



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

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[irwinfirstumc@comcast.net](mailto:irwinfirstumc@comcast.net)

Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Zaq Phillips – Youth Minister

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

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**February 22, 2015**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

**GATHERING & WELCOME**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**L:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

**L:** Please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor.

**MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY**

**THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION “Near the Cross”**

**LENTEN CANDLE CEREMONY**

**Candle Lighter - Philip**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** In life and death, baptism and flood ...

**P:** ... come to be washed in the waters of God.

**L:** From hunger and torment, demons and wild beasts ...

**P:** ... leave the wilderness of your lives.

**L:** With grace and mercy, forgiveness and compassion ...

**P:** ... prepare to meet the one who loves us.

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

**Painter of rainbows amidst the clouds, set your bow once more in the sky, and remind us that your love and mercy are far greater than your righteous anger. As we enter the season of Lent, remind us anew of your saving grace, and of our chance for rebirth, through the cleansing waters of our baptism. Amidst the storms and floods of life, teach us the ways of life and death, that we may use this season as a time of gratitude for the past, and a time of hope for the future, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 154**

**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**

*Children come forward during the last verse.*

**CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

*(Our Children’s Collection this morning will be used for the Prison Outreach Ministry. Please see the announcement for more details.)*

**ANTHEM 8:15 “Purchased By Love”**

**10:45 “Purchased By Love” – Chancel Choir**

**RESPONSIVE READING No. 756 Psalm 25**

**PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY "I Surrender All"**

**\*DOXOLOGY No. 95**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below:  
praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

Ever-loving, ever-giving God, as we bring our gifts to your altar, we confess our need for repentance. We have often let the call of the world drown out your call in our lives. We have given in to the temptation to see the world and its resources as ours to use as we please. We have lived too often as if we were the center of the universe, and we have ignored your pervading presence. Help us move through this season with repentant, generous hearts so that we might not just see your great blessings on us, but see ways to be a blessing to others. In the wonderful name of Christ, our Savior and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER HYMN No. 252 "When Jesus Came to Jordan"**

*The Altar is open during the hymn.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN**

**SERMON SCRIPTURE (NRSV) Mark 1:9-15**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF PARTING No. 2200 "Great Is the Lord"**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING "Postlude in G Minor"**

**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

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**CANCELLING SUNDAY SERVICES: Unless state officials declare a "State of Emergency" which requires all non-emergency personnel to stay off the roads, Sunday service will be held here at FUMC.** Please

evaluate the roads in your area to determine if they are safely passable. If you are not comfortable traveling on the roads surrounding your house, please stay safe and stay home.

In the event that Rev. Lake does cancel services, he will contact the area TV stations, provide them with the cancellation code for our church, and give them specific information. The cancellation will then be listed with others in the area.

Please do not call the church to see if services are being held. This takes our custodian away from his tasks of preparing the building for services, clearing snow and ice and spreading salt on the sidewalks, and in every way ensuring that our property is safe for our worshipers and the community.

Winter weather is always unpredictable. All-in-all, please use your best judgment, err on the side of caution, and stay safe.

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**EASTER CANDY SALE!** The Finance Committee is selling Easter chocolates from Wilson Candies. Pick up a brochure and order form on the table in the narthex. Please complete your order form and place it in the church office door slot along with your payment. Catalogs can be recycled and placed back on the table for others to use. **Orders are due today, Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Candy will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Proceeds from this sale will go to the church general fund.

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**NORWIN ROTARY 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHILI & WING COOKOFF**

**Saturday, February 28, 2015-01-22 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Circleville Fire Hall**

Contact Bill Roscoe - [allkare@yahoo.com](mailto:allkare@yahoo.com) or 724-864-3310 (daytime) for more details.

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE NORWIN ROTARY BACKPACK PROJECT!**

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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** All articles for the March 2015 newsletter are due in the office today, Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please email your articles to [fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net](mailto:fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net) or drop a hard copy of it off in the office. Articles received after February 22<sup>nd</sup> will be printed in the April newsletter.

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**GREETERS** – Greeters are need for both services. These friendly people stand at the door greeting all who attend our services. They welcome and provide directions to visitors. This is a job for all ages.

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**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH**

**Today, Sunday, February 22**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Newsletter Deadline**

- 8:00 Prayer Time
- 8:15 Worship
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:30 Confirmation Class
- 10:45 Worship
- 2:00 FISH & CHIPS
- 4:00 Temple Bells
- 4:45 SonShiners

**Monday, February 23**

- 6:30 Grief Support
- 7:00 Dartball –H
- 7:00 District Office Meeting

**Tuesday, February 24**

- 9:00 Men’s Work Group
- 6:15 TOPS
- 7:30 NA

**Wednesday, February 25**

- 11:30 Mid Week Lenten Service  
@ United Church of Christ, Main St., Irwin
- 7:00 Women’s Book Study
- 7:00 Yoga
- 7:00 UM Men

**Thursday, February 26**

- 6:15 C Bells
- 7:00 Disciple
- 7:15 Choir
- 8:15 Living Last Supper Choir

**Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1**

Youth Retreat at Camp Allegheny

**Saturday, February 28**

- 1:00 – 4:00 PM Norwin Rotary Chili Cookoff  
@ Circleville Fire Hall
- 6:00 Alternative Worship

**Next Sunday, March 1**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Communion**

- 8:00 Prayer Time
- 8:15 Worship
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:30 Confirmation Class
- 10:45 Worship
- No FISH & CHIPS
- 4:00 Temple Bells
- 4:45 SonShiners

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**CHILDREN’S COLLECTIONS:** Our Children’s Collection today will be used for the *Prison Outreach Ministry*. *Prison Outreach Ministry* continues weekly interactive Bible studies in Western Pennsylvania correctional facilities. The health of the ministry is stable. It has maintained its presence and programming at 4 Pennsylvania State facilities and two Federal facilities. Unfortunately our mission field continues to grow. In 1974 there were approximately 4,000 inmates in state facilities. In 2014 there are more than 51,000 inmates.

A second aspect of the ministry is helping address the needs of inmate children. When a parent and/or parents are arrested many times there is no one who will take responsibility for the minor children. If they are under ten years of age they are placed into foster care. Children between the ages of ten and seventeen are placed in regional Emergency Youth Shelters. For ten years we have helped an average of 400 children a year at the Emergency Youth Shelter in Ebensburg by providing clothes, toys, backpacks, and duffle bags.

Statistics: SCI Laurel Highlands 5 volunteers 35-40 participants. FCI Loretto 3 volunteers 30 participants. FPC Loretto 3 volunteers 27 participants. SCI Forest 2 volunteers, 35-45 participants. FCI McKean 3 volunteers 55 participants. SCI Pine Grove 1 volunteer 8-12 participants. SCI Greene 1 volunteer 5-12 participants.

As with all ministry programs financial help is always needed to purchase study materials and Bibles. Office expenses also require funding. In addition to monetary needs, we have an immediate and ongoing need for Spanish speaking volunteers given the ever increasing number of Hispanic inmates. This is especially true in Federal facilities. We also need prayer. Our ministry needs to be added to prayer lists for continual prayer for the inmates, their families, and our volunteers both present and future.

Our vision for the future is to be able to offer the Disciple Bible Study program in the Western Pa correctional facilities which we currently do not have a program. Our vision also includes opening short term programs in county jails. For the last ten years while serving as the Missionary/Director of the *Prison Outreach Ministry*, I was employed full time in the private sector. As of August 2014, I have decided to cease that employment and to use that time and energy to further develop our prison ministry. This should allow us to expand our programming to reach more men and women inmates and to help their children as well.

Sincerely,

Randy S. Datsko

Missionary Director, Prison Outreach Ministry

*Prison Outreach Ministry: 2/15 - \$*

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**THE LIVING LAST SUPPER:** Living Last Supper yard signs may be picked up next Sunday, February 22. If you still have a sign from previous years, you may place it any time after that day. Please be sure to ask permission before placing a sign on someone else's property.

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**SPUD BAR** – We are planning a spud bar on Friday Evening, March 6th, 5PM to 7PM to include drinks & dessert. This is a part of the “Church Talents” Fund Raising & proceeds from the dinner will go to our church.

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**SUMMER CAMP NEWS...** Camp Brochures are in! Camp Sunday was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> and coffee, hot chocolate, bugs on a log and indoor s'mores were served after both services! Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny and Jumonville offer new camps each year. Pick up a booklet in the narthex for information on any of these three UM Church Camps and submit your registration form to the church office. You can also register online. If you register online, please contact the office to get your campership funding. Debbie, our church financial secretary will then send off your registration along with a church check for 30% of the total event payment to the camp of your choice. This will save your spot. You can make payments over the next few months, or if additional funding is needed, you can contact that camp and ask for scholarship. There are monies available for anyone to attend camp! I hope that you will experience camping this year...the best week of the summer!

Thank you to everyone that has contributed to our “Clean Clothes for Campers”. This is an ongoing project and all the monies collected from donations go directly to our Campership Funding.

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**SAFE SANCTUARIES 2015**

*The changes in PA law that you need to know.*

Earlier this year, Governor Corbett signed into law House Bill 435 to increase protection for children and youth in Pennsylvania. There are several aspects to HB 435 that will affect the local church.

***Beginning at age 14***, all volunteers dealing with children, youth and vulnerable adults will be required to have clearances. ***If they have been a Pennsylvania resident for at least ten years***, volunteers will now need to have the State Police criminal background check (Act 34) and the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Childline, Act

...y *have not been a PA resident for at least 10 years*, they will also be required to obtain an FBI clearance. *Clearances will now have to be updated every three years.*

If you volunteer or are involved with the children of the church you may need to update your clearances. There is a binder in the office with the names and dates of the clearances we have on file. Please check the binder, if you are in the gray area you will need to up date your clearances. There will be forms available in the office. Please use the envelope provided, and place the completed clearance forms in the office door slot. The church will pay the fees. The completed forms have your personal information on them, Please do not leave the completed forms lay on the desk or in a mailbox.

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**2015 Community Mid-Week Lenten Services**  
**Promises, Promises, Promises: God Redeems Us**

Sponsored by the Men's Prayer Fellowship at  
First United Church of Christ, 400 Main Street, Irwin, PA

Hymn singing starts at 11:30 AM – Preaching starts at Noon – \*Lunch starts at 12:30PM

Pianist: Jimmie Ruth Caughron – Signer: Connie Bridgeman

**Wednesday, February 25** – Topic: The Noahic Covenant    Speaker: Rev. Nick Poole

**Wednesday, March 4** – Topic: The Abrahamic Covenant    Speaker: Rev. Edward Kimmel

**Wednesday, March 11** – Topic: The Land Covenant    Speaker: Abraham Sandler

**Wednesday, March 18** – Topic: The Mosaic Covenant    Speaker: Rev. Ron Durika

**Wednesday, March 25** – Topic: The Davidic Covenant    Speaker: Sherri Pridle

**Wednesday, April 1** – Topic: The New Covenant    Speaker: Dr. Ronald Wakeman

**\*Lunch is provided by Colonial Grille – Cost - \$6.00**