

# The Moscow United Methodist Church Newsletter

April 2010

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*“All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-47)*

## *From the Pastor*

Lent is the season in which Christians traditionally spiritually prepare for the celebration of the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter. During this past season of Lent I had the church open on Wednesday mornings from 7:30-9:00 for anyone to come for prayer, meditation and to receive Holy Communion. Very few of our church members took the opportunity to come and avail themselves for this Lenten discipline so I found I personally had more time for my own devotional reading, reflection and prayer. The time allowed me to reconnect with God in silence, to remember Christ's loving grace poured out for me and for all God's children. But I found I also had more time to pray for you, our Church members and to reflect on our role in our community.

I was thinking of the purpose of our worship time in our church sanctuary. It is a time to come together as a community to re-connect with God and with one another and to worship the One who offers saving love. It is also a place where we move forward in service to others.

Jesus came to love and serve and gave of himself even till death on a cross. That first Easter resurrection when the disciples discovered that he was alive and death could hold him no more, they were filled with new hope and life to share the Good News. The mark of Christians in that first century was sharing the Good News of Jesus' resurrection in both word and deed. As Jesus taught by the example – healing and feeding the poor - his actions spoke louder than his words.

Perhaps as a church we can take this post resurrection Easter season as a time to re-focus on reaching out beyond our walls in service. April 24- 25 is Change the World weekend, an effort for us as United Methodists to focus on outreach. Change the World is a movement to connect United Methodists across the globe in service on one weekend-locally and globally. I would love to see our church members participate in this Weekend of action by planning to be involved in outreach projects in our local community and beyond – whether it be helping to organize food at the Food Pantry, or do a community clean-up or help do a project for a shut-in in need or some other project. People in our community need to know that Jesus is alive through the good works exhibited by us. St. Francis of Assisi once said, “Preach the gospel at all times, when necessary use words”.

I pray that members of Moscow United Methodist Church will find the time to recognize what God has done for you and that you may also find ways to reach out in service to our North Pocono Community and to the world.

Your fellow servant on the journey,

*Pastor Jon*



## Worship Schedule

### April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

#### 8:00 a.m. Service

Scripture Reader: Michelle Elmquist  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Special Music: Adult Choir

#### 11:00 a.m. Service

Scripture Reader: Josiah Buxton  
Greeters/Ushers: The Buser Family  
Ushers: Tom & Paulette Fotta  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Special Music: All Musical Groups

### April 11<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Communion

Scripture Reader: Jesse Buxton  
Greeters/Usher: Audrey Pierre,  
Don Ehrhardt  
Ushers: Ray Roese, Alan Plociniak  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Special Music: Youth Choirs

#### COFFEE HOUR

### April 18<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Cis Lyon  
Greeters/Usher: Dan & Elise Hanna  
Ushers: Nate & Yvonne Bifano  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Special Music: Adult Choir

### April 25<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Native American Ministries Sunday

Scripture Reader: Ken Cramer  
Greeters/Usher: Jack Carling  
Wendy Simons  
Ushers: Keith & Donna Tucker  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Special Music: Bell Choir



April 9 – 11 Confirmation Trip to NYC  
April 10 – ART SHOW 7pm – 9pm  
April 11 – Art Show  
Continued during coffee hour  
April 18 – New Member Classes Begin  
April 20 – Safe Sanctuary Training  
6:30-9:00  
April 24-25 Change the World Weekend  
May 2 – Annual Spring Sale 9pm – 2pm  
May 8 – Hoagie Sale



## Something to Think About

We can learn so much by observing the way our pets rejoice in life's simplest moments. For a dog, every morning is Christmas morning. Every walk is the best walk; every meal is the best meal. Take time everyday to celebrate the many gifts that are hidden in the ordinary event of your life.

Cesar Millan *The Dog Whisperer*



Thank you to all the parents and members of the congregation that helped make the Soup Luncheon a success by making soups, setting up, clean-up etc..! And thank you to ALL who attended the luncheon! With your help we raised \$381.22. We hope you all enjoyed it!! Would you be interested in having the soup luncheon twice a year?? Let us know.

Sincerely,  
THE JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP



## Office News

**Looking for feed back!!** Do you like the service projected on the screen? Are certain colors easier to read? Do you like the pictures in the background or prefer a solid background? Please call, write or email the church office.

Thank You,  
Michelle



**May Newsletter – Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Information for May and beginning of June as well as any other communications you would like to be included in this issue.

Please think ahead to summer and early fall. The summer newsletter includes June, July, August and early September. Even if we can just get dates set for events that would be great.



## Adult Bible Study “Uppity Women of the Bible”

The current "Uppity Women of the Bible" we are studying is be Esther. The next will be Judith.

Join us at 9:30 AM Sunday Mornings.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Treasurer's Report Linda Verrastro

- For the month of February we received \$9,073 in the offering for the General Fund account, which included pledge income of \$8,402.
- Based on our 2010 budget, we need \$14,117 per month to meet expenses including ministry shares.
- As of February 28th we paid all our general operating bills and \$1,876 toward ministry shares which represents 1/12 of our \$22,515 commitment.

The goal for 2010 is to pay 1/12<sup>th</sup> of our ministry shares each month while continuing to keep expenses current. The General Fund account balance at the end of January was \$6,311, but only \$1,342 at the end of February. We need your support to meet our goal in March.



## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### P/SPRC:

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

### Trustees

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

### Ad Council:

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM

## Safe Sanctuaries Caring for our Children

*Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:13-14)*

The church continues to welcome children, knowing that for some it may be the only place where they will experience God's unconditional love and grace. As Christians, we take our responsibilities to children and youth very seriously. When we neglect to take adequate precautions to protect them from abuse while in our care, we fail in our responsibilities as Christians. It is unlikely that we can completely prevent child abuse in every situation, but we at Moscow UMC are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children as they participate in the ministries and activities sponsored by our church.

The children's ministries at Moscow UMC are a vital part in the life of our congregation. Our children are a precious and vulnerable resource and the future of the church. Let us work together to ensure that our church is a safe place for all of them.

### Safe Sanctuary Basic Training Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Moscow UMC Social Hall

This training event is to educate anyone who will be or is currently working with children. All individuals who work in any of our programs involving our children and youth **should** attend this Basic Training Event. Those who attended the training last year do not need to attend again at this time. Other members who are interested in the safety of our children or are considering mentoring our youth in some capacity in the future are welcome to attend.



### Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Jon will be holding new member classes beginning Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM until 10:30 AM. These classes will run for 4 weeks with new members being received on **Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Pastor Jon or the church office at 842-7251.

### Change the World Weekend April 24-25, 2010

**What if...** on one weekend all around the world, 11 million United Methodists came together to work in their local communities?

**What if...** we unite globally to fight a preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds?

Rethink Church invites you to demonstrate the church's relevance in the world today by reaching out to your neighbors—locally and globally.

If you have a suggestion for our church members to be involved in a local outreach project please contact the church office 842-7251 as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

### Dry Goods Representative Needed

An individual(s) is needed as a Dry Goods representative. Someone to remind the congregation each month what to bring in and deliver the Dry Goods to Maple Lake. If you are interested please call the office at 842-7251.



## New From Our Music Department

All our Church music groups are hard at work preparing for Easter and for all the Sunday worship services this spring. It's been a rewarding year for both singers and bell ringers. Each member strives to praise God in music and to benefit from the friendship found in joining with other musicians in that praise.

Adult choir members will be joining Norman Campbell, Choir Director, as members of the praise choir which will be singing for the Praise Day service. This will be Bette Poe's final Praise Day and we hope to help make this an extra special event. The service will be held on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church in Scranton. All are invited to attend. Our adult choir has also been asked to sing at Bette's retirement reception on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Details will be coming.

Also, a round of applause for our bell ringers. An alumni bell choir from our congregation will be the featured music at the Friday night service of the final Wyoming Conference on June 4, 2010. We hope to have a large turnout from our Church attending that special event.

A special thank you to all our Church musicians for all the long hours and dedication they have shown throughout the year. Congratulations for all the extra honors that have come your way.

For more information:

Debbie Hafler—Youth Choirs 842-9644  
Michael Shoff—Bell Ringers 346-5998  
Norman Campbell—Director of Music  
Adult Choir 785-3274



## **Chi Rho Singers Central Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Church**

**PASTORS' CHOIR IN CONCERT**  
**April 22, 2010**  
**7:00 PM**

Elm Park United Methodist Church  
Corner of Linden and Jefferson  
Scranton, PA

No tickets necessary – Free will offering

Here is a great opportunity to meet members of our forthcoming Susquehanna Conference!

### **Bulletin Bloopers**

(for a choir that loves to laugh)

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The Pastor will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Hymn: "He Torched Me"

"Sing, choirs of angels! Sin in exaltation!"



**April 10th**

On Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a display of original works by over thirty local artists in the social hall of the Moscow United Methodist Church. The exhibition will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Selected pieces will be available for purchase.

Classical selections will be performed by local musicians during the exhibition, and an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served.

Everyone is invited to enjoy this special evening of art and music. A donation of 5 dollars per person is suggested. Funds raised will be used to support the youth ministries of the church.

For more information, please call Sarah Miller at 689-5705.

**Spring  
Brunch  
& Open House  
2010**

**Sunday, April 18, 2010  
10:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

Donation: \$12 adults; \$6 children 12 and under

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Carol Reuther at 842-9383.

Tours will be available the day of the brunch.

Sponsored by the Friends of the United Methodist Homes of Pa

United Methodist Homes  
Wesley Village Campus  
209 Roberts Road • Pittston, Pa



**Spring Fair  
Saturday May 1, 2010  
9am – 2pm**

We need gently used goods to sell. NO CLOTHES PLEASE.

We cannot accept outdated (more than 5 years old) TV's, microwaves, computer parts, electronics, cribs, etc.

Please do not donate anything that is broken or doesn't work or is just plain junk.

**Donations can be dropped off beginning Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact Paulette Fotta or Cis Lyon.**

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## **GREAT FIFTY DAYS OFFERING**

### ***What does it do?***

The period between Easter and Pentecost has become a time of great mission giving. There has been in the last fifteen years, a very successful covenant between the Wyoming Conference and the Haiti Partnership. Again this year the Friends of Zimbabwe will also be included. The needs are large in both very poor and devastated countries. Both Haiti and Zimbabwe face similar challenges, such as HIV/AIDS and the resulting havoc in families, lack of food or clean water, the need for greater access to education.

Through the previous years of generosity many things have been accomplished in Haiti:

- Sent over 9,000 school bags to Haiti.
- Provided many hygiene kits, school scholarships, emergency relief funds and other needed supplies
- Sponsored several older men and women living at Good Samaritan Home in Jeremie
- Began a micro-credit program to begin local business opportunities with four groups currently meeting
- Provided salaries for eight teachers and a director at the Hermitage school - first opened in Sept 2005
- Sent over 65 teams of Volunteers In Mission (VIMs) to Haiti despite frequent political unrest
- Sent over 350 people as VIMs (Many of whom have gone several times)

The **Haiti Partnership** anticipates sending teams to Haiti in the next conference year. The Haiti Partnership has made great progress on the clean water project on the southern coast of Haiti. Many trenches have been dug by hand and much piping has been laid in this ambitious project. In light of the devastating earthquake in January, our teams will first have the opportunity to help the first responders during this critical time for our Haitian friends.

The **Friends of Zimbabwe** are hoping to realize many dreams. We are planning to provide food, shelter and clothes to hundreds of orphans. We want to help the Sunday schools of the Makoni Buhera District, as they have few supplies. This same district also needs cooking oil presses to enable the churches to become self reliant.

**Each church in the Wyoming Conference is encouraged to support the Great Fifty Days Offering.**

## **Filling the School Bag:**

Each bag should contain the following items (No Substitutions Please\*).

Please remove all items from packaging.

- 1) 2 pads of lined yellow or white 8 ½ " x11" paper
- 2) 1 pair blunt children's scissors
- 3) 1 - 12" ruler
- 4) 1 pencil sharpener
- 5) 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 6) 1 - 2" eraser
- 7) 1 pack of colored pencils  
(10-12/pack, can remain in box)

**No crayons please**, they melt in the extreme temperatures of Haiti.

*\* Children are children no matter where they live. They will compare contents of schoolbags and be disappointed if their supplies are different than that of another child's.*

## **Hygiene/Health Kits**

Each kit should contain:

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27")
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers  
(no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brush only in original wrapper;  
no child-sized brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

All items should be placed inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag. No money, notes, religious or political literature, or other items should be placed in the kits.

If anyone would like to help deliver completed kits to the Chinchilla UMC please let the office know.



# SKY LAKE HAPPENINGS

(607) 467-2750 E-mail: [info@skylakecenter.org](mailto:info@skylakecenter.org)

Website: [www.skylake.center.org](http://www.skylake.center.org)

## Volunteer Work Day

**Saturday May 1, 2010 8:00 AM – about 2:00 PM**  
**Founders' Lodge**

We need your help! The Annual Volunteer Work Day sponsored by the Sky Lake Buildings and Grounds Committee is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 1 beginning at 8:00am in Founders' Lodge on the East Shore. Volunteer Work Day is an excellent opportunity for individuals, families, and youth groups to help Sky Lake cleanup after the winter season. There are projects for all abilities ranging from planting flowers, cleaning trails, making benches, and a whole lot more. If you aren't an "early bird", feel free to arrive anytime after 8:00am. So we have enough food for lunch, please call the Sky Lake Office to register by Monday, April 26.

## Open House

**Sunday May 16, 2010 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**West and East Shores**

If you have always wondered what summer camp is like at Sky Lake, come to our Open House and sample some of our favorite activities for yourself! In addition to boating, crafts, and a chance to meet the directors, you'll also be able to register for camp, go on a hayride, and dine on **delicious chicken barbecue dinners by Phil's Chicken House** BBQ Tickets: Until May 2: \$7.50/person  
after May 2: \$9.00/person

## Spring Fling 2010

**Friday May 28 - Monday May 31, 2010**  
**12:00 PM - 12:00 PM**

**Campgrounds, West Shore Cabins,**  
**Riley Lodge, Underwood Lodge**

Memorial Day Weekend at Sky Lake means one thing—it's Spring fling time! Families, young, old, and in between, will enjoy this weekend retreat opportunity to relax, play, learn, and grow in faith. A variety of activities are combined with ample free time, so when you aren't making a craft, enjoying the campfire sing-along, making ice cream, or going for a boat ride, you can sit back and toast a marshmallow, read a good book, or go for a hike.

## Moving from Death to New Life Living and Dying Churches

Lent is a time when we move from our old sinful ways to forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ. In a sense, it's moving from death to life.

The following is a view of Church Problems or Possibilities - it depends on whether the church is living or dying. There is no listing of the author, so my apologies for not being able to site the source. However, I think it's important for all of us to look at our churches and see which definition fits us - moving toward life or toward death.

*"Living churches have parking problems.  
Dying churches don't.*

*Living churches have lots of noisy activities.  
Dying churches are peaceful like a tomb.*

*Living churches are always looking to the future for ways to serve.*

*Dying churches are all too happy to worship their glorious past.*

*Living churches change so frequently you can forget a lot of names.*

*Dying churches...everyone has known everyone's name for years.*

*Living churches support missions even if it hurts.  
Dying churches keep it all at home.*

*Living churches dream great dreams for the Lord.  
Dying churches are content to relive old nightmares.*

*Living churches won't find "can't" in their dictionary.*

*Dying churches won't find much else.*

*Living churches evangelize!  
Dying churches fossilize!"*

My prayer is that in this season of Lent individually we move from death to new life - I pray that the churches of the Lewisburg District will celebrate those areas where they are living - and in those areas where there appears to be some form of death - we work to move to new life.

*A Lenten Reflection from Tom Salsgiver,  
DS from Lewisburg District to his churches*

## ♥ FOR YOUR HEALTH ♥

### Exercise Class

Meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Moscow United Methodist Church at 6:30 pm and Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. We are using a DVD to guide us. With the nice weather approaching maybe we'll venture outdoors for a walk.

**Join us!**

### **Revitalization of the Congregational Care Visitation Committee**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Jon would like to see the Congregational Care Visitation Committee be revitalized. If you feel God's calling to help out with visiting some of our shut-ins or if you have questions please call the church office 842-7251 or contact Pastor Jon.

## The Commonwealth Medical College EAGer Study

Department of Family Medicine and  
Community Health  
Tobin Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
501 Madison Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18510

Contact person – [emegeehan@tcmcd.org](mailto:emegeehan@tcmcd.org)  
570-504-9683

The EAGeR Study is the first clinical trial conducted by the new medical school, the Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton, PA. It is a clinical trial looking at the effects of aspirin in gestation and reproduction. It is a national, multi-centered study sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Volunteers are being actively recruited for this important study. Women between the ages of 18 and 40 who have experienced a pregnancy loss and want to become pregnant again are needed.

More information can be found in brochure under church mailboxes or at their website:  
<http://www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/oth/Page.asp?PageID=OTH000224>

## **Local News**

### **COVINGTON TOWNSHIP NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

**Donations for the annual Care Package Drive for the Troops are now being accepted at the Township Building (Moffat Estate). Monetary, as well as, non-perishable food and personal items** are most welcome. A full list of items requested is available at the office Monday-Friday 10 am- 4 pm. Items may also be dropped off during this time. For more information or to have a collection barrel placed in your establishment please contact Debbie Biondo 842-0457. The Drive will end on June 8th. A tremendous thank you to all who have contributed in the past and will contribute again this year!

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER**

### **Moscow's Annual National Night Out**

**Tuesday, August 3, 2010.**