

REV. JIM'S THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

March 2018



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this letter on a cold February day. As I write, it's just days after the horrific school shooting that took the lives of 17 high school students, teachers and staff members in Florida. I'm at a loss for words.

Each day it seems we hear the news of another life changing event that occur in our community, nation, and the world. It's easy to become overwhelmed as we hear stories of senseless violence, abuse that violates the dignity of people, economic crisis, terrorism and threats of war. At times we answer a telephone call or start reading an email and wonder if it's news of a loved one struggling with sickness or struggle. ***Many days folks ask me, "Pastor, where is the Good News? Where is God in the messy, painful places of life?"***

The longer I live, the more I wonder if at some level, in the midst of our human experience; we all struggle to find the answer to those gut wrenching questions. ***Where is the Good News? Where is God in the messy, painful places of life?"*** When the foundations of my life are rocked with pain and uncertainty, I often cry out to God with variations on those questions. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit brings me comfort and an answer from the words a dear pastor friend shared with me years ago. He said, "Remember, God is always there with us, and don't take my word for it, read the words of Psalm 23"!

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. -- Psalm 23 (New Revised Version)

Friends, we all know how painful it is to go through the valley of the shadow of death. We know death has many faces; sadness, disappointment, anger, illness, an unwillingness to forgive or be forgiven, loss of a job, hatred, broken trust, strained relationships. The list goes on. ***However, we also are assured God is always with us!***

Since the day of the terrible shooting in Florida, some folks have asked me how God's Church can reach out to the world in the midst of tragedy and invite people to receive the Good News of God's love and the gift of eternal life. As I continue to pray for God's guidance and live out a personal response to that question. My prayers are focused as I wonder how the people of the United Methodist Church can be faithful to our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world "and how we will do that with "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors."

These words from a letter Bishop Bickerton wrote to the churches of our Annual Conference in 2012 help guide my prayers, ***"If we are going to be faithful to the call God has placed on our lives, it is time to pray for a 'turnaround'. The future may look daunting, but the Holy Spirit at work around and within us can revive our spirit and our resolve to be the Church of Jesus Christ.*** The Bishop also encouraged every Christian to make a commitment that ***"Each one reach one for Jesus, but first begin with prayer."*** Finally, Bishop Bickerton invited us to be strengthened by these words from the Bible, ***"With God on our side like this, how can we lose?"*** – Romans 8:31b (The Message)

May we all be filled with comfort, hope, and a commitment to share God's love as we look forward to Easter.

Love and Hope,

+ Pastor Jim

To You Who Bring Small Children to Church

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you — you mothers and/or fathers — to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often fills alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes — if but for a moment — her fears.



The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you — a young family — in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is *paidon*. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word *brephos*; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.



Bring your children to church. If you don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.
(Copied - Author Unknown)



Please Bring Canned Fruits and Vegetables for the Food Bank

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir 4:30pm	2 Pastor's Day Off	3
4 Communion 3rd Lenten Service 7pm at Baptist	5 Bill's Bible Study 1pm at PSUMC Prayer & Bible Study 6:45 at RUMC	6	7	8 Choir 4:30pm	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 4th Lenten Service 7pm at Free Methodist	12 Bill's Bible Study 1pm at PSUMC Prayer & Bible Study 6:45 at RUMC	13 Lunch Bunch 11:30am @TBA	14	15 Subs 7am Choir 4:30pm	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 St. Patricks Day
18 After Worship Lunch 5th Lenten Service 7pm at RUMC	19 Bill's Bible Study 1pm at PSUMC Prayer & Bible Study 6:45 at RUMC	20	21	22 Choir 4:30pm	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 Rejoice Refresh Renew at Edinboro
25 Palm Sunday Lenten Service 7pm at CUMC	26 Bill's Bible Study 1pm at PSUMC Prayer & Bible Study 6:45 at	27	28	29 Choir 4:30pm Maundy Thursday at 7pm at RUMC	30 Good Friday Service at Baptist at 7pm	31

Happy
Anniver-
sary



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

7—Mike & Lesley
Bailes

10—Leon & Wanda
Wilcox

19—Greg & Lori Rose
1999

26—Stan & Cara
Nelson

27—Robert & Bonnie
Hull 1992

RUMC

3—Julian Hatfield

9—Leora Weilacher

10—Dalton Fosburg

Jay Gill

12—Megan Waldinger

14—Dan Waldinger Sr

18—Carla Bloss

Jerred Bloss

26—Eli Davis

PSUMC

1— Kyle Hedderick

Darlene Lasher

5—Faniel Pease

7—Cathy Beebe

11—Thomas Bailes

13—Eric Mooney

18—Alyssa Wright

21—Dorothy Adams

24—Ella Hammond

25—Micah St John

28—Amanda Johnson

29—Emily Smith

CUMC

2—Greg Rose

8—Roger Clark

13—Paula Kunz

Jeff Smithers

Sarah Crone

14—Amber Reed

16—Mike Rose Jr

15—Danielle Grove

19—David Anderson

Tim More

23—Joyce Servey

26—Kelsey Smith

27—Adri Hunt

30—Danica Ensl

Langdon Reynolds

Kailen Reynolds

Students!

Do you have a sporting event, a play, a special event that you would like to share with others so that they may come and cheer you on? Contact Betsy Van Tassel, Ginny Lewis or Marie Howard and we will see that is appears in the bulletin if you give us at least two weeks



The difference between a good day and a bad day?

ATTITUDE!



HOW TO HAVE A GOOD DAY EVERT DAY

“Have a good day!” We are all familiar with these words spoken almost automatically by clerks, waitresses, and friends. One especially trying morning the words stayed with me as I hugged a bag of groceries to the car. “Just how does one manage to have a good day?” I asked myself. Obviously I did not have the answer.

It came to me a few weeks later through a church newsletter that listed some practical suggestions for a basic daily program. I copied the on a card and they have helped me use my days more wisely. Perhaps they can help you, too.

- ⇒ Do something you *do not* want to do.
- ⇒ Do something you *do* want to do.
- ⇒ Be quiet for a few minutes for prayer, spiritual reading, or meditation.
- ⇒ Reach out in *some way every single day* to someone else.

Simple, maybe, but surprisingly effective. Not only do they help me, but reaching out to someone else 365 days a year helps me say “Thank You” to God for the many wonderful things He has done for me.

Aletha Jane Lindstrom 1986

What is Happening at CUMC?

- Sunday 4** Communion
Lenten Service—Centerville Baptist 7 pm
- Monday 5** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Wednesday 7** Choir 7 pm
- Sunday 11** Lenten Service—Centerville Free Methodist 7 pm
- Monday 12** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Sunday 18** Lenten Service RUMC 7 pm
- Monday 19** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Tuesday 20** Church Council 7 pm
- Wednesday 21** Choir 7 pm
- Saturday 24** Rejoice Refresh Renew at Edinboro
- Sunday 25** Lenten Service CUMC 7 pm
- Monday 26** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC



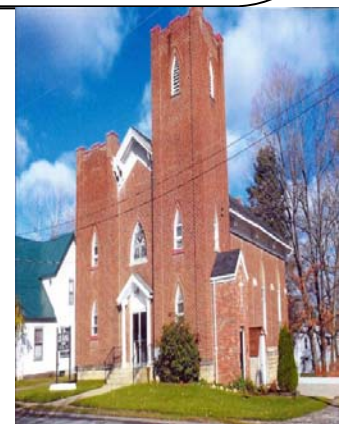
What is Happening at RUMC?

- Sunday 4** Communion
Lenten Service—Centerville Baptist 7 pm
- Monday 5** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Sunday 11** Lenten Service—Centerville Free Meth 7 pm
- Monday 12** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Sunday 18** Lenten Service RUMC 7 pm
- Monday 19** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Sunday 25** Lenten Service CUMC 7 pm
- Monday 26** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC



What Is Happening at PSUMC?

- Mondays** Bill's Bible Study 1 pm
- Thursdays** Choir 4:30
- Sunday 4** Communion
Lenten Service—Centerville Baptist 7 pm
- Monday 5** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Tuesday 6** Trustees 6 & Council 6:30
- Sunday 11** Lenten Service—Centerville Free Meth 7 pm
- Monday 12** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Sunday 18** Lenten Service RUMC 7 pm
- Monday 19** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC
- Sunday 25** Lenten Service CUMC 7 pm
- Monday 26** Bible Study 6:30 @ RUMC





THE JELLY BEAN GOSPEL

PURPLE - REMINDS US OF THE ROBE THE SOLDIERS MADE JESUS WEAR. JOHN 19:5

RED - REMINDS US OF THE BLOOD JESUS SHED. MARK 14:24

BLACK - REMINDS US OF THE DARK TOMB JESUS WAS IN FOR 3 DAYS. MATTHEW 27:58-60

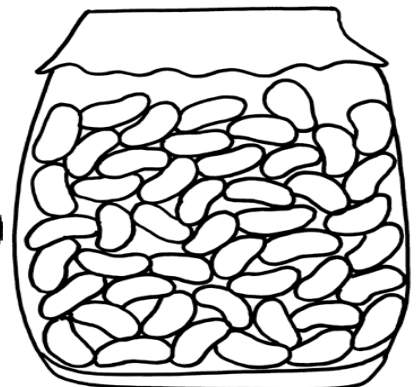
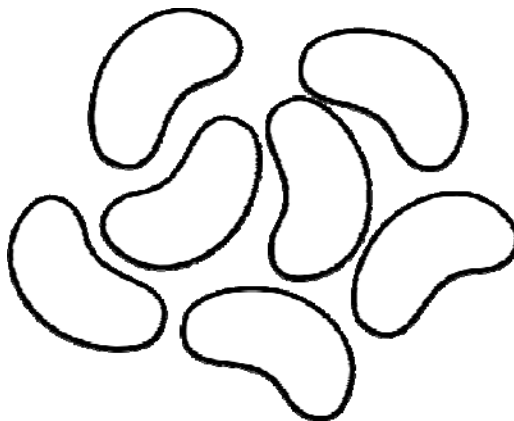
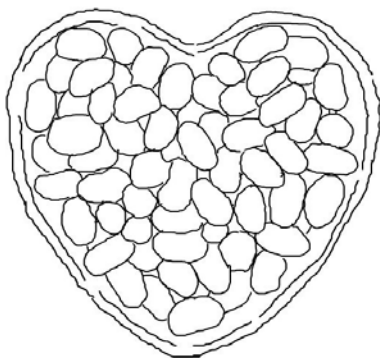
PINK - REMINDS US OF ALL THE PEOPLE CRYING WHEN JESUS WAS DEAD. JOHN 20:13

ORANGE - REMINDS US OF THE SUNRISE ON EASTER MORNING WHEN JESUS ROSE TO LIFE. MATTHEW 28:1

WHITE - REMINDS US OF THE ANGELS THAT ROLLED THE STONE AWAY. MATTHEW 28:2-4

GREEN - REMINDS US OF THE GARDEN WHERE MARY FIRST SAW JESUS. JOHN 20:14-17

YELLOW - REMINDS US OF ETERNAL LIFE WHERE WE CAN LIVE FOREVER IF WE ASK JESUS TO BE OUR SAVIOR. JOHN 3:16



March Prayer Calendar for Centerville—Riceville—Parade Street

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always In every prayer of mine making request for you with all joy....”

Philippians 1:3,4



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 JOHN & EDITH BRONSON	2 JOHN & PAT BALMER	3 DS Joe & Lu-Ann Patterson Sunday Services
4 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jim	5 MARK & CONNIE ALLEN	6 STEVE & MELISSA CHAMBERLAIN [KAITLYN, KAYLEE, PIPER]	7 EDNA BECKWITH	8 MICHAEL & DONNA ALLEN	9 KATHY CLARK	10 DS Joe & Lu-Ann Patterson Sunday Services
11 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jim	12 CALVIN & TAMMEY BLOSS [KYLIE & CALVIN]	13 MICHAEL & LESLIE BAILES [LAURA & JUSTIN]	14 MAX & JEANNE CLARK	15 JOHN & KIM BOVA	16 DONALD BARTON	17 DS Joe & Lu-Ann Patterson Sunday Services
18 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jim	19 MIKE & CHRIS COONEY	20 BECKY BROWN	21 JOHN BARTON JR	22 CARL & BETTY ELDRED	23 STEVE & DORIS DORN [KIRA, LIZ, WILLIAM, MICHAEL]	24 DS Joe & Lu-Ann Patterson Sunday Services
25 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Jim	26 JOHN III & DONNA BARTON	27 STEVE & DAWN ELDRED [RACHEL, OWEN, MATTHEW, IAN]	28 ERIC & TAMI FOSBURG [DALTON & LEXI]			

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

ReligionQuotes.info



Like us on
Facebook

Riceville United Methodist Church [RUMC]

Centerville UMC @CentervilleUMC16404

Visit our website

paradestreetumc16438.org

centervilleumc16404.org

Centerville UMC 18679 Erie Street
Riceville UMC 37748 State Hwy 77
Parade Street UMC 7 Parade Street
PO Box 44
Centerville PA 16404

MARCH