



A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Berwick  
**FEBRUARY 2018**

## **Souper Bowl Soup Cookoff** **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

As they say on ESPN, "COME ON MAN!" You won't want to miss the fun and fellowship taking place after the worship service on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, as we again hold the Souper Bowl Soup Cookoff. We need individuals or groups to come up with their best "award-winning recipes". Just like last year everyone will have a chance to sample all the fine soups, chowders, or chili's and vote for their favorite as they proudly wear the colors/apparel/gear of their favorite team. Bragging rights for the entire year are definitely on the line! As always, donations will benefit the local food bank, and some of the soups may be available for sale to take home. Be sure to mark your calendars!

## **Wear Your Blue!**

The first Sunday in Lent (February 18<sup>th</sup>) is designated "Wear your blue t-shirt to church Sunday" as a testament of one of the ways *One Great Hour of Sharing* makes a difference. King David sang, "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy..." (Psalm 30:11) Thousands of volunteers each year put on a blue t-shirt that says "Out of chaos, Hope." They bear not only ladders and drywall for rebuilding, but also the love of God. Many disaster survivors who see the love of God evident in the lives of these servants are able to take off their cloak of mourning and begin to find joy.

Many congregations have not had an opportunity to 'earn' blue t-shirts through volunteer work team efforts; but you are supporting the ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through your financial gifts, action and prayers. You are standing in the GAP for disaster survivors. Therefore, PDA is urging all congregations to participate in a Help us remind others that gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support disaster recovery efforts in the United States and around the world. Together let's tell the story of hope out of chaos.

### **In this Issue**

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*because he  
first  
loved us*

**1 JOHN 4:19**

## A POSTING FROM YOUR PASTOR

As I write these words, Punxatawney Phil either has seen his shadow or he hasn't, which means there will either be six more weeks of winter or eight or whatever. I don't know that we put much stock into the outcome; as we say these days: *it is what it is*. But still we talk about it, hoping for a reprieve. My youngest daughter lives in Woodstock IL, which is where the movie GROUNDHOG DAY was filmed. The town has become a tourist destination because of it – a lovely place to visit.

If you've seen the movie, you know the premise: Bill Murray, come to cover the sighting of the groundhog for some media source, finds himself in an endless loop where every day is Groundhog Day. The same things happen, the same people interact without change – and he is stuck.

We start feeling like that about this time in the winter cycle which, for me, starts with November and ends with March: five months of darkness, cold, snow, ice, wind and all the rest. We've crested the hill of Christmas and slogged our way through thirty-one long days in January; Valentine's Day casts a reddish glow on the horizon, which then turns green for St. Patrick's Day – but the truth of the matter is that we grow weary of this fallow time, longing for spring, warmth, flowers and grass and fun.

Lent begins on Valentine's Day this year. It tells us we have six weeks left before Easter. It is its' own season; most of us have some thought or memory as to what it means and what one does during Lent. St. Mary's Catholic Church will have their Lenten fish fry every Friday. People choose to give up some pernicious habit or comfort food to mark our commitment to disciple-ship.

Lent offers – in its patterns of sacrifice, prayer, fasting and generosity – a path through wherever we find ourselves in our journey just now. Feeling stuck happens in real life and not just on the big screen. We navigate our way through seasons where despair, boredom, restlessness, grief, sadness and resentment take their shots at us. Sometimes the weight of it steals strength and joy and hope.

But as we sit with these feelings, facing them honestly, learning the lessons they have to teach, and enduring what can feel unbearable at times, we encounter the living God in significant ways. Our faith is not in groundhogs, nor in flags or family or good feelings – the symbol we own is the cross. Jesus calls us to take up its meaning and we see in his example courage and compassion. Easter is more than a day for eggs and candy and meals: it breaks the endless loop, gives us hope one day at a time, and sets us free for life.

I invite you to make whatever commitment seems best for you in this years' experience of Lent – from worship to study to sacrifice to prayer.

## Walk for Warmth

Help your neighbor stay warm by raising money for the **Emergency Heating Assistance Fund.**

**Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**9am-11am**

**Salem Track, Berwick**

(Snow or Shine)

Contact the Berwick Salvation Army with any questions 759-1214

Make checks payable to Berwick Salvation Army.



### Communion Dates 2018

February 14

March 29

April 1

May 20

July 1

September 2

October 7

November 4

November 25

December 24

## Ash Wednesday

You are invited to begin the season of Lent by participating in the service of ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7pm. As we did last year, everyone is asked to sit together, near the front; ashes will be offered as the service begins with the Supper served at the end, with silence, hymns, prayer and a meditation between the two.

## Lent in the Lounge

Beginning on Thursday, Feb. 15, and each Thursday through March 22, Pastor Steve will lead a Lenten conversation in the lounge. The scripture focus is the familiar parable of the Prodigal from Luke 15. Come to all six of the classes or drop by as you can.

## Easter Egg Fundraiser

The Deacons have officially kicked off their Easter egg, pretzel and bunny pop fundraiser. They will be offering peanut butter and coconut eggs in milk, and dark chocolate. Pretzels and bunny pops will be available in milk and dark chocolate. These are awesome for Easter baskets or to satisfy your sweet tooth! Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Deacons. Please use your order form in your bulletin or call the office to place your order! **Orders will be accepted until March 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## Chili Cookoff

Protestant Campus Ministry proudly presents chili- mac and cheese and buffalo chicken dip cook-off **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-4:30pm** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Free entry! E-mail or signup on Facebook. \$5 with student id - \$7 regular to judge. Children's activities included!

## Equipping the Saints

2018 Winter Leadership Conference Northumberland Presbytery ~ Helping Church Leaders to Lead

**February 24, 2018**

**8:30-12:00** {snow date March 3, 2018}

Montoursville Presbyterian Church

900 Elm Street, Montoursville PA

Workshops:

Elder Training

Deacon Training – Deacons and other Care Givers

Working with Youth and Families

Living in God's Word



### February Birthdays

James Ross	2/1
Mary Creasy	2/3
Joan Botto	2/19
Carolyn White	2/25
Dr. Harold Johnson	2/26

**Happy Birthday!**

# February Assistants

## February 4

**Greeters:** Birt Family

**Ushers:** Al West, Janelle Eck

**Assisting Elder:** Eugeniu Grigorescu

**Acolyte:** Tyrone Birt

## February 11

**Greeters:** Janice Moskaluk

**Ushers:** Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

**Assisting Elder:** Barb Huntington

**Acolyte:** Emma Botto

## February 14 Ash Wednesday

**Greeters:** Alison Hause

## February 18

**Greeters:** Walter & Alison Hause

**Ushers:** Tom & Barb Huntington

**Assisting Elder:** Joan Thomas

**Acolyte:** Robbie DAngelo

## February 25

**Greeters:** Loretta Vaughn

**Ushers:** Ernie Botto, Keith Botto

**Assisting Elder:** Nancy Dietterick

**Acolyte:** Giuliana Force

**Deacon Visitor for February:** Keith Botto

**Have a wonderful month with family and friends!**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**Worship service 10:15am**

**Sunday school for all ages during worship**

**Nursery available**

