

# THE CHURCH CANDLE



## 2018

A Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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### SCOUT SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 4, 2018

What is Scout Sunday? The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls on or before February 5, which is Scouting Anniversary Day, as Scout Sunday. A belief in God or a higher being is one of the core values of scouting. *A scout is reverent in that he is reverent toward God.* He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. Sayre Christian Church sponsors both a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop with the unit number of 4018. This year we will be celebrating Scout Sunday on February 4 and anyone who is a scout, scouter, or previously a scouter is invited to attend. It is during this time that the units want to thank the church for allowing them to use the church facilities to hold meetings and at times do fundraisers. The scouts and parents would like to invite everyone to attend a coffee hour after the worship service. You will have the opportunity to talk with the boys about their scouting career. Please join us on Scout Sunday on February 4. It will be a great time to see the Scouts in uniform and hear them sing.

### FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 4

Each family is asked to bring in a non-perishable food item. Whatever you bring in is appreciated. Please check the labels for expiration dates. Items that have already expired will not be passed on. All food items will be given to the “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry at the Athens United Methodist Church located on S. Main Street. Laura Stephenson delivered 43 items to the pantry in January. A thank you from the Athens United Methodist Church reads:

Dear Sayre Christian Church Family,  
Happy New Year! Thank you for your recent donations of food items. What a blessing to be able to restock our shelves. Thank you for partnering with us in this vital ministry for our local friends and families.

In His Service, AUMC family

*“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”*

*Proverbs 22:9*

### “FACES OF INDIA”

The East Central District of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) presents a **LADIES BRUNCH Saturday, February 17 at 10:00 am** at the Alba Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) A free brunch and presentation will be given by the 2017 India Mission Team. The mission team of Rev. Jim Donahoo, Charlotte McBratney, Helen Dandois, Tracy Hojnowski, and Charlotte Morse will talk of the time they spent at the Christian Hospital Mungeli & Rambo Memorial School in Mungeli, Chhattisgarh, India. Reservations are requested by Monday, February 12, 2018. Contact Wendy in the Church Office, 570-888-2683, if you would like to attend.

### FEBRUARY 14, 2018



### DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONS

offered by the Society of St. Andrew

#### **WALKING IN NEWNESS OF LIFE**

Lent is the name given by the church to encompass the 40 days (plus seven Sundays) leading up to the resurrection of Jesus. The word itself comes from Old English and means, simply “spring.” Traditionally, Lent is a time for penitence—a time to consider our misdeeds and to seek God’s forgiveness for them. Often people “give up” something during Lent: a particular food or an activity. But each year the Society of St. Andrew offers you the opportunity to take on the spiritual discipline of daily Scripture reading, reflection, and prayer. A booklet is available with a reading for each day of the Lenten season from Ash Wednesday, (February 14) through Easter (April 1.) You will find this booklet at the table by the choir loft. A jar is available if you would like to offer a donation for this devotion. Donations will be sent to the Society of St. Andrew which is a non-profit, grassroots inter-faith ministry, that has been working toward a world without hunger since 1979.

## MY SEMINARY JOURNEY

I want to share with you some of the highlights of my recent trip to Lexington for intensives.

First, what are intensives? At Lexington Theological Seminary all courses are on-line, broken into two-week or four-week blocks. Intensives then are residential classes taking either two four-week or one four-week and two two-week courses and compressing them into 24 hours of classroom instruction. Every six months, in January and June, LTS offers three blocks of intensives, each block will have three options for classes and each is worth two credits toward the 50 that are required for a Master of Divinity Degree.

I took two blocks for this first time at intensives. The first was Interpreting the Past and the courses were Church History in the Western Hemisphere from the first- through the twentieth-century (2000 years in 24 hours). My homework for that class was a final exam consisting of 20 essay questions and I had to turn that in on Sunday, Jan 28. The rest is writing a paper stating how the past has informed my own beliefs, a seven- to nine-page research paper on how this church (Sayre Christian Church) has been affected by the turmoil and changes occurring over the centuries in the overall church. In addition, I am required to give a 30-minute presentation to a group in a class setting which informs on some aspect of Church history and how it applies to this congregation. I plan to speak on how the Pietist movement has informed our beliefs (more about this later). These are due by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The second block I took covered three classes in Pastoral Care: Culture of Care, Listening, and Visitation. This was a little easier for me because they mostly reinforced what I learned and have been doing as a Stephen's Minister. This class was very interactive, we did improvisation, role playing, and one-on-one practice visitation sessions. My final for this course will be to provide an analysis of the pastoral visitation practice sessions due on February 8. In addition, I will provide reading reports of three of the five books we were assigned to read for the courses, also due on February 8. Now you know why we call these intensives.

But what about the rest of it? I can honestly say that this was a joyous time for me, having the opportunity to finally meet those I had been in on-line classes with was good. One student, on putting people to the faces they had been seeing on-line, commented in a loud voice "They do exist!" That really said it all. The opportunity we had to interact with faculty was rewarding and the personal feedback was very valuable. The Library at LTS remained open and available for us to begin our research projects. Also there was a cart with free books for anyone. I did grab about five or six free books that will help my research and help my writing. We had daily worship services, each of a different type, some traditional. One used images from a graphic novel along with a litany of lament. And another used silence and meditation providing different stations for meditation, prayer, and even a labyrinth to walk as we meditated all with only the sound of a harp. These opportunities for prayer and meditation helped me to stay connected with God and with the reason I was there.

I am looking forward to my return in June, and I can't tell you how much it meant to know that you were holding me in your prayers as I travelled.

Paula Kraus, Pastor

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER



\* **PRAYER CIRCLE ON SUNDAY:** At the end of each Sunday worship service, a Prayer Circle is formed at the front of the altar in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join this opportunity to join others in prayer.

\* **PRAY WITH PASTOR PAULA:** Beginning on **Tuesday, February 6, 2018** at **noon**, Pastor Paula will be available to share a time of prayer and devotion with anyone who would like to join her. She will continue this practice every Tuesday and Thursday at noon. Enter the church at the side entrance at Lincoln Street and meet with her in the Pastor's Study.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR February 2018

**ELDER/DEACON:** Oliver McKeithan/Wendy McKeithan  
**DEACONS:** Bethanne Chernosky, Karen Sykas, Nancy Cain, Nick Rava  
**JR. DEACONS:** Shawn Shaw, Sierra Garrison  
**STEWARDS:** Oliver and Wendy McKeithan

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### WEEK OF COMPASSION

*"More Than You Can Imagine"*

The special Week of Compassion Offering will be received during our Sunday worship service on February 18 and 25th.

Serving Others, Serving Jesus . . . Luisa Maria Lopez knows the land. She has lived near El Panama, Nicaragua for most of her 34 years. She is teaching her two sons to know the land. Luisa also sees the land changing. Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns make the hard work of farming even harder. In 2015, Luisa joined a 5-year agricultural project through the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD). With farmers like Luisa, CEPAD is working for holistic change. On her 1.5 acres, Luisa has improved soil quality with manure and mulch. Drip-irrigation techniques provide consistent water. Luisa has already increased her harvest, but she is more excited about the project's future potential. Her first focus is seeds. Training in seed selection enabled her to plant quality seeds, which she preserved and catalogued for next season and is sharing with her neighbors. Luisa's hopes stretch farther than next season, though. She hopes the added income will fund her sons' educations to become professionals. At the same time, she is teaching them the land is part of their future — they are responsible for protecting the spring on their property. With support from CEPAD and Week of Compassion, Luisa is planting seeds that will bear abundant fruit for today, tomorrow, and years to come. With God's help, these seeds will bear far more than we imagine.

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"*

*Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

Through our sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does *"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."* When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. But when we think of the wonders of God works, our imaginations go wild! Just imagine how God is bringing transformation through seedlings. God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine! And when we contribute to Week of Compassion, we are part of God's work in the world.

### EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT MEN'S DINNER MEETING

All men and boys of the church are invited to attend the East Central District Men's Dinner meeting to be held on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm** at the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) in **Covington PA**. Cost is \$8.00 plus an offering. The program will be presented by the Civil Air Patrol. Reservations will be needed by February 18, 2018. You may contact the Church Office if you plan to attend.

### SEED FAITH CIRCLE (Disciples Women's Ministry)

The Seed Faith Circle will gather for dinner on **Tuesday, February 20, 2017 at 6 pm** at the **Rail House in Waverly**. This is an opportunity to enjoy a social evening with those who you worship with on Sunday. Call Wendy McKeithan, 570-888-2683, if you plan to attend.

### THANK YOU!

Sayre Christian Church,

Thank you for your kindness.

Thank you for all the kind things you did for us and the use of the church for Bill's service.

Bev Anderson & Family

### CONGRATULATIONS!

- **Shawn Shaw** is having a great year as a swimmer! He was the "Top Swimmer of the Week" in the Daily Review. And he was a triple winner at the Elk Lake Meet and came home with two medals at the meet in Tunkhannok meet.
- **Wendy Shaw** is enrolled in an on-line Master's Degree Program and doing well. Wendy is also a new mom!



### TIP OF THE HAT to Sierra

**Garrison** who collected 250 lbs of pet food during the Christmas season.

Sierra's birthday comes in March. To celebrate her birthday she is asking her friends to bring pet food to her party. Her goal is to raise 500 lbs of pet food to benefit the local shelters. If you would like to bring pet food to the church to contribute to Sierra's cause, place it in the baskets available at each entrance. We will be sure that Sierra gets the pet food.

## YOUR GRACE

by Juliette D. Allis©1993

Today the world feels like busybees;  
all buzzing every minute.

I know to keep on my knees,  
praying for help every second.

I try to keep you first on my mind  
and do things Your special way.  
Now when I need to have peace  
I pray for the end of the day.

Please always come into my life  
saving me with Your grace.  
Thank you for your cutting knife  
helping me to save face.

It's true you work in mysterious ways;  
a challenge to understand.  
I thank you for the outcomes,  
While keeping me in Your hand.



## A NOTE FROM AN ELDER

*“WORTHY OF LOVE”*

*“And we have known and believed the love that God hath for us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” I John 4:16*

I was checking my planner for this month (February) to see what was coming up that I needed to be ready for. I went out and got cards. . . my son's birthday, my grandsons' birthday, and of course, Valentine's Day. All of the cards told of the love I have for them. I started to think of the love God has for us. Just by being born we are worthy of all the love under heaven. Unlike our fellow humans, God doesn't judge us by our appearance, our job, or how much money we make. God judges us according to the love in our soul and the compassion we give to others. When we come up short, he loves us and accepts us anyway. As long as we are striving to be better and do better, God approves and finds us worthy of having a life filled with joy, happiness, and prosperity. How awesome it is to know that we don't have to jump through hoops and be something we aren't to get God's love! It's our to have, always. Let us all show love to all the people in our church. Think of the love God would give this church. Love you all!

Marlene Enlow, Elder

## GIVING REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017

From the Sunday collection and groups that use the building during the week, the following areas received these amounts during December.

Current Expenses . . . . .	\$8,160.35
World Outreach . . . . .	159.00
Local Outreach . . . . .	9.00
Building Fund . . . . .	\$749.00

On January 21, 2018, the Outreach Team met to disperse funds that have been deposited in the Local Outreach Fund. The team decided to give to the following local organizations: Salvation Army, Penn York Opportunities, Chow for Children, Tioga Open Door Mission, Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center, Valley Relief Council, the Benevolence Fund of the Sayre Police Department, Catholic Charities, and Greater Valley Emergency Medical Services. The Local Outreach Fund had \$4,333.18 available. Our total giving to the above was \$1,100. Members of the Outreach Team are Karen Sykas, Laura Stephenson, Krystle Garrison, and Wendy McKeithan. This outreach has also coordinated shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, Holiday Bags for the Homebound, and Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you to the team members and our church family for their contributions to this ministry.

## INFORMATION FROM THE BRIDGE of the Penn-York Valley Churches

- In 2018, The Bridge began its **31st year** ministering to the needs of our Valley community.
- **The Clothes Closet** at the North Waverly Chapel needs blankets, sheets, men's jeans, and small toys. Two volunteers are needed to work 6:30-8:30 pm on the 5th Tuesday. A third worker is needed on other Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call 570-867-2628 for more information.
- **The Helping Hands Furniture Warehouse** located at 515 Chemung Street, Waverly, needs twin, double/full, and queen metal bed frames. For information on how to donate bed frames, call 570-886-1057.
- **The Interim Assistance Program** is designed to meet the needs of individuals or families who have experienced a significant event causing a short-term need that requires more than our regular assistance provides. Potential recipients may call for more information at 570-888-8826.

## NEW BEGINNINGS ASSESSMENT SERVICE

At the December Board Meeting, our Church Board agreed to place an application to the New Beginning Assessment Service which is part of the general unit, Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) New Beginnings assesses a congregation's strengths and challenges as it seeks to redevelop its ministry. The goal of the process is to put the congregation on the road to sustainable Christian witness and action within its community.

*What is God calling our congregation to do and be in this time and this place?*

The New Beginnings Assessment also includes follow-up training to give our church leaders and members a realistic picture of our resources for ministry, demographic strengths, readiness for change, and potential for vital ministry.

On Friday, February 16, 2018, the contract assessor will be visiting our church beginning at 3:00 pm. In the past month, he has received information from the treasurer and Church Office which will help him to assess our church, the congregation, and the neighborhood. His visit will include a tour of the building, a review of the finances with the treasurer/financial secretary, a windshield tour of the community, and a session to meet with church participants. The session to meet with church participants begins at 7:00 pm. If you are interested to attend, contact the Church Office. For more information about Hope Partnership, visit [www.hopepmt.org/nb](http://www.hopepmt.org/nb)

## THANK YOU!

- ◆ Thank you! to the scouts and leaders of Cub Scout Pack 4018 and Boy Scout Troop 4018 for painting our Fellowship Area. On December 27, 2017, the scouts and leaders worked industriously to improve the Fellowship Area of our church.
- ◆ Thank you! to David Padilla for keeping the sidewalks clear of snow and ice this winter.
- ◆ Thank you! to Mark Allis and Marcus Allis for plowing the parking lot throughout the winter.



The mission of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is honor God, share the love of Christ, and change lives ministering grace and peace.



February 12 - Harold Ammerman  
19 - Monica Fiske  
24 - Nancy Bradley  
28 - Francis Lincoln, III  
Mary Flottesmesch

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

We will observe Celebration Sunday! on **February 25, 2018** after the worship service in Matthew's Place (side vestry.) On this day, all who are observing a birthday in the month are invited to attend a celebration to honor you. In order to have refreshments, others of our church family will be asked to provide refreshments or assist with the set-up or clean-up. Contact the Church Office if you are willing to volunteer.

## "STORIES" COFFEEHOUSE



will not be held during the month of February. Thank you to the following performers and artists who shared their talented gifts with the audience in January: Kevin Baker, Amanda Smith, Mark Detrick, Andy Fagan, Priscilla Ammerman, Don Baragiano, Julie Allis, Dave Dexter, and Miles Tracy. The Coffeehouse will resume on THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018, from 6:30—8:30 pm. Thank you to Julie Allis for coordinating the entertainment for the Coffeehouse as well as Bob Grabb and Mark Allis who assist with the set-up and clean-up for the evening. Artists and musicians who are interested to share their creative talent at the Coffeehouse should contact Julie Allis: [julieallis2209@gmail.com](mailto:julieallis2209@gmail.com).



Miles Tracy shares his gift of making guitars at "Stories" Coffeehouse

Sayre Christian Church  
427 South Keystone Avenue  
Sayre, PA 18840-1527  
Church: 1-570-888-2683  
E-Mail: sayrechristianchurch@gmail.com



## THE "CHURCH CANDLE" FEBRUARY 2018

### UPCOMING EVENTS - February 2018

- February 4 Scout Sunday  
Coffee & Fellowship Time  
Food Pantry Sunday
- 13 Church Board Meeting at 6 pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
- 16 New Beginnings Assessor visits church
- 18-25 Week of Compassion Offering Received
- 20 East Central District Men's Meeting 6:30 pm  
in Covington
- 20 Seed Faith Circle at 6:00 pm  
Meet at The Rail House in Waverly
- 25 Celebration Sunday! after worship

**WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 14, 2018**



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Website: [sayrechristianchurch.org](http://sayrechristianchurch.org)