

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
KITTANNING PA 16201  
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

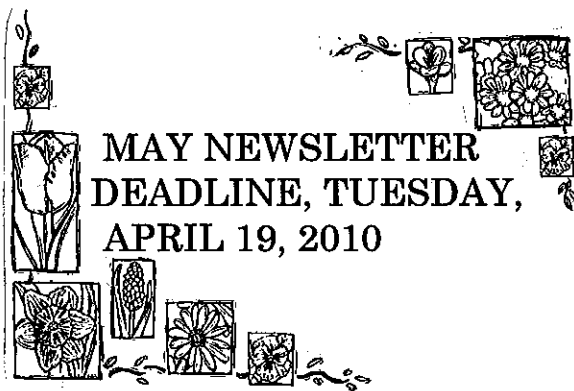
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**Monthly Messenger**



**APRIL 2010**



**MAY NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,  
APRIL 19, 2010**

**CHURCH STAFF**

**PASTOR:** Dr. Allyn L. Ricketts, Ph. D  
**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Audrey Green  
**ORGANIST:** Nick Snow  
**SEXTON:** Valerie Kachur  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Barb Gaughan  
**MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:**  
Carolyn Gallaher, Sally Krozely  
June Pollard, Donna Hidingen  
Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM**

**WORSHIP: 11:00 AM,**

**CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312**

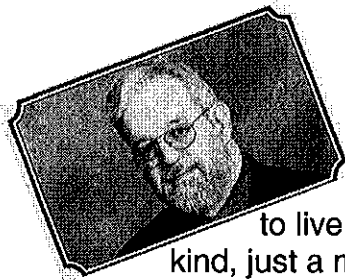
**PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808**

**E-MAIL: [fumchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fumchurch@windstream.net)**

**WEB SITE: [www.firstchurchkittanning.com](http://www.firstchurchkittanning.com)**

**FAX: 724-548-5157**

**RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569**



## ALREADY RAISED!

Some of you are aware that a man named Francis Schaeffer had a big impact on my life. In his book True Spirituality there is a discussion of what it means to live the Christian life in this real world. In a world that wants to make religion, of any kind, just a myth; in a generation that wants all religious thought to be just opinion, or a matter of one's own interpretation; and, in a world where many believers want to spiritualize their faith so much that it has no real impact on their daily living, Dr. Schaeffer sums up the Christian life this way. "First, Christ died in history. Second, Christ rose in history. Third, we died with Christ in history, when we accepted him as our Savior. Fourth, we will be raised in history, when he comes again. Fifth, we are to live by faith now as though we were now dead, already have died. And Sixth, we are to live now by faith as though we have now already been raised from the dead."

I am becoming more and more convinced that we live terrifying times – in the church. People take their faith so lightly it cannot even be called faith. So what does this notion of having been already raised mean in real life? Dr. Schaeffer goes on. "First of all it certainly means this: that in our thoughts and lives now we are to live as though we had already died, been to heaven, and come back again as risen." This means you may not continue to live the same old life and call yourself a Christian. Apathy towards God, the truths of God, the church of God may not be part of the life that is a resurrected life. Fear will not grip your life. Fear of trying new things will not overpower someone who has been resurrected from the dead. New experiences cannot overshadow one who has been to heaven and back.

To be a Christian is to be one with Jesus. How can we spend our life knowing more about a favorite TV show or sports team than we know about God and his word? How can anything else have priority over our life in God? How can we, who participate in the resurrection of Jesus live as if we were still dead in this world? How can we not be curious, questioning, seeking more of the One who has brought life to us? In Christ you are already raised, so stop living like you are still in the grave. Easter celebrates what has happened in real history. It celebrates what God has done for us in this world long ago but it also celebrates that we worship a living God, a living Jesus.

People all around us are being crushed by the pressures of this life. God has brought a new hope and a new promise of resurrection into our world. How has the church today made that hope clear? How have we lived out that hope so others can see and be drawn to the new life that is offered? We cannot even excite those who are part of the church. As far as we can tell half of those who receive this newsletter never open it. (not unique to our church). No life, no curiosity, no passion, no excitement, no faith at all in the living God and no hope to turn to when the world crushes them. This Easter let's challenge ourselves to be people of the resurrection, to live like people who have been to heaven and back: resurrected people living the life abundant in following Jesus. No more plastic church and no more plastic Jesus, but life, based on God's real act in history. This will change the world.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)  
Maranatha (Come Quickly Lord)  
Allyn

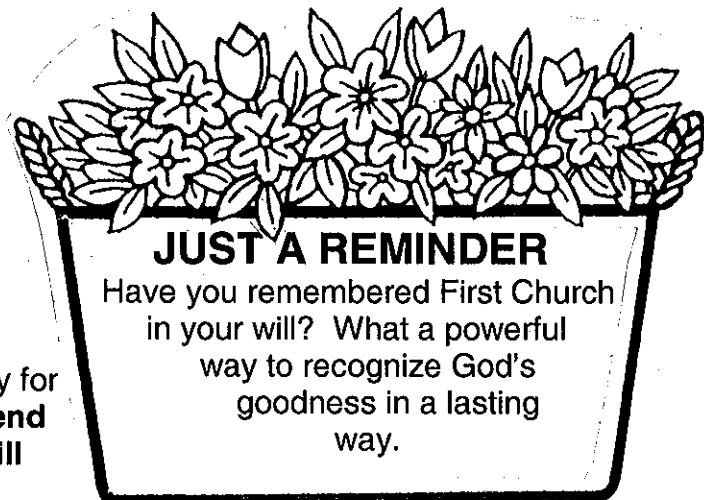


### DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Our Indiana District conference will be held  
April 25 at 3:00 at Marion Center UMC.  
We will leave the Covenant Center at 2:00.



Change in format of Newsletter, getting ready for response from the blue postcards. **Please send your postcard back by April 19<sup>th</sup> or you will not receive next month's newsletter.**



# WORSHIP FOR APRIL 2010

April 1, 2010

7:00 PM

Sermon: Jesus: Giver of Grace

Luke 7:36-50



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2010

7:00 PM Good Friday

Psalms 22:1-21, Hebrews 10:26-31

Sermon: The Authority of the Cross

Luke 12:112



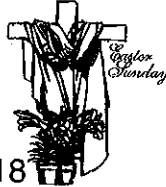
April 4, 2010

11:00 AM, Easter Sunday

Psalms 118:14-29, John 20:1-18

Sermon: "I Am the Resurrection"

Luke 16:19-31



April 11, 2010

11:00 AM

Sermon: Brad Hellein



April 18, 2010

11:00 AM Good Samaritan Window Sunday

Leviticus 19:15-18, Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon: The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37



April 25, 2010

11:00 AM, Hymn Sing

Zechariah 8:11-17, Hebrews 11:8-12

Sermon: Time to "Git Gittin"

Genesis 12:1-9



## PATTON SCHOLARSHIPS



It is that time of year again. Applications for the Margaret M. Patton Scholarships are now available in the church office.

As always this is dependant on what we receive from the foundation but we need to get the process started. If you are continuing your education beyond high school then feel free to apply. Applications are due by May 16th--so do not hesitate.



APRIL



## ACOLYTE

4 Dominic Hoffman  
11 Noelle Lemons  
18 Ellen Williamson  
25 Frailey Scaife

## READERS

4 Communion  
11 Larry McKelvey  
18 Bill Waters  
25 Mary Jo Lipski

## NURSERY

4 Melissa Flanders  
11 Kim Yankasky  
18 Sarah Heckert  
25 Carol Wolfe

## SOUND SYSTEM

4 Greg Lemons  
11 Tom Thomas  
18 Janessa Muir  
25 Chris Toy

## USHERS

4 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson  
11 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson  
18 Oxford/Susie Reefer  
25 Oxford/Susie Reefer

## COUNTERS

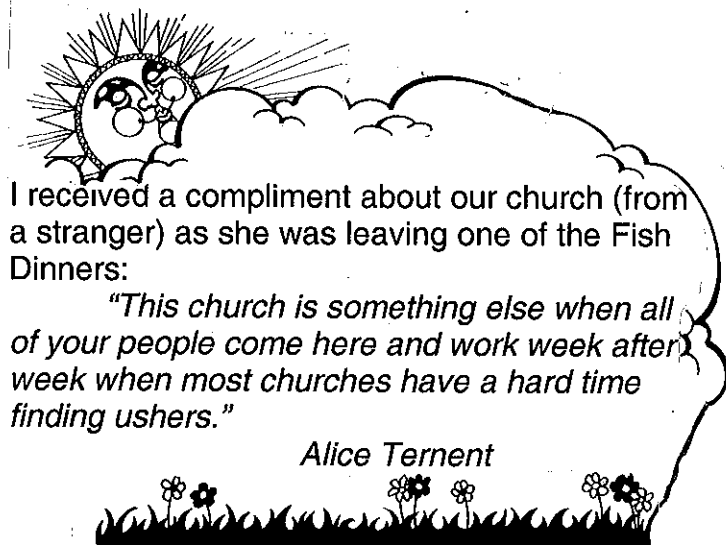
4 Scaife  
11 Krozely  
18 Thomas  
25 Bussard

## HOLY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY



We will have our "Upper Room" Communion Thursday evening at 7:00 April 1. The Worship Team would like to make this our Communion Service for April so plan now to join us for this special time of worship.

On April 2 there will be a community Good Friday Service at noon at Grace Presbyterian - Pastor David Croyle speaking and our Good Friday Service will be at 7:00.

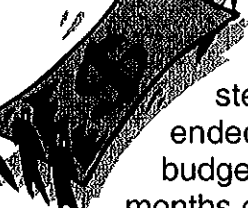


I received a compliment about our church (from a stranger) as she was leaving one of the Fish Dinners:

*"This church is something else when all of your people come here and work week after week when most churches have a hard time finding ushers."*

Alice Ternent

## FINANCE UPDATE



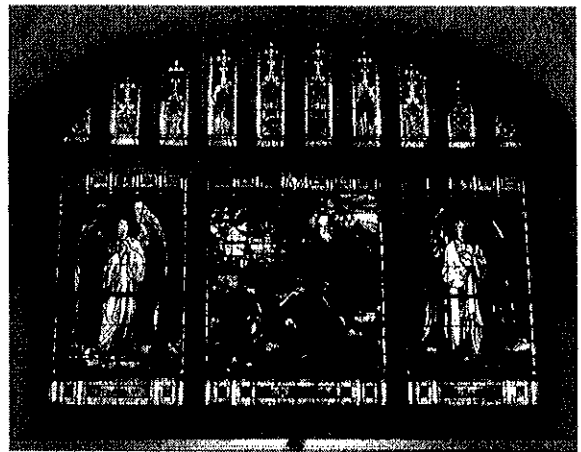
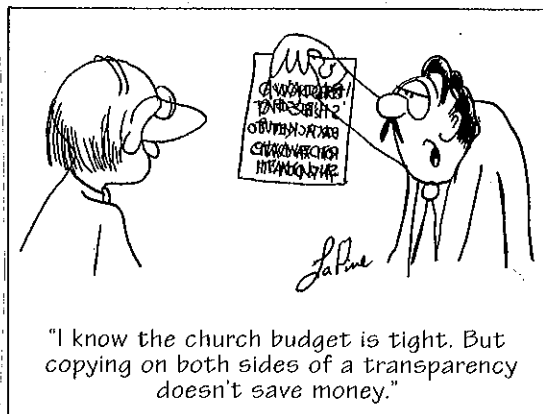
Throughout most of 2009, we missed our budgeted stewardship by about 10%, and ended the year about 8% below the budget amount. For the first two months of 2010, we missed our budgeted amount by 21%. As a result, the balance in the general fund has declined more than \$15,000 over the past 14 months and stood at -\$5810 at the end of February. We are now at a point where we can no longer assume we are just seeing the typical ups and downs of stewardship income—the shortfall trend has continued too long and has not showed any signs of sustained improvement.

In order to balance any budget, expenditures must be reduced or income must be increased. At the April Finance Committee meeting, we will be discussing ways to trim our budget. Based on the figures above, it looks like we should be looking to improve by at least 10%. On a \$229,000 budget, that's about \$23,000 for the year (in reduced expenditures or increased income, or a combination of both). We don't expect this to be easy or painless, but we feel that we are at a point where effective actions must be taken in order to sustain our ministry. We ask that everyone give this careful consideration.

### **Electronic offering tip:**

If you participate in Electronic Offering, you can still make special offerings using the pew envelopes and marking the purpose of the offering on the envelope. If you wish to have the offering included in your year-end giving statement, make sure you write your name or your envelope number on the envelope.

The Finance Committee



## GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY

The Window restoration committee is designating Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> as Good Samaritan Sunday. Allyn's sermon will be of the story of the Good Samaritan, and the children have made posters of their interpretation of the good Samaritan which are on display in the library room. We are promoting this Sunday as a special opportunity to support the financing of the Good Samaritan window. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins and also included in this newsletter. There will be no special offering taken. All donations to be received in with the regular offering. Thank you for your past donations and we ask that you continue to support this project.

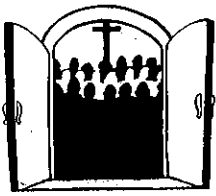
Now thank we all our God  
Window Committee

## Church is Not a Spectator Sport!

As a church we have a mission. It is summed up in the five areas below. How are you helping each area to improve in our church? This is our mission - how are you participating in it? Are you helping us to...

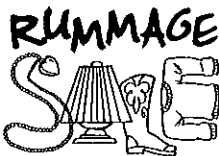
- I--Invite and challenge people to come to faith. **[EVANGELISM]**
- C--Celebrate God's presence through powerful worship. **[WORSHIP]**
- TH--be Thoroughly equipped for your walk of faith. **[CHRISTIAN EDUCATION]**
- U--Use the gifts God has given you to serve. **[DISCIPLESHIP]**
- S--Set aside a portion of your personal resources to be returned to God. **[STEWARDSHIP]**



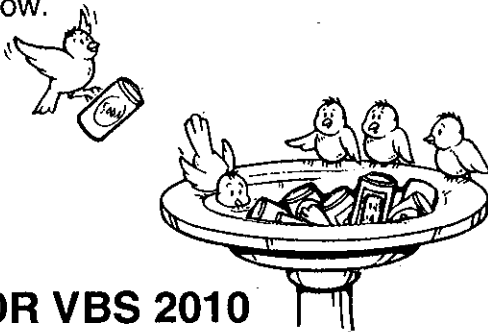


## HEALTHY CHURCH LEADERS EVENT

Could you use some care, reinforcement, training, understanding and skills to succeed as a leader in our church? Do you even see yourself as a leader in our church? Well, the Healthy Church Leadership event will offer practical guidance, advice and techniques to develop and maintain healthy leadership in our church. If you are in an elected position in any group in our church you are invited to join us as we attend the event on April 18th at Evangelical UMC in Brookville. Rev. Eric Park will give the Keynote message and Bishop Bickerton will lead the closing communion service. We will leave the Covenant Center at 1:30 and be back about 9:00. Cost is \$12 and includes all resources, snacks and dinner. To sign up please call the church office by April 12th.



The flea market will now be called the rummage sale. It will be held Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 8 AM- 1PM in the Covenant Center. Donations will be accepted in May. Details to follow.



## CANS FOR VBS 2010

In the past month (through March 15<sup>th</sup>) we received 1838 cans for our 2010 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2009 is 19,889 cans. Thank you to those who brought in cans. Please continue to save or start saving aluminum cans for VBS/Habitat. All kinds of aluminum cans—pop, fruit juice, tea, health drinks and beer cans. Drop your cans off at the church ramp anytime.

**HELP!** We are 5,179 cans behind March 15<sup>th</sup> of last year. Thank you, The Can Man

## ASHLAND CHOIR CONCERT

On Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> we will be treated to a concert by the Ashland University Choir from Ashland, Ohio. Dr. Rowland Blackley, conductor, will be bringing the fifty voice choir here on their return trip from a week of concerts in New York. They will participate in the worship service at 11:00, eat with us at our congregational dinner, and then perform a concert at 2:00. They were with us in 2004. We are very pleased to have a chance to host them again. You won't want to miss this!

We will need to host the choir members overnight. The students will arrive Saturday evening, spend the night with their host families and return to the church at 9:30 Sunday morning. Hosts will only be responsible for a snack Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning. If you can possibly host one or more members, please call the church office or contact Linda Scaife for a housing form.

Linda Scaife  
724-545-7039



## THANK YOU'S

Dear Methodist Friends,

*The lovely flowers and accompanying consolation will always be treasured.*

*The George Gallaher Family*



*Thanks for all the cards, calls, visits, prayers & concerns during my recent hospital stay.*

*They are appreciated.*

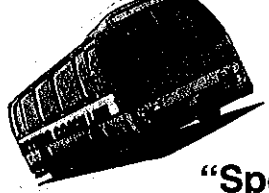
*Jim Hodgson*



*Hi, I would just like to thank everyone who helped make and send the Valentine's day package to school. It was really cute, and I enjoyed it. School is going well, and I really like it. Hope everyone is doing well. Thanks*

*Alyssa Krozely*





# DICK CLARKSON'S JUKEBOX HOP

"Sponsored by SIFT"

"Remember the Beach Party" movies of the 1950's? Join the "Bobby Soxers" and "Greasers" as they perform and serve the meal in an all NEW jumpin' musical featuring your favorite songs from the 50's and 60's. Dig out your saddle shoes and poodle skirts and join us at the hop! You can join in singing your favorites or just get up and dance!!! The trip will be May 19, 2010, the cost is \$79.00. Included in the cost is Motor coach transportation, tickets to the hop, dinner, a complete guided tour of the Baldwin-Reynolds house museum, a stop at Finneys Chocolate Shop, and loads of fun. Will leave Foodland parking lot at 8:45 AM, stop at Perkins Restaurant at 10:30 AM in Meadville for brunch, (this is not included in your costs). Reservations due by April 3<sup>rd</sup> and all monies are due by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Audrey or Sally Felton to sign up for the trip.



# All Hands on Deck!

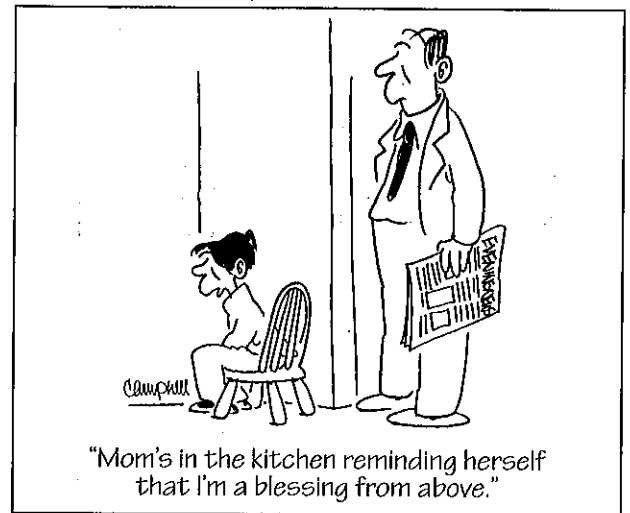
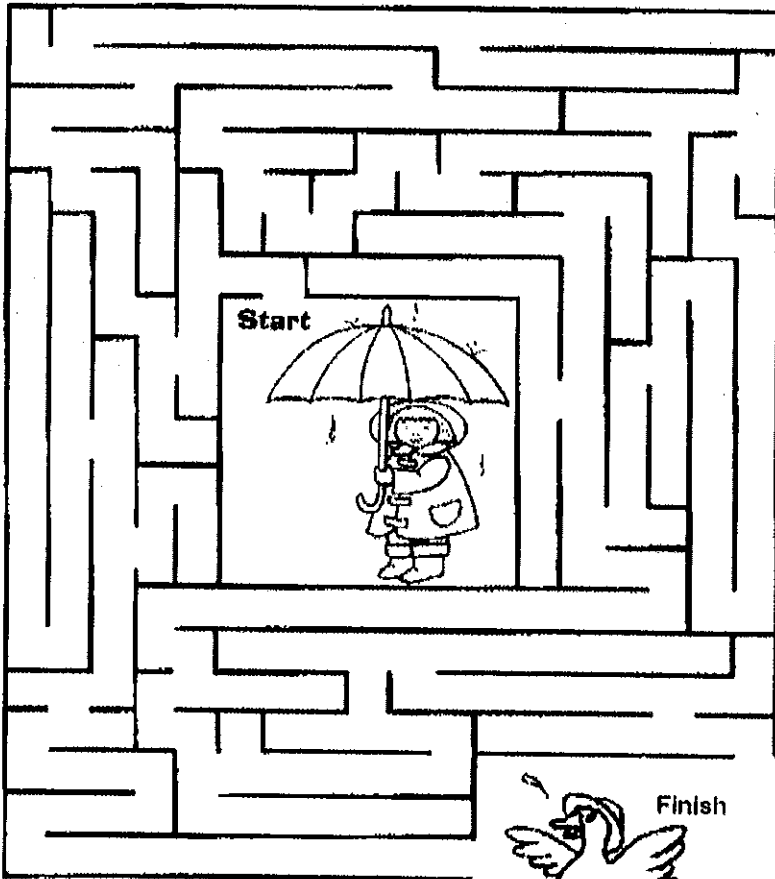
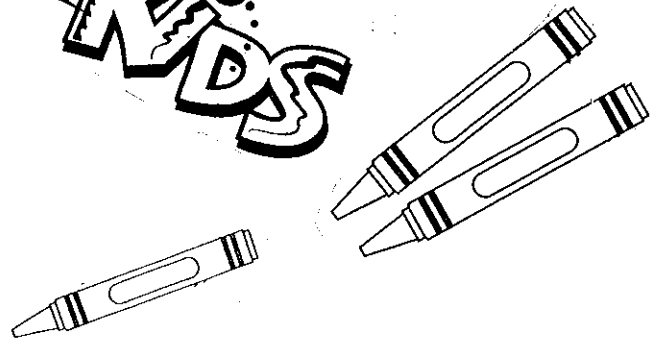
VBS 2010 – July 12-16<sup>th</sup> –

Ages 3 years thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Mark your calendars now for a High Seas Expedition and get ready for a swashbuckling adventure through God's Word. We'll learn the stories of Paul as he was freed from prison, survived a shipwreck and shared with a community of believers. Along with the Bible lessons we will enjoy Ship Rec Games, Clipper Ship Crafts, Sing and Play Splash and enjoy some snack Goodies from the Gallery. As always, we need helpers of all ages (6<sup>th</sup> grade thru mature adult) to make VBS a successful outreach program. Watch future newsletters, bulletins and the website for registration and volunteer signups.



## Just for KIDS



"Mom's in the kitchen reminding herself that I'm a blessing from above."

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Matthew Rush
- 3 Jolena Reefer
- 4 Jessica Cornman
- 9 Herb Coggon
- 10 Dennis Hoffman
- 12 Patty Bruno
- 12 Isaac Zielinski 
- 13 Bill Hake
- 14 Mary Anne Hankey
- 15 Dante Aires
- 15 Isabella Aires 
- 15 Tony Green
- 15 Emily King
- 15 Alyssa Krozely
- 16 Gracie Kohl
- 19 Jane Shuttleworth
- 19 Meaghan Volek
- 22 Gregory "Mac" Toth
- 26 Kelly Aires
- 26 Linda Powell
- 27 Sally Felton
- 28 Robyn Green




**SORRY**  
We Missed Your  
**BIRTHDAY!**


March 31st

Carlee Beers



*We extend our Christian compassion and concern to...*

*~Nancy Smith and her family on the death of her brother, Kenneth D. Smith on Monday, February 1, 2010.* 

*~Roy (Bobbi) Williamson and his family on the death of his brother Joel L. Williamson on Sunday, February 21, 2010. Joel was the son of Berenice Williamson.* 



## APRIL SIFT LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 15, 2010  
WATCH FOR FURTHER  
DETAILS

Reservations due by  
Monday, April 12th.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Harry "Pat" & Jean Wolfe
- 17 Josh & Karen Ricketts
- 19 Leroy & Patricia Snow
- 22 Melvin & Ruth Dalzell



## TWIN BOYS

Congratulations to Amanda & Josh McMillen on the birth of twin boys. Collin Elliot and Connor Edward were born March 5, 2010. Grandparents are Linda & John Vansicklin.



## BAPTISM

We celebrated the baptism of Ashley Nicole Yankasky on Sunday, March 14, 2010. Ashley is the daughter of Kim & John Yankasky. She was born January 14, 2010.



## FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

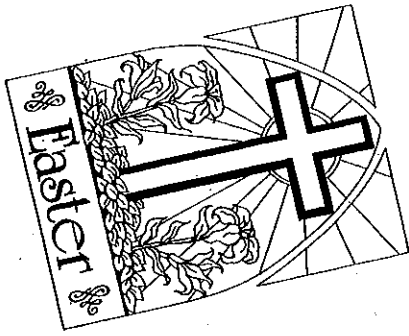
Thursday, April 22, 2010  
7:00 PM in the Covenant Center  
**PROGRAM:** A Spring tea & hats  
with Jill Bernot



## LENTEN DINNERS

Our first two dinners were affected by the heavy snow in late February—but the turnout for March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> was 290 and 295 meals, both very good.

We'll have a full report on all the dinners in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all who have helped at the dinners and who baked the delicious pies.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>4</b>  <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	<b>5</b> 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Trustees	<b>6</b>  8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	<b>1</b> 8:00 AM OVR-CC 12:00 PM Community Good Friday Service-Grace Presb. 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Communion	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	<b>3</b> 5:00 PM Brenda Beers-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender- Church
<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Care Cans Available	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Church Council	<b>13</b> 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM AM Vets-CC	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Choir 2:45 PM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	<b>15</b> 12:00 PM SIFT-CC	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Grace Trudgen-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-
<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp #43 SUVCM-CC	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Red Cross-CC 7:00 PM Evangelism/ Outreach	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM Choir 2:45 PM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle-CC	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00-4:00 PM Girl Scouts- CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM District Conference	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Discipleship <b>MAY NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM Choir 2:45 PM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM Rainbow Road Advisory	<b>30</b> 