



THE CHURCH CANDLE

MAY 2023



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

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY—May 7

On the first Sunday of the month each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to church which will be given to the “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry at the Athens United Methodist Church. In April, church members provided 53 items to be delivered. Thank you to Benjamin Fiske for taking the food to the church. A thank you was received from the Athens United Methodist Church . . .

Thank you for your recent donation of 53 items for our Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. Our shelves were in need of replenishment after last month as we held two distributions. Thank you again for your faithful giving to this mission.

Food Pantry Day and Times Open

The “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry at the Athens United Methodist Church, 118 S. Main Street, is open on the second & fifth Thursday of the month from 9 am—11 am and 4-5:30 pm to all residents of Sayre and Athens. Each family/individual must register and have ID.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

of the SAYRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

All church members are encouraged to remain after worship for the Spring Congregational Meeting on May 7, 2023. This meeting is held annually to approve the Board Officers, Elders, Deacons, and Trustees that will be serving the church in the upcoming year (2023-2024.) Your attention will be needed for about 20-30 minutes.

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023



EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT MEN’S DINNER MEETING

May 16, 2023 at Canoe Camp Church

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm

(Men will carpool from Sayre)

Cost is \$10 plus offering

Menu includes Lasagna, tossed salad,
garlic bread, homemade pie

Program by: Dr. Robert Wooley

“Knowing Lincoln Will Make You a Better Person”

Reservations are requested by Thursday, May 11

Contact Mark Allis, Oliver McKeithan,
or the Church Office if you plan to attend.

SEED FAITH CIRCLE

The women of the Seed Faith Circle will gather for dinner at **Park View Restaurant, Owego NY on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm.** The group will carpool. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 pm. All women of the church and their friends are welcome to join us. Each person orders from the menu and pays for their own meal. It is a great time of fellowship. Contact Wendy if you plan to attend, 570-888-2683 (noon-4 pm; M-F) or 570-596-4008 (evening.)



1. How old was Moses when he died?
2. What language did Jesus speak?
3. Who was the most famous angel named twice in Daniel and made two birth announcements?

Answers on page 3.



PAULA'S PAGE

Dear Church,

We've had our season of walking through the Lenten wilderness with Jesus and journeying to the cross during holy week. Now we are in the Easter Season – a time of rejoicing for a risen Christ. What do we have to rejoice about?

I want to see people return to our corporate worship. Worshiping together is the fellowship we need for spiritual growth. I enjoy seeing new faces at worship and faces that I haven't seen in a while. I am pleased that we are returning to sharing meals together but am a little disappointed at the low turnouts at our events.

I am encouraged by some of the activities in our church. Improvements are on-going and I rejoice at how the Spirit is moving in our midst. Change in our shared life is inevitable and although we frequently lament change, good things can and do come from it. Remember some of the ways we change as the Spirit is moving within us. Never doubt that God is at work in the lives of members in this congregation. As we live in this Easter season, may we take seriously our calling as Easter people, and live like we truly believe the Risen Christ is among us. *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”*

Blessings, Pastor Paula

In the Christian calendar, Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Pentecost falls fifty days after Easter Sunday.



2023 PENTECOST OFFERING of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

WE ARE A MOVEMENT FOR wholeness IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

In the beginning, every church was new! It's right there in the Book of Acts. Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. God was doing a new thing: *creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.*

In the beginning, Jesus sent our disciples two by two, not to “plant” churches, but to proclaim good news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around. God was doing a new thing: *creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.*

At NEW CHURCH MINISTRY they believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new, back to becoming who we already are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Your gifts received on May 21 and May 28, 2023 help ensure the movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision:

*To be and to share the good news, witnessing, loving,
and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.*

Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through our PA Region's ministry. The other half supports NEW CHURCH MINISTRY efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders.



ELDER: To Be Announced

STEWARDS: Benjamin Clark Fiske

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN (May-June)

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center

During the month of May and June, our church will be participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign which is a fundraiser for the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center. Baby bottles will be provided by the Center. Each family is encouraged to take a bottle home. Fill the bottle with change, put bills in it, or write a check. Checks are to be made payable to Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center. EMPCC is a non-denominational, non-profit, Christ-centered organization. It was formed for the purpose of providing free and confidential support—emotionally, spiritually, and physically to women and those involved with them in issues of pregnancy. These services include pregnancy tests, education, and physical support as available, always giving witness to the love of Jesus Christ and offering life saving solutions to mothers and their pre-born babies.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 4, 2023

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16b

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible. An observance for the National Day of Prayer was held in Towanda PA and locally at Muldoon Park coordinated by the Waverly First Baptist Church.

**POUND THE GROUND FOR
ULTRASOUND SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023**

Riverfront Park, Sayre PA

9:00 am—10K/5K Walk/Run

On-line registration at: www.runsignup.com

On-line Registration ends May 13, 2023

Early Packet Pick-Up: Friday, May 26, 2023

6-8 pm at the Athens Wesleyan Church

\$25—10K/5K Walk/Run

\$60-Family of 4 for the 5K/10K (same household)

Registration Day of Event \$30 per race at 7:45-8:45 am

Post Race Breakfast for all Runners

This is the 10th Annual Race for the First Look Pregnancy Care Center which is managed by the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center. The First Look Pregnancy Care Center is located in Sayre and provides free ultrasounds to women between 7-20 weeks.

CONDOLENCES

Our church family expresses their sympathy to the family and friends of **Everett Greeno** who passed away at the Arnot Hospital on April 14, 2023. He was the brother of Gloria (Francis) Lincoln and uncle to David Wright, Jr.

Take courage.

Go in the knowledge that the loving God is your eternal friend and companion. And may the peace of God which is beyond our understanding guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Moses was 120 years old when he died.
2. Jesus spoke Aramaic (was similar to Hebrew.)
3. Gabriel was the most famous angel.

Thank you to Marlene Enlow for submitting the questions and answers to Bible Trivia.

SAFETY & SECURITY in the CHURCH

I mentioned in the article on Safety and Security in the Church in the last newsletter that I would address the acronym ALICE. For those of you who attended the April 23 service we covered the essentials of ALICE

A-Alert: How will we know if there is a situation?

Pastor Paula will wave a black cooling fan and this will notify members of the congregation who are involved with security. These members will act according to the severity of threat and if needed will recommend that the congregation take action.

L-Lockdown: How do we delay an intruder's entry?

The front door is locked manually so that no one can enter from the outside unless someone lets them in or is unlocked for services. The Lincoln Street door is on an automatic locking system which is programmed to be locked accept when an event or meeting is to be held. All other doors are locked at all times and cannot be entered from the outside. **ALL DOORS CAN BE EXITED AT ANY TIME. THEY ARE NOT LOCKED TO PREVENT ANY ONE FROM EXITING THE CHURCH.**

I-Inform: How do we notify people of a situation?

The pastor or a member if those responsible for security will announce in plain English what the situation is and what to do. There will be no codes. It is our intent to make all warnings easily understood. All who have a cell phone should call 911 and alert the authorities.

C-Counter: How do we distract an intruder?

An intruder or intruders can easily be distracted by throwing something at them. A hymnal, Bible, cell phone, purse, change, a shoe, are just some of the examples. Make sure you aim for the head or upper body. This will cause the intruder to flinch which will allow an action or evacuation easier and reduce the number of deaths and/or injuries. Use whatever means necessary to fight back if possible.

E-Evacuate: How do we get away?

Evacuation is the most effective way to escape from a situation. Look around and notice exits. If a door is not handy, do not hesitate to open or break a window. Glass is easy to replace-a human life is not. Walk around the church from top to bottom and look for ALL doors and windows. Walk or run out with your hands up as the authorities may be on the scene and not know who the perpetrator is. Walk or run in a zig zag pattern to minimize being a target.

DO NOT HIDE UNDER THE PEW

DO NOT STOP TO HELP SOMONE WHO MAY BE INJURED

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT YOUR BELONGINGS

Any of the above could get you or someone else killed or injured.

After leaving the building collect in a safe spot. Those leaving the front door should congregate across the street in the church parking lot. Those leaving the side doors should meet on the other side of the parsonage. This way we can account for all members of the congregation. If you can't escape run into a room, shut the door and pile any and all heavy items against the door to prevent the intruder from getting in. **DO NOT STAND IN FRONT OF THE DOOR OR WINDOW.**

This concludes my articles on safety in the church. Please let common sense rule. Try not to panic. I realize that is easier to say than do, but it ensures minimizing casualties. If you have any questions, please see me or Mark Allis or Pastor Paula.

Oliver McKeithan, Chairman of the Board

GIVING REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

The following income for the church came from our weekly Sunday offering and the groups who use the building on a weekly basis. Designated income is for a specified fund such as Seed Faith Circle or windows.

Current Expenses	\$4,419.00
Designated	4,398.00
World Outreach	112.00
Local Outreach	112.00
Building Fund	907.00

\$495.00 was received for our Easter Offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) This gift will help support the ministries of the general church. The Society of St. Andrew was given \$162.00 through our donations for the Lenten devotion and the “Coins for a Cause” project. Thank you to our church family for your generosity!



CAMP LAURELVIEW celebrates 60 years!

Camp Laurelview located in Rockwood PA in southwestern PA has served youth and adults of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in PA as a summer camp and retreat center for sixty years! The rental use of Camp Laurelview is increasing as the property is used by families, Bethany College and the West Virginia region. It is clear that God continues to be at work on the mountain. Supporters of this camp are planning for a future with the renovation of the farmhouse for camp use and rental income. A new roof, windows, siding and porch have been completed without incurring debt. The final phases will include expenses for HVAC and a septic system. The Laurelview Committee is seeking donations to help with these final phases. A check can be mailed to: Camp Laurelview, PO Box 465, California PA 15419 or donations can be made online to “Farmhouse Renovations” at www.laurelview.org. Any donation can be made in memory of or in honor of loved ones. A form is available in the church office if you would like to use this when mailing a check.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

- 7—Mike Setzer
- 9—Albert Corneby
- 10—Martin Glose Jr.
Diane Carney
- 15—Richard Stanton
- 17—Marcus Allis
- 22—Wendy McKeithan
Bonnie Beley
- 23—Judy Fuller
- 29—Rachel Cain
- 30—Virginia Johnston

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 6—Ed & Eva Kretsch
- 12—Art & Marty Johnson
- 15—Joseph & Paula Kraus
- 16—Richard & Tamara Stanton
- 26—Anthony & Jean Stella
Roger & Gayle MacDowall



CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, Celebration Sunday! will be observed as we honor all those who have a birthday or anniversary this month. Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share. Beverage and tableware will be provided.

LOOKING AHEAD

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT CAMPING WEEKEND & PICNIC

June 9, 10, 11, 2023

at the Squarewood Acres at Sheshequin Campground
at Trout Run PA

RV camping sites are available
Call Denny Welch—570-529-0235
if you would like to camp with the group

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 ECD PICNIC AT 1:00 PM

Bring a Dish to Pass
Hamburgers/Hot Dogs/Beverages available

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**THE “CHURCH CANDLE”
MAY 2023**

UPCOMING DATES FOR MAY 2023

- MAY 4 National Day of Prayer
- 7 Food Pantry Sunday
Spring Congregational Meeting
- 9 Church Board Meeting at 6 pm
All are welcome to attend
- 14 Happy Mother’s Day!
- 16 Seed Faith Circle at 6 pm
Park View Restaurant, Owego NY
Meet in Parking Lot at 5:30 pm
- 16 ECD Men’s Dinner Meeting
at Canoe Camp Church—6:30 pm
Men will carpool
- 28 Pound the Ground for Ultrasound
Riverfront Park 9 am—10K/5K Walk-Run
- 29 Celebration Sunday!

**MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023
MEMORIAL DAY**



www.sayrechristianchurch.org

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