for volunteer operation are: Monday-Friday 9:00am-noon and 1:00-3:00pm; Wednesdays 4-5:30pm and every other Saturday from 9-noon. The Food Bank is located at 388 Upper Oakwood Avenue in Elmira Heights.** Why not bring your family, your Growth Group, your co-workers or another group of friends to make a difference in so many lives? Call the Food Bank (796-6061) or speak to Darlene Bachman, the Food Bank's new Volunteer Coordinator, to make arrangements to volunteer.



Waiting to Blossom

A song called “The Rose” (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible. In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth “with the sun's love” into springtime flowers. When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

“Celebrate!” with Women of Faith



Plans are underway for next year’s Women of Faith Event-“Celebrate!” - that will be held September 14th-15th at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester, NY. The total cost for the event is \$190. This includes the price of the two-day event ticket, bus transportation, overnight stay at the Hampton Inn with breakfast at the hotel and lunch at the Arena. The bus will depart from PAUMC at 2:30 pm on Friday, September 14th and we will return around 10:00 pm on Saturday, September 15th. We will stop for dinner at a family restaurant on the way home. This invitation is open to ladies of other churches as well, so feel free to invite your friend, your sister, daughter or mom! A total of \$90 is due before March 17th to Donna Draxler (732-8503) who is handling the financial arrangements this year. You may pay her smaller installments of \$45 in February and \$45 in March if that works better in your budget, but your deposit of \$90 must be received by March 17th to reserve your seat. Ladies...give yourself the gift of girlfriend time, laughter and spiritual renewal and join us as we “Celebrate!”

Disability Awareness

A friend tearfully shared how an usher asked her to leave a church service because of her squirmy toddler. But the boy wasn’t just having a bad morning; he was born with a genetic disorder called Fragile X, which makes it nearly impossible to sit quietly.

It was nearly a year before the mother attended a church again. Then she found one with a shepherd program, where trained volunteers help children with special needs participate in worship, Sunday school and church activities.

As we look for ways to reach out to people with disabilities, remember that God’s love has no limits. How can we, as God’s church, reflect that love?



How are you doing with that resolution? There are new mercies!

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging. The prophet, Jeremiah, who had his own reason to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23). God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, His mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord’s unceasing love.

Growing on Purpose! Congratulations and God’s Blessings!

The following completed our 101 Membership Class and were received into membership at PAUMC during worship on Saturday, January 28, or Sunday, January 29:

Bev Bowen	Alicia Johnson
Bill Cady	Jean Johnson
Kathy Caldwell	Allison Lohmeyer
Steve Caldwell	June Oakes
Cory Carson	Travis Ruiz
Stephanie Gublo	Wendy Shuster
	Jenni Williams

Health Tip: Lighten Up!

Even as we would love to settle in for a long winter’s nap, or snuggle up with a good book or toast our toes before a crackling fireplace, beware of the overwhelming desire to fill our bellies with ‘comfort food’--- you know, that food with especially high fat and carbohydrate content that not only sticks to our ribs, but all other body parts as well. So, the advice from your Church Nurse is to lighten up! Lighten up your favorite recipes by adding in lots of healthy vegetables, using fruit to sweeten up a dessert, using low-fat dairy products, cutting pasta portions in half, cutting down on snacks with no nutritional value... choose something that grows on a tree, plant or in the ground---fruit, vegetable or nuts instead. Here is one of my new favorite ‘comfort food’ dessert recipes, lightened up... thanks to a member of my Growth Group! Enjoy!

Fruit Cobbler

2 cans berry or cherry pie filling
(raspberry is my favorite!)
1 dry cake mix (yellow or white)
12 oz. 7Up or Sprite (can be the diet variety)

Spread pie filling in 13 x 9 baking dish---cover evenly with dry cake mix---pour 7Up over top---bake 350 degrees, about 45-55 minutes until golden and bubbly. Serve with low fat whipped topping.

YUM!

The Jesus Prayer

If you have a friend or family member struggling with a setback, a problem or wounds of the spirit or body, try making the person aware of the Jesus prayer, which has helped many troubled people.

“Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Make haste to help me. Rescue me and save me. Do Your will in my life.”

One might end the prayer with the words: “I place my entire being into Your healing care. Amen.”

How Are We Doing?

Behind these numbers are faces and lives that matter to God.

Monthly Attendance Averages for December 2011

Worship	231
Sunday School	50

Information about each week’s church offering is available on the bulletin board in the Welcome Area.

“Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.”

George Washington

“You can't divorce religious belief and public service. I've never detected any conflict between God's will and my political duty. If you violate one, you violate the other.”

Jimmy Carter

PAUMC Vision Statement:

To love God and love people as a Christian community, balancing God’s purposes in our lives:

Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship,
Ministry and Missions.

In other words,

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE
And SERVE THE WORLD.

The PURPOSE of Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church is to:

- P – Present Christ to the lost.
- U – Unite people in celebrative worship.
- R – Restore wholeness.
- P – Provide fellowship and
- O – Opportunities for
- S – Service, while
- E – Equipping fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ for ministry.

What A Blessing! Thank You!

To the Members of Our Staff Parish Relations Team and Church Family,

What a blessing we, the staff of PAUMC, experienced at the ‘Staff Appreciation Dinner’ on January 10th. It was a wonderful evening of delicious food, fun fellowship and royal treatment. Thank you for the team of folks who planned and prepared to make this time so special, creating a memory that we will always hold dear in our hearts. A special thank you to chef, Lorna Wood! What a blessing it is to serve the Lord together with the many dedicated servants in the PAUMC Church Family!

*With Our Love and Gratitude,
Your PAUMC Staff*



To love another person is to see the face of God.

*—lyrics from Les Miserables,
Claude-Michel Schonberg*



Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.

Abraham Lincoln

Presidents Day is
February 20 this year.

Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church

Email address: PAUMC1238@aol.com

Our website: PAUMCOnline.org

Bill Vallet: Lead Pastor

Mark Erway: Associate Pastor

Sue Dunlap: Church Nurse/Pastoral Assistant

Church Staff:

Office Manager: Lisa Petzke

Treasurer: Judy Carson

Financial Secretary: Donna Hillard

Worship Producer: Lorie Holton

Organist: Becky Carpenter

Choir Director: Diane Root

Faith Builders Leaders: Jeff and Lori Wheeler

Custodians: Chet Coddington, Joan Sullivan

Our Purpose Driven Church Coaches:

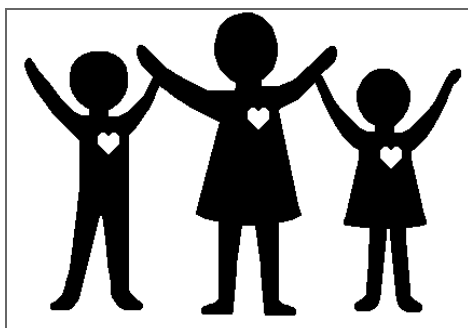
1st Base: Lorna & Peter Wood “Membership 101”

2nd Base: Donna Draxler “Maturity 201”

Shortstop: Nancy Hendrickson “Ministry 301”

3rd Base: Sue and John Dunlap “Ministry 301”

Home Base: Mark Erway “Missions 401”



We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

February 2012

Each Saturday at PAUMC:

6:11 pm "Fresh Start 6:11" Worship with Faith Builders Children's Church and Nursery Care

Each Sunday:

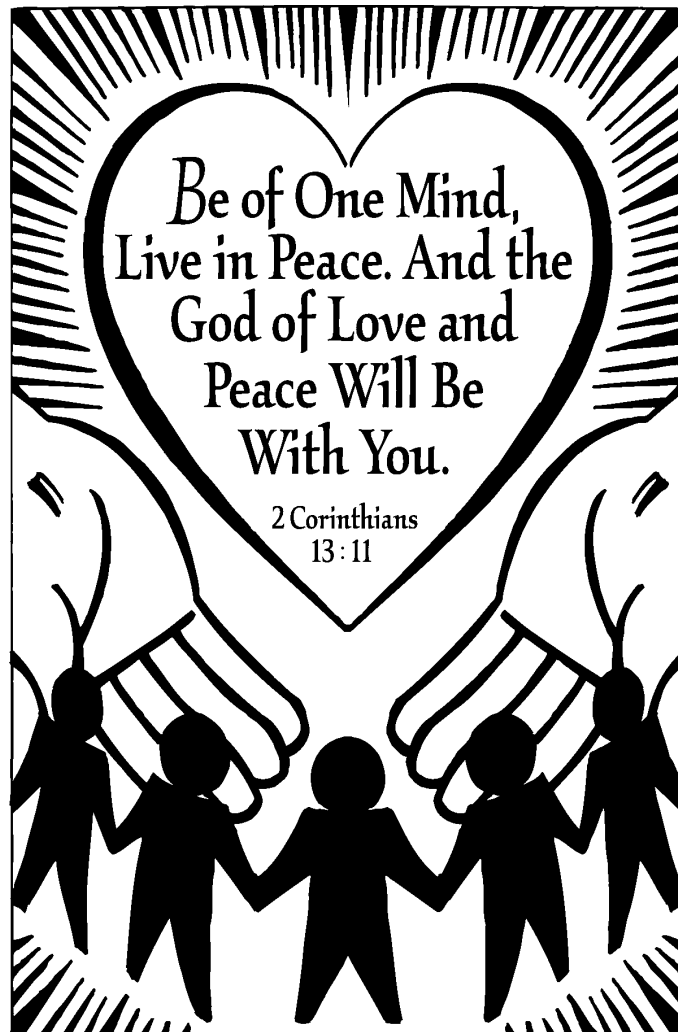
10:00 am Worship Celebration with Faith Builders Sunday School and Nursery Care

5:00 pm Youth Rally for grades 6-12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 9-11 am Food Cupboard Worship Planning Retreat PAUMC Vision Month Part 2
5 PAUMC Vision Month Part 2	6	7	8	9	10 6:30 pm Ultreya	11 8:30 am Women's Breakfast
12 PAUMC Vision Month Part 3	13	14 2:00 pm Wedding	15	16	17	18 9-11 am Food Cupboard 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
19 PAUMC Vision Month Part 4	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24 8:00 pm "Blast from the Past" Food Cupboard Fundraiser	25 "Facing Life's Fears with Faith" Message 1
26 "Facing Life's Fears with Faith" Message 1	27	28	29			

What Cancer Can't Do

Cancer is so limited...
It cannot cripple love,
It cannot shatter hope,
It cannot corrode faith,
It cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy confidence,
It cannot kill friendship,
It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence courage,
It cannot invade the soul,
It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench the Spirit,
It cannot lessen the power of the resurrection.



Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church
1238 Pennsylvania Avenue
Pine City, NY 14871

Bill Vallet, Lead Pastor

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Especially prepared for:

Weekend Worship:
Saturdays 6:11 pm
Sundays 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Youth Rally 5:00 pm

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