

The Moscow United Methodist Church Newsletter

March 2011

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him . . . But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:2, 5)

From the Pastor

As we have struggled through the difficult winter waiting for the warmth of spring let me offer you a short story that was shared with me over the internet. I think it may share some insight

Fable of the porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever - many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions even though they gave off heat to each other. After awhile they decided to distance themselves from each other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. This way they learned to live with the little wounds that were caused by the close relationship with their companion, but the most important part of it, was the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

A church is not made up of perfect people. In truth it is made up of imperfect ones who learn to live with the imperfections of others in community and when they do they find the warmth of love and find life and hope together. Jesus was one, who even though he was God, humbled himself, clothing himself with the imperfections of a human body in order to show us the way to love and live together. Jesus came to show us about abundant life. As we enter this season of Lent may we strive to be the kind of church where imperfect people find warmth, welcome, hope and life. May we offer the hope of new life in Jesus Christ to others as well.

Your fellow servant on the journey,

Pastor Jon

Treasurer's Report

Linda Verrastro

- For the month of January we received \$13,143 in the General Fund account, which included pledge income of \$11,877.
- For the first three Sundays in February we received \$8,192 in the General Fund account, which included pledge income of \$7,489.
- Based on our 2011 budget, we need \$14,548 per month to meet expenses including ministry shares.
- Our 2011 ministry shares commitment is \$2,119 per month for a total of \$25,433.
- As you know Jan and Feb have been extremely cold months and our fuel bills have hit us hard. As a result we are behind on our ministry share payments which are our first and primary means of mission outreach through our budget. Any donations that you can give to help us get back on track would be greatly appreciated.

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth During Lent

Lent is a season of 40 days before Easter when Christians have traditionally used various spiritual practices to turn their hearts and minds to focus on God's grace given to us through Jesus. It is a time to deepen our spiritual lives as individuals and as a community of faith. Here are some options for your use during this Lenten journey to help you draw closer to the Lord.

Devotional Prayer Guides

Pick up a personal or family devotion booklet to help guide you and your family's prayer life during Lent. Devotional guides will be available on a table in back of the sanctuary.

Feed Your Body: Wednesday Evening Fellowship Meal

Pause for a time of food and fellowship on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 PM for a simple meal with some friends from your church family. We gather and share a simple pot-luck meal (or sometimes a pizza, etc.) and share in fellowship in the Social Hall. Call the church office (842-7251) if you are interested to help us plan better.

Feed Your Soul: Wednesday Evening Meditation and Holy Communion

The Sanctuary will be open between 5:45-7:15 PM on Wednesday evenings through Lent beginning March 16. You are invited to come for a brief time of quiet meditation and an opportunity to receive communion. You may come to the Sanctuary at any time between 5:45 and 7:15 PM and spend as much time as you like in meditation and prayer and then come to the front of the sanctuary to be served communion at the altar rail. May this be a mid-week time of quiet reflection and renewal for you.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ecumenical Lenten Worship Service Every Thursday Evening at 7:00 PM</p> <p>March 17th- "Why did He do it?" Maple Lake UMC, <i>Fr. Robert Simon</i></p> <p>March 24th- "Why did some doubt?" Cross Road AG, <i>Rev. C. Gerald Blake, Jr.</i></p> <p>March 31st - "Why did some believe?" Moscow UMC, <i>Deacon John Fanceschelli</i></p> <p>April 7th - "Why did he seek a showdown?", St. Marks Episcopal, <i>Fr. Fred Mauger</i></p> <p>April 14th - "Why did they kill him?" St. Catherine of Siena, <i>Rev. Jon Buxton</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Soup and Sermon" A Lenten Experience Wednesdays at Elm Park UMC Chapel Service 12:05 – 12:30 Dining Hall, Light Lunch 12:30 – 1:00</p> <p>Ash Wednesday, March 9 – Rev. Rees Warring, Retired UMC clergy</p> <p>March 16 – Bishop John F. Swantek, <i>Polish National Catholic Church, retired</i></p> <p>March 23 – Rev. Richard Malloy, <i>University of Scranton</i></p> <p>March 30 – Rev. Douglas Posegate, Pastor <i>Carbondale/Jermyn UMCs</i></p> <p>April 6 – Rev. Gladys Fortuna- Blake, Pastor <i>Daleville and Maple Lake UMCs</i></p> <p>April 13 – Rev Beth Jones, Scranton DS <i>Susquehanna Conference, The UM Church</i></p> <p>April 20 – Rev. Gerald Blake, Pastoral Associate Elm Park United Methodist Church</p>
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Worship Schedule

March 6th – Last Sun. after the Epiphany Transfiguration of the Lord

Scripture Reader: Dick Swartz
 Greeters: Lynn & Roger Crannell
 Ushers: Donna & Allyssa Mela
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Youth Choirs



March 9th – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Daleville UMC

March 13th – 1st Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Consuelo Brown
 Greeters: Susan Shotwell &
 Wendy Simons
 Ushers: Alan Plociniak &
 Pat Verrastro
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Adult Choir

Coffee Hour

March 20th – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Tara Bassi
 Greeters: Jim & Muriel Smailes
 Ushers: Chris & Tara Bassi
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Festival Ringers

March 27th – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Beth Czulada
 Greeters: Glen & Beth Czulada
 Ushers: Dan & Elise Hanna
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Adult Choir

Words of Wisdom

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross



Dear Church Family,

On behalf my family and I ... thank you! My mother's battle with cancer over the last few years and her recent passing has been a very difficult time. Your prayers, friendship, love and support during this time have meant the world to us and especially to me.

It is a blessing to have you all in our lives.

Thank You again and God Bless!

Michelle Elmquist



Church Office Information



April Newsletter – Wed., March 23rd
Information for April, Spring, Lenten and Easter Events, as well as any other communications you would like to be included in this issue.



Welcome to our New Members

Barbara Abas
William and Barbara Havenstrite
Elizabeth Koss
Marissa O'Donnell
Carole Phillips
Tina Satterwhite
Gary and Sandy Willsch



Notice anything new in the Narthex entry way? Two beautiful flowering shrubs called Camellia Japonicas have been donated by Dan Schilling our resident horticulturalist. If you see Dan please make sure to thank him.

COMMITTEES

P/SPRC:

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 12, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

Ad Council:

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Trustees

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM.



HELP – We need your eyes and ears!

If you know of anyone in our congregation who needs or would like to be thought of by receiving a card from our church we would be happy to send them one.

Please call 842-7383 with the information!

Thank You,
Cong. Care/Card Ministry
Dawn Biesecker & Carol Spadea

Church Men United 62nd Annual Lenten Communion Service & Breakfast

Church Men United is holding their 62nd annual Lenten Communion Service & Breakfast on Sunday, March 13 at Elm Park UMC, with Scranton District Superintendent Rev. Beth Jones delivering the message. The service is open to all, and begins at 7:45AM. Tickets are available for breakfast after the service, \$8.00 each, from Michael Shoff.



Breakfast with the Bunny

April 16, 2011

10 AM

Moscow United Methodist Church

126 Church Street

Tickets: \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Children

Children under 2 years: FREE

Pictures will be available

Reservations Required - Call 842-2495



Saturday April 2, 2011

On Saturday, April 2nd, 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 Fair

Saturday May 7, 2011

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 just plain junk.

Hey young adults: DREAM BIG

If you are between the ages of 16 and 25, you are invited to "Dream Big" with other young adults from the Northeast Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church at the Pocono Plateau in Pennsylvania. The Dream Big weekend retreat, April 8-10, is an opportunity for individuals to better understand the broken realities of the immigration system and specifically how the DREAM Act affects their communities and churches. Registration is \$25 and travel scholarships are available through The General Board of Church and Society. For details call (570) 676-3665 or email camp@poconoplateau.org.



Hello from the nursery! Remember the nursery is available during worship services for children 6 and under. Nursery volunteers must be 13 year and older and sign-up at the nursery.

NURSERY SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON EASTER DURING BOTH SERVICE.

WE NEED NEW TOYS!! The nursery could use some new toys. Some toys that the children seem to love are doctor kits, construction kits (plastic tools), little people stuff, etc...

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING



When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my First painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a Stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking'

A child is a blank page upon which you write with a permanent marker

From the Internet

Moscow UMC Preschool

The Moscow United Methodist Church Preschool is now accepting registrations for the Pre-Kindergarten and Nursery Preschool and the Parent-Child Funtime Workshop (Mommy and Me) for the Fall, 2011. The morning Preschool classes are nearly full but there are more spots available in the afternoon classes. For more information, please call Jeannie Garubba at 842-6800 or 842-6767 or at jean.garubba@gmail.com. The Preschool handbook can found on the MUMC website. Thank you.



We can always use more acolytes!! Please Join us for a very important part of the worship service. If you are interested please contact Consuelo Brown or Sharon Kelly.



Local Musical Performances

Rosewood Chamber Ensemble Musical World of John Quincy Adams

Age 11 – death
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Scranton
March 13th at 3:00 pm
Free will offering

Jazz Performance “Billie’s Diary”

Based on Life & Music of Billie Holiday

Starring Jazz Vocalist & Actress
Jacque Tara Washington
First Presbyterian
Church of Clarks Summit
Sunday, March 13th at 4:00 pm

Congratulations Urbane!

On Sunday, February 20th, the district gospel choir, Urbane, traveled to NYC to compete in the Pathmark Gospel Competition held at the historic Apollo theater!

http://www.pathmark.com/community_africanAmerican.asp

Guest judges include Harlem’s very own Vy Higginsen, media pioneer and creator of Gospel for Teens, and Judy Mann, former lead singer of the Chiffons – with a special appearance by the 2010 Tony Award winning *Memphis* cast. Other celebrities on hand were: Gloria Gaynor (" I Will Survive"), Lawrence Craig (internationally known bass-baritone opera singer) and Jimmy Roberts (broadway composer of I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change).

Urbane competed in the Youth Division (under 18 yrs. old) and placed 2nd, winning \$600!

The students performed Alpha & Omega, God Is and Going To Another Level. Student director was Sarah Walker (WHS) and soloist Charnelle Blackwood (WHS). Student choreographers were Kilonie Riley and Sarah Walker. Accompanying them were members of the band, *Exact Change*, bass player Ray Scavo and percussionist Eli Downie (*graduate of WHS*). Other professional musicians/PMSD teachers were *Jonathan Searfoss* (who arranged the music for a horn section. Thank you!), *Kenny Luckey* and *Wayne Bishop* (*both graduates & now educators at PMSD*).

Please congratulate the Urbane vocalists. As in years past, the competition was tough--competing against groups from NY, NJ, South Carolina, Canada, etc.....Urbane worked extraordinarily hard to bring the 2nd place award back to the Pocono Mountain School District and community!

Thank you for your support,
Meredith Lamm-Ashton

Community Happenings

The North Pocono Pantries needs our Help!!!

Dry Goods

Please keep giving! Our item for the month of March is facial tissues but all donations are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY

The North Pocono Food Pantry serves an average of 92 families each month. Family size ranges from single family households to those with as many as 10 to 12 people in them. It takes an **average of 3,641 cans or boxes** of nonperishable food items to keep up with the demand.

The bulk of our inventory comes from a state funded non-profit called the Bread Basket, located in Scranton. Due to PA budget cuts the amount of food the Bread Basket can provide has steadily declined. Some months we receive less than half of the food we request. We are grateful to the Local Churches, Youth Groups, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Scout Troops, Post Office, the North Pocono Schools, Bill's Market and all the other caring groups and individuals who help make up the shortfall.

Even with all of this extra help there are many weeks that we are low on or completely out of some staple pantry items.

Always urgently needed are: Beef Stew, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna Fish, Oatmeal and Cereal.

Your generous contributions enable the North Pocono Food Pantry to continue serving people in need in our own community. **Our heartfelt thank you to all of you.**

Lenten Soup at Daleville

March 11th - Potato Soup or Vegetable Soup
pasta - Baked Ziti

March 18th - Cream of Broccoli or Manhattan
Clam Chowder *pasta* - Cabbage & Noodles

March 25th - Cheese Cappelletti Soup or
Minestrone Soup *pasta* - Tuna Noodle Casserole

April 1st - New England Clam Chowder or
Vegetarian Chili *pasta* - Fettuccini & Broccoli

Chowder & Bisques \$6 qt; \$3 pt

Other soups \$5 qt; \$2.50 pt.

(Pasta Selections) \$6.00 8" x 8" pan (Order by Wed)

Pick up at Daleville UMC between 3 & 6 pm

Place order Tues or Wed 9am - 2 pm at 842-6776



Thank You to all the youth and parents, who made and served soups, set up and cleaned up. **As always it was a bit hit!!!** We raised about \$315 to support the mission trip.

March 6th - Meeting

March 20th - Meeting - Finalize Art Show Prep

Keep your eyes open for more information on the following:

Serving at the Soup Kitchen.

Art Show

Mission Trip



THANK YOU to everyone who came out to support the soup luncheon. We hope you enjoyed the soups and deserts and the fellowship. With your help we raised about \$315 dollars toward our youth mission trip.

Mission Consultation

Submitted by Hugh Miller

On Tuesday, Feb 15 there was a splendid sharing of the many ways in which our church is reaching out to serve the surrounding community. Twelve of us gathered to describe what is currently happening through our efforts.

Debbie Hafler reported on the ways we share at Christmas. She along with Betty Jones organize the Angel Tree and Project Joy programs to provide help to local families in need.

Beth Czulada brought a detailed report of the work of the North Pocono Food Pantry that assists an average of 92 families a month.

Keith Tucker reported on how our donations of blankets ;and bed linens help those served by the Bethel A.M.E. Zion Shelter in Scranton. Pat Verrastro shared about how the Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School Class has been collecting jackets and clothing for the same project.

Cis Lyon is our representative to the Jail Ministry. They try to help inmates in our county prison at both Christmas and Easter.

Tita Buxton coordinates the "Fair-Trade" coffee project. It helps the actual "third-world" coffee growers get a more equitable share of the profits from their efforts.

Paulette Fotta works with the "Friends of the Homes" to provide assistance to residents of our United Methodist homes in north-east Pennsylvania in Tunkhannock and Pittston.

Ann Sowers coordinates a letter-writing project to help students with limitations to develop better communication skills.

Pastor Jon Buxton shared a DVD on "Mission Central", a project of the Susquehanna Conference to facilitate our ability to respond to a variety of disasters and to improve mission education in the church.

Jeannie Garubba shared about her work as coordinator of our Nursery School.

Michael Buser is our representative to Red Cross and coordinates the bollod drive that is held every year at our church building.

In addition to all of this, we open our church building for a weekly A.A. meeting. We also holst an outreach program to local youth.

Our church is already doing some wonderful things. But, we do need a mission team/task force to help coordinate all we do and to provide better information to the congregation. If you would be interested in helping with any of the projects mentioned above please contact Hugh Miller or Pastor Jon Buxton or any of the folds who are already involved. If you have suggestions of ways in which our congregation may better serve the needs of the community please share them with us.

SKY LAKE INFO

Senior High Youth Retreat (grades 9-12)
March 11-13

Summer Brochures are available under the mailboxes. If you need more information you can speak to Sarah Shoff or go onto the website at info@skylakecenter.org.



Vacation Bible School Please mark your calendars!

Plans are underway for an exciting week of religious education in an environment of arts and crafts, games, music and stories. Maple Lake Church is the site of the VBS. The theme this year is "The Beach". All children from 3 years of age are invited to attend. More information will be forthcoming about VBS.

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FOR YOUR HEALTH AND OTHERS

SELF-DEFENSE COURSES FOR WOMEN ONLY



Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked?

- **Date:** Wednesdays April 2011 (6,13,20 & 27)
- **Time:** 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
- **Location:** Moscow Borough Police Dept.
123 Van Brunt Street
Moscow, PA 18444
- **Cost:** \$25.00
- **Includes:** This fee includes four sessions of realistic & dynamic hands on training. Comprehensive reference manual, actual-live simulations with a certified instructor, & a lifetime membership policy. This means you can attend additional R.A.D. training classes in Moscow or anywhere in the U.S. for FREE!!!
- **Contact:** Chief Ivy L. Brenzel 842-2061
Moscowboropolic@verizon.net

BLOOD DRIVE

Maple Lake UMC
March 24, 2011
1pm – 6pm



Safe Sanctuaries “Basic Nuts and Bolts” Training

Saturday – March 19, 2011
at New Milford UMC
Beginning at 8 AM

Please contact the following for more information:
Linda Eckersley – 570-563-2371
Barbara Snyder – 586-8166
Andy Weidner – 465-2318

Moscow United Methodist Church

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>North Pocono Food Pantry <i>Food of the Month: Oatmeal/Cereal</i> North Pocono Dry Goods Pantry <i>Item of the Month: Facial Tissues</i></p>		1 9-12 Office Open	2 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	3 9-12 Office Open	4	5
6 Last Sunday After the Epiphany 8:45 Sun. Sch. Teacher Meeting 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service 12:15 Youth Group	7	8 9-12 Office Open 7 Ad Council Mtg	9 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting 7 Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service @ Daleville UMC	10 9-12 Office Open 7 Trustee Mtg	11	12 
13 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service Coffee Hour 12:15 New Worship Mtg 1:30 Social Hall in Use Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 5:45-7:15 Meditation/ Communion 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	17 9-12 Office Open 7 Lenten Worship Maple Lake UMC <i>Fr. Robert Simon</i> 	18	19
20 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service 12:15 Youth Group	21	22 9-12 Office Open	23 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 5:45-7:15 Meditation/ Communion 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	24 9-12 Office Open 7 Lenten Worship Cross Road AG <i>Rev. C. Gerald Blake, Jr</i>	25	26
27 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service <i>Social Hall In Use</i>	28	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 5:45-7:15 Meditation/ Communion 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	31 9-12 Office Open 7 Lenten Worship Moscow UMC <i>Deacon John Franceschelli</i>	<p>Lenten Services April 7 - 7 St. Marks Episcopal, Fr. Fred Mauger April 14-7 St Catherine of Siena Rev. Jon Buxton Easter April 24th</p>	