

Grace Notes from the Pastor

March 2012

It always amazes me how God uses our life experiences to bring biblical realities to life. The event that became this catalyst for me was a "lost child" crisis we went through in 1995 while vacationing in Italy.

My youngest daughter, Rachel, (four years old at the time) was under my supervision when dad nodded off for a minute or two. Searching for seashells and other fascinating objects, Rachel took off down the beach and dad snapped out of it only to discover his precious daughter was nowhere to be seen.

If you've ever lost a child, you know the sense of horror that ensues! My wife's, oldest daughter, and I were panic-stricken. Here we were in a foreign country with visions of childhood abduction and child slavery running through our heads. It was the longest, scariest, and most agonizing 15 minutes of our lives!

But good news followed. After contacting the Italian beach police, and having an announcement made on the beach's loudspeakers, we caught sight of our beautiful daughter in the arms of an Italian middle aged woman who ran up to us, giving us our "lost" and precious baby girl! I cannot begin to describe the elation and joy I felt when I finally had my lost child in my arms. It was a moment.

Friends, as I looked back on this event, I can't help but see a beautiful metaphor for what this Lenten season is all about. Like Rachel, and like the Prodigal Son story found in Luke 15:11-32, we too are lost children without the Father's love and like my part in this story, we too have a loving Father who not only searches for us diligently, but who takes absolute delight when we return into his arms.

What great symbolism for what this Lenten season is all about, which is recognizing our "lost-ness", falling on our knees in repentance, and returning to a Father whose greatest joy is having His scared and lost child back in his arms, a Father who reminds us continually to ... "Return to me, your Lord and God, for I am gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love..." (Joel 2:13)

God's grace and peace be with you!

Pastor Jeff Levy

Sunday Worship Schedule



March 4th 2nd Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Cis Lyon
Greeters: Lois Linko & Lorie Reigal
Ushers: Gus & Vicki Herman
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Adults
Acolyte: Sam

March 11th 3rd Sunday of Lent

Coffee Hour:

Scripture Reader: Mike Buser
Greeters: Beth & Glen Czulada
Ushers: Tita & Len Buxton
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Youth Choirs
Acolyte: Brooks

March 18th 4th Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Tara Bassi
Greeters: Michelle Elmquist
Donna Mela
Ushers: Nancy Schwenk
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Festival Ringers
Acolyte: Emma

March 25th 5th Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Consuelo Brown
Greeters: Tom & Jeanne Garubba
Ushers: Marissa O'Donnell
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Adult Choir
Acolyte: Robyn



April 1st Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Brunch

Scripture Reader: TBA
Greeters: Dawn Biesecker &
Ray Roese
Ushers: Sharon DeLucy &
Karen Morgan
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Adult Choir

Thursday April 5th Holy Thursday Worship Service

7:00 PM Moscow UMC
(Childcare Available)
Special Music Adult Choir

Friday April 6th Good Friday Service 7:00 PM Daleville UMC

April 8th Easter Sunday

8:00 am Service

(Childcare Available)

Scripture Reader, Greeter/Ushers
to be announced
Special Music: Adult Choir

11:00 am Service

(Childcare Available)

Scripture Reader, Greeter/Ushers
to be announced
Music: All Choirs



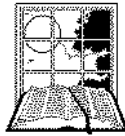
Lenten Bible Study Happening Now Come Join!

Adam Hamilton's DVD Bible study series, "Final Words From the Cross." In this series we will look at new ways of seeing Jesus' final words from the cross and how we can apply them to our lives. Please feel free to join these studies at anytime. You may contact one of the folks who are hosting, contact the office or Pastor Jeff.

Currently we have two study times!

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 am on Sundays and evening home study at 7:00 PM schedule follows:

Tues Feb. 21 – Beth Czulada's Home
Tues Feb. 28 – Cis Lyon's Home
Tues March 6 – Howard & Cindy
McIntosh's Home
Mon March 12 – Consuelo Brown's Home
(848-1390)
Tues March 20 – Paulette Fotta's Home
Tues March 27 – Pastor Jeff's Home



NP Lenten Services Thursdays 7 PM "Spoken At the Cross"

March 1 – Springbrook Congregational Church
sermon: Msgr. John Jordon

March 8 – St. Catherine's R.C. Church
sermon: Rev. Ron Liples

March 15 – St. Mark's Episcopal Church
sermon: Rev. Jeff Levy

March 22 – Cross Road Assembly
sermon: Rev. Earl Trygar

March 29 – Moscow United Methodist Church
sermon: Eric Luczak

We will be providing hospitality for the March 29th service. We need volunteers to help set and clean up, and food preparation! Please Sign up near the mailboxes if can help.



Breakfast Bible Study "Momentum for Life"

By Michael Slaughter

6:30 am (future location to be announced)
If interested please contact
Barb Buxton at 842-3156



Please pick up a Lenten Devotional

"From Fear to Love"
By Henri J.M. Nouwen

*Lenten Reflections on
the Parable of the Prodigal Son*

Lenten Soup at Daleville

March 9th – New England Clam Chowder or
Vegetarian Chili *pasta* – Tuna Noodle Casserole

March 16th – Cheese Cappelletti Soup or
Minestrone Soup *pasta* – Cabbage and Noodles

March 23rd – Multi-Bean Soup, Manhattan Clam
Chowder or Potato Soup *pasta* – Fettuccini &
Broccoli

March 30th – Tomato Rice or Vegetable Soup
pasta – Linguini & Clam Sauce

April 6th – Crab Bisque or Vegetarian Chili *pasta*
– Macaroni & Cheese

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

Other soups \$6.00 qt; \$3.00 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

Barbara @ 842-8065 or Mary Ann @ 842-6742

Treasurer's Report

Linda Verrastro

Even though we have had a mild winter, the higher cost of fuel oil continues to strain our budget. All our general operating bills were current through the end of January, but only \$1,000 was paid toward our 2012 ministry shares commitment of \$24,560. The monthly payment to reach this goal is \$2,047. Please continue to give us your support as we strive to meet this challenge.



COMMITTEES

Trustees

Next meeting will be held on
Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Ad Council

Next meeting will be held on
Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

SPRC

Next meeting will be held on
Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 6:00 PM.



Pastor Jeff will be away Tuesday May, 6th and Wednesday May 7th. He will be accompanying his daughter Rachel to New York as she auditions for the Manhattan School of Music. Good Luck Rachel!

Church Leader Change

Due to schedule conflicts Bill Fischer has had to step aside as Ad Council Chair. Thank you for all your work and dedication!

Gary Boam has graciously agreed to step in as Ad Council Chair for the remainder of the year. Thank you Gary!

Newsletter

Would you like to be a newsletter reporter? Do you have a story or experience you would like to share? Do you have church history you would like to share! Keep the congregation up on your groups happenings, needs, and how they can join! We would love updates from Sunday School, choirs, nursery, Wednesday morning crew, Ad Council, Trustee, SPRC, group studies, fellowship meal group, watercolor workshop .. etc... It doesn't need to be anything elaborate, maybe about 4 times a year. All are welcome... please submit by newsletter due dates.



March Newsletter–Tuesday, March 21, 2012
Information for Easter and March Events.

Please Pray For



Please pray for Danielle Green (Pastor Jeff's oldest), Lill Kytoski, Larry Smallcomb, Family of Dorothy "Dottie" Boam, Family of Howard Graeffe, Donna Long, The Morgan Family, Ashley Tesluk, Chuck Olsen, Joe Petroski, John Appel, Leo Woelkers, Kathleen Anthony, Troy Green, Family of Robert VanBrundt, Father Scott Sturuski, Theresa Galey, Blanche Bonitz, Barb Abas, Margaret Brooks, Donna Swartz, Ronda Dunavant, Alice Balutis, Scott Musewicz, Meredith & Kenny Majusiak, Carmine Monacelli, Rev. Brolin Parker, Bob Reimer, Bob Davis, Hannah DeLar, Jake Kieper, Ed & Marie Hoevermann, Lynn Guse Lorenz, Jennifer Holdren Mease, Meredith Ashton, Ed Kovac, Mike Oitak, Wendy Cominsky, Diann Small, Harry Garris, Arthur Grogan, Elizabeth Barrera, John Korea, Jean Hoover, John Hollister, Polly Ciscoe, Caleb Price, Darlene Fruehan, Jack Jones, Ted Lysak, Marilyn Winkler, Kiara Gilchrist.

Psalm 41:3

The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.

Military personnel

Brandon Swartz, Nathan Trygar, Kevin Wood, Amanda Price, and Michael DeLucy.



DID YOU KNOW?.....

Scranton District has a web-based T.V Show

Check it out "Beyond the Covered Dish" hosted by Pastor Tony Schwartz and Marylou Ambrose of the Chinchilla UMC. Go to www.beyondthecoverreddish.org



North Pocono Food Pantry has moved to a new distribution center in Bill's Plaza.



That Pastor Jeff is a Steelers fan.
(If not you weren't in church during football season)
--Laugh--



That You can borrow the books from the shelves in the narthex?



YOU can contribute to the newsletter!



Breakfast with the Bunny

March 31, 2012

10 AM

Moscow United Methodist Church

126 Church Street

**Tickets: \$5.50 for Adults,
\$3 for Children**

Children under 2 years: FREE

Pictures will be available

Reservations Required -

Call Sharon Kelly 689-2163 or

Sue McLain 842-5621



Senior High and Junior High Youth Groups

THANK YOU!! to everyone who helped with the soup luncheon. Thanks you to parents, and friends who made soups, and supported our luncheon. Due to your generosity we were able to raise \$470.00 toward our mission trip!

March 4th - Movie Time

Slight Change. We are going to the movies. Bring a bag lunch to church and we will leave from there. "THE LORAX". Come and join us!

March 18th – Skylake Bring a Friend and a lunch!

We are planning a day Trip to Sky Lake! We will meet right after church and will be back around 7ish pm. If there is snow we will sleigh ride, have games, have a fire, and make some smores etc....

March 31st (Saturday)- Easter Baskets

Make and deliver Easter Baskets to shut-ins.

April 15th – Meeting

April 28th (Saturday) – Hoagie Sale 9am–12:00pm

April 29th - Hot Hoagie Sale after Church on Sunday

Please contact Miss Debbie (498-4075) or Miss Barb for any further information.

FOR YOUR HEALTH and SAFETY AND OTHERS



BLOOD DRIVE

March 24th

Maple Lake United Methodist Church

May 19th

Daleville United Methodist Church

The North Pocono Pantries need our Help!!!

Dry Goods

Our item for **Facial Tissues**, but all donations are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY

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



Mission Trip 2012 Rutland, Vermont; June 17th-23rd

It is going to be an AWESOME adventure that you will never forget!!!!

Anyone that will have completed 6th-12th grades is able to attend.

You DO NOT have to be a youth group member.

Oh and did I mention – there is really NO COST except your commitment of a deposit. In the end, that will go towards travel and food money.

Please contact Debbie Hafler or Nicole McIntosh for more information.



Easter Flowers



Orders are now being taken for Easter flowers. Flowers will be on the altar for Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012. Deadline for ordering is **Wednesday March 28th**. Please fill out this form and give to **Lois Linko** along with your payment. Make checks payable to Moscow United Methodist Church.

_____ Tulips @ \$9.00 each = \$_____

_____ Lilies @ \$9.00 each = \$_____

_____ Hyacinths @ \$9.00 = \$_____

Given in honor of:

Given by:

Given in memory of:

Given by:

Name of person ordering: _____ Phone #: _____

New Members Class



New membership classes will begin on Sunday, April 15th and run through May 6th. Each class will begin at 9:30 a.m. (During our regular Sunday school time) and will end at 10:15 a.m. There will be four sessions covering "What is membership?" "History of the Church and Methodism" "What do United Methodists believe?" and a final session covering the meaning of "Professing our faith."

On the final Sunday, May 6th, all class members will participate in a profession of faith service during our regular worship hour at 11 a.m. If you are interested in becoming a new member and joining our classes, please contact our office personnel Michelle Elmquist or Jori Poplawski at 842-7251 or email us at office@moscowumc.com.

EXPLANATION OF GOD

It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista , CA . He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

'One of **God's** main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'**God's** second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. **God** doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'**God** sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in **God**. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is **God's** Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about **God**. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and **God** said O.K.'

'His dad (**God**) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for **God** to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother

God. Like a secretary, only more important.'
'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes **God** happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's **God**!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in **God**, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but **God** can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what **God** can do for you. I figure **God** put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in **God**.'

"From the Mouths of Babes"



Moscow UMC Pre-School News

The Pre-Kindergarten Preschool class of the Moscow United Methodist Church Preschool recognized Dental Health Month with a field trip to Dr. Sullivan's Dental office on February 27, 2012.

Pictured left to right front row is:

Ronda Dubiel, dental assistant, Jeannie Garubba, Preschool Director, Jimmie Klotz, Lylah Placek, Ava Page, Ava Moran, Max Malec, Mike Malec

second row back:

Matthew Poplawski, Jori Poplawski, Preschool Teacher, Lexie Poplawski, Ryan Knight, Norah Smith, Karson Gibson, Zander Cramer

third row back:

Emilee Battle, Matthew Jennings, Lauren Gilgallon, Kiara Ferri, Ashley Wright, Riley Kowerski

back row:

Colin McGoff, Logan Walton, Cayden Knight with Mom, Stacey Knight, chaperone, Logan Olsommer, Erin Gilgallon, chaperone



The Nursery Preschool class of the Moscow United Methodist Church Preschool recognized Dental Health Month with a field trip to Dr. Sullivan's Dental office



Pictured left to right seated in the dental waiting room are:

Gavin Chapman, Mrs. Poplawski with Lexie Poplawski in lap, Sarah Luczak, Aaron Stangline, Brady Pica, Jake Reese, Nathan Jacob, Victoria Williams, Riley Rooney, Madison Forgione, Sarah Reid, Jeannie Garubba with Mason DeStefano in lap.

Standing are: Mira Bell Zangardi, Emma Hollenbeck, Elizabeth Bealer and Isabella Forgione.

Summer Camp Info

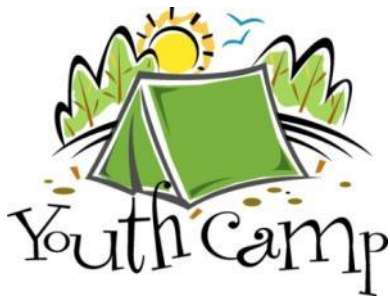
Summer Brochures for
Susquehanna Conference UM Camps
www.susumcamps.org

Sky Lake
skylakecenter.org

Pocono Plateau
www.poconoplateau.org

are available under the mailboxes. If you need more information you can speak to Sarah Shoff or visit one of the above websites.

Remember camp sponsorships are available thru the Moscow UMC camp and mission trip sponsorship fund.



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SELF-DEFENSE COURSES FOR WOMEN ONLY



Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked?

- **Date:** Wednesday's in April 2012 (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th)
- **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 and dynamic hands on training. Comprehensive reference manual, actual-live simulations with a certified instructor, and 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
(570) 842-2061
Police@Moscowboro.com

Upcoming Spring Events

Saturday Hoagie Sale
April 28th







Hot Hoagies
Sunday April 29th

New Member Classes and Reception

Spring Fair
Potential Date Saturday May 5th

Moscow United Methodist Church

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>North Pocono Food Pantry Food of the Month: Peanut Butter & Jelly</p> <p>North Pocono Dry Goods Pantry Item of the Month: Facial Tissues</p>			<p>1 Office open 11:30-1 7 <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>SpringBrook</i> <i>Congregational Church</i></p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3 <i>hall Rental</i></p>
<p>4 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service 12 Youth Group Mtg Bag Lunch & Trip to Movie</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6 Office Open 9 until 1</p>	<p>7 9 Office Open til 1 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting</p>	<p>8 Office open 11:30-1 7 <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>St. Catherine's Church</i></p> <p>7 Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service 12 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Office Open 9 until 1 7 Ad Council Meeting</p>	<p>14 9 Office Open til 1 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting</p>	<p>15 Office open 11:30-1 7 <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>St. Mark's Episcopal Church</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> 
<p>18 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Office Open 9 until 1</p>	<p>21 9 Office Open til 1 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting</p>	<p>22 Office open 11:30-1 District Committee Mtg 9-3 Moscow UMC</p> <p>7 <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>Cross Road Assembly</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 11 Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27 Office Open 9 until 1</p>	<p>28 9 Office Open til 1 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting</p>	<p>29 Office open 11:30-1 7 <i>Lenten Service</i> Moscow United Methodist Church</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31 Breakfast with the Bunny! <i>Youth Group</i> <i>Easter Basket Delivery</i></p>