



# State Line UNITED March 2023 Without Borders

## Lent Message: Time to Reclaim, Revive and Renew our United Methodist Church

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10*

Friends, the journey to Easter has begun today as we once again mark Ash Wednesday. These forty days (not including Sundays) have traditionally been focused on repentance, prayer, fasting, and reflection in preparation for the celebration of Easter and the risen Christ. It is a time to pray that God will create within us a clean heart and a renewed spirit.

There is no doubt that as we absorb the realities of splintering, disaffiliation, and post-Covid, it is time for us as United Methodists to make the pivot away from what was into new and concerted efforts to reclaim, revive and renew The United Methodist Church throughout the world.

The approach to this season of Lent varies from person to person. Some see it as a time to “give up something.” Others see it as a season to “take on something new.” Perhaps in this unique season of our lives as a church, it is time for us to do both. Could it be that it is time for us to discipline ourselves and to breathe out that which has consumed us and breathe in that which will renew us?

As we reflect and pray fervently this Lent, let’s breathe out anger and disappointment, and breathe in once again our calling and identity as United Methodists. Let’s **Reclaim** that we are a people called to love all; a people called to serve all; and a people called to openly worship our loving God with joy and anticipation. (John 13:35)

Let’s breathe out hesitations and apathy and breathe in a desire to **Revive** our belief in the love of God, our creator; the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior; and the communion we have with the Holy Spirit, our ever-present guide and inspiration. (2 Corinthians 13:13) Let’s revive our belief in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Let’s revive our belief in one another and the power of God to use even us to transform a broken world.

Let’s breathe out any focus on ourselves and breathe in a deep desire to **Renew** Page 2 of 2 our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let’s renew our commitment to reach out to all who need the saving grace and love of Jesus Christ with joy and enthusiasm. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Friends, this is the time for The United Methodist Church to **pivot** away from old behaviors into a new vision for how God can use this church to be a beacon of God’s love for all. It is time to move from division and focus on the unity of the beloved community given to us by our loving God. It is time to move from a rhetoric that tears down and focus on the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is time to move from paralysis and fatigue and focus on the life-giving mission and ministry we are called to offer as guided by the Holy Spirit. It is time to move from sadness over what has been and focus with anticipation on the future with the hope that God will open to us.

It is time.

This Lenten Season, may we let go everything that has discouraged us and held us back and pray that God will guide us as we Reclaim, Revive, and Renew our beloved United Methodist Church.

We, in the Council of Bishops, renew our commitment to pray for you as we journey through the days that lie ahead. In turn, we ask for your prayers as we attempt to faithfully lead in your midst.

It is time to once again reaffirm our belief that God has not left us alone and will walk with us as we move forward. So as the liturgy for Ash Wednesday so simply states, “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent.” This is my prayer for you. May it be so.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

President, Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church

### *Encounter God*

*Share God's love with our church family and invite friends and neighbors.*

### *Grow in Faith*

*You must be intentional in growing your faith and in helping others do the same.*

### *Serve in Christ's Love*

*Jesus gave us the example of helping others and charged us with sharing the faith.*

*Our Mission To make new disciples of Jesus Christ*

*Our Vision To invite and reach out to our neighbors to encounter God, grow in faith and serve in Christ's love*



### Birthdays

#### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Eli Himmelberger
- 11<sup>th</sup> Denny Simmons
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ernie Houdeshell
- 15<sup>th</sup> Doc Ellis
- 19<sup>th</sup> Hunter Trivette
- 19<sup>th</sup> Alice Gregory



*MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>*



## Church Calendar

Thursday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Kurtis at the John Allison Public House
Thursday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Kurtis at the John Allison Public House
Sunday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Daylight Savings Time Begins – Spring Forward 11:30 a.m. VBS Planning Meeting
Tuesday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting
Thursday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Kurtis at the John Allison Public House
Friday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Day
Monday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m. Outreach to pack food for the Inn
Thursday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Kurtis at the John Allison Public House
Saturday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship – <b>Mama Mia!</b> at the Greencastle-Antrim High
Sunday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:45 a.m. Outreach to deliver food to State Line Inn
<b>SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. AFTERSHOCK YOUTH MINISTRY</b> (Grades 6 <sup>th</sup> through 12 <sup>th</sup> ) Held at First UMC Greencastle	

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon – **Children's Easter Craft Day**



JOIN US!

9:00 a.m.

All Ages Sunday School Classes

10:00 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Time

SUNDAYS

10:15 a.m.

Worship

### Serving in Worship

	<u>Worship Asst.</u>
March 5	Terry Berkley
March 12	Ellen Avey
March 19	Ellen Kennedy
March 26	Matt Ellis

<u>Ushers</u>
Tim B. / Gary R.
Bonnie C. / Greg B.
Kanan H. / Rodger K.
Dixie E. / Ellen A.

<u>Nursery</u>
Bonnie C / Dixie E.
Gwenelle T. / Tabitha H.
Kayla B. / Gwenelle T.
Tabitha H. / Terry B.



### Outreach Pantry Needs for March

**\*\*Please bring in donated items by Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. \*\***

**Jelly in plastic squeezable containers ~ Pop-Tarts  
Peanut Butter ~ Cereal**



### GET INVOLVED!

1:00 p.m. – Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Pack bags of food for the Inn.

11:45 a.m. – Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Deliver food to the Inn

### Things Jesus never said:

- “listen to your heart”
- “be true to yourself”
- “trust your gut”
- “feel good about who you are”
- “happiness is what matters”
- “just be a good person”

### Things Jesus actually said:

“If anyone would come after me,  
let him deny himself and take up  
his cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL --- GIVE IT A TRY

Beginning on March 12 and continuing through Easter Sunday, we'll be visiting the Lenten book ***He Chose the Nails*** by NY Times bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado. The five sessions will explore the gifts that Christ provided to us at his crucifixion: the cross, the thorns, the nails, the seamless robe and the empty tomb. He only had to shed His blood for us, but He did so much more.

Each session will begin at 9:00 a.m. to allow for watching a brief video, Bible exploration, and discussion. Whether you are a long-time Bible scholar, feel you have little experience delving into God's word, or see yourself somewhere in between, this small group study promises to provide spiritual growth and added insights into what led our Savior to choose the nails.

For more information, please contact Ellen Avey in person or by calling 717-860-0072.

### Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will attend a performance of *Mama Mia* at Greencastle-Antrim High School. The performance is Saturday, March 25 at 2:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will be available on the communications table.



## Tithes & Offerings

Week of Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> :	35 attend	\$2498.00
Week of Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> :	33 attend	\$1450.00
Week of Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> :	47 attend	\$1137.00
Week of Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> :	30 attend	\$705.00



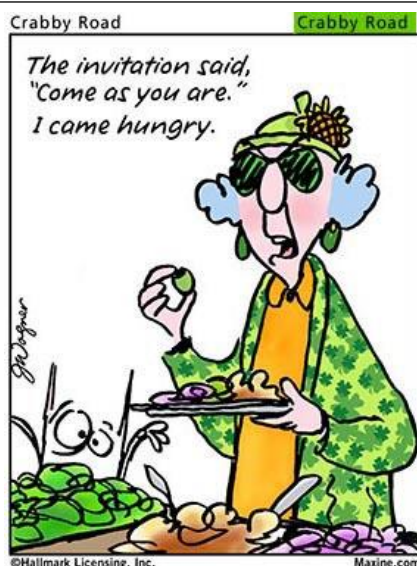
State Line United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 277  
State Line, PA 1726  
~ OR ~  
Mail slot at back door  
~ OR ~  
ONLINE GIVING on the website

## Leadership Team Notes

The Leadership Team met on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

- As part of our goal to be more active in the community, we are looking for volunteers to help run the concession stand at the State Line Youth baseball games. Please contact the church office if you have an interest in volunteering. We're looking to meet with the concessions coordinator very soon.
- Pastor Kurt emphasized that our ministries are focused on meeting people, inviting them to church and invite them into our church family/community.
- 25 people attended the Escape Room night. Lots of fun! We received a lot of good feedback and plan to have another one in the future.

All are welcome to attend the next Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.



**State Line United Methodist Church**  
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