

March 2023



The Perry Scope

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter
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A Message from The Pastor



Looking for someone or something to fill the God shaped space in our hearts is a very real journey that we all engage in throughout our lives. We sometimes turn to things we mistake as a place of life; to things, people, or places that seem like the answer. We hope that they may bring us what we desire or need, but we soon discover that they are empty and devoid of what we need.

The Easter story asks us to consider the reality of our Lords resurrection as an answer to all that we seek. The angels at the tomb from the Gospel of Luke ask a bold question, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

They offer us the hope that because the tomb is empty, and Jesus has risen there is life; life that can provide the answers to all that we seek.

I pray that in our seeking we will be led to an ever-deeper relationship with God and with each other. I pray that our faith may deepen and our service to one another expand. I pray that gratitude will fill our hearts and motivate our giving for the good of others.

May the blessings of our Risen Lord fill you with life,

Pastor Vic



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*





While 2023 is still young – only about 60 days since the new year began it has been a very, very busy time at the pantry!



NUMBERS TELL IT ALL SINCE JAN. 1, 2023 - FEB. 25, 2023

- Pantry Days Open: so far – 24 days
- Volunteer Hours given: **over** 328 hours -
- Md. Food Bank Donation: **about** 5000 lbs of food
- Food Purchase Donations from PHUMC/CCUMC: **over** 3000 lbs. of food/grocery/personal hygiene items
- Food Donations from the Community: hundreds of items!
- Weis Bakery Donations: Every week, twice a week, the Joppa Rd Weis donates hundreds of dollars of baked items – (breads and desserts)
- Families Served: **over** 250 families.
- Individuals Served: **over** 720 individuals.
- Bags of Food given: **over** 2500 bags
- March appointments: **approximately** 144 families

You would think that with over 8000 lbs. of donated/purchased food items, that would be enough – it sure sounds like a lot!! Read on!

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD:

In March of 2020 the pantry client based started to ‘balloon’ with the number of people seeking help. Because of the generosity of you and Camp Chapel UMC and the community at large – the pantry met the needs of hundreds of families throughout the pandemic (from 2020 – 2022). In the fall of 2022, the second wave hit the community – the economic inflation wave. Prices at the grocery stores went up, gas went up, rents went up, etc. Because of that, new families joined the ‘pantry family’ and continue to need our assistance. But we are not ‘done adding’ to this wave. Now, starting in March the last of the pandemic government help is returning to pre- pandemic levels. The food stamp program will return to the pre-pandemic assistance (both for qualifying and for distributing). What this means, is that families that received food stamp assistance will either



see it decrease immensely or even be eliminated altogether. Pantries across the nation are preparing for the next major spike in needing assistance – families will find that their spending ability at the grocery stores will be greatly decreased!

We are very aware of the cost increases – many of the donations we receive are ‘cash’ for the pantry to ‘buy’ what is needed, as needed. Our two major stores we purchase from is Aldi’s and Dollar Tree. We literally spend hundreds of dollars at both every month – but we are definitely feeling the inflation! Dollar Tree is no longer a dollar – but \$1.25. This is a 25% hike in cost, while we are also needing to buy more. Aldi’s - where we buy non- perishables, as needed, is still the best value for the dollars spent. Yet, we have seen prices increase by at least 20%.

So just like every family household, the pantry is handling the inflation as best as it can. Is it getting ‘harder’ yes, but the generosity of PHUMC families, of CCUMC families, and the Perry Hall community – continues to keep the shelves filled, as best as possible. The pantry succeeds because of the generosity of so many – and it will continue to succeed. Your help has always been what makes the mission so successful – so, if you wonder what the pantry ever needs – the following is the ‘grocery list’ we continue to fill the bags with.

PANTRY GROCERY LIST

- Personal items: Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, clothing detergent
- Non- Perishables: potatoes; pasta, pasta sauce; diced tomatoes; canned pasta; soup, peanut butter, jelly, side dishes (like flavored rice or noodles); macaroni and cheese; canned pork/beans; canned black beans; canned kidney beans; canned vegetables – peas, potatoes, corn, carrots, mixed vegetables, and green beans; canned fruit – peaches, pears, mixed fruit, applesauce; ramen noodles, boxed crackers/cookies, canned chili, and finally canned meat like spam or canned chicken.

Your donations are blessings. If they are food items – great! If they are personal items – outstanding!! If they are monetary – awesome. In other words – every donation you give, is a true gift and makes the pantry so successful!

If you ever wonder what your monetary donations buy – it fills the gaps to the physical items donated. We literally shop at Aldi’s and Dollar Tree every other week, filling the gaps on the pantry shelves. It could be 72



bottles of shampoo, or 60 cans of tuna fish or 100 bars of soap. In other words – it allows the shelves to be filled with the items given out regularly.

The bags will continue to be filled, the families helped will continue to receive your love – unfortunately – the need will continue and most like grow even more! Thank you for your love, for your help, for your donations! But mostly, thank you for your continued support!!



Children’s Ministries is sponsoring our Spring Craft Day. It will be held on Sunday, March 26th from 10:45-11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join in the fun – children, youth, and adults! There will be plenty of fun crafts for everyone, as well as some delicious spring-themed snacks! You can sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex so we know you will be there. But, if you forget to sign up, come anyway. There is always extras enough for everyone!!

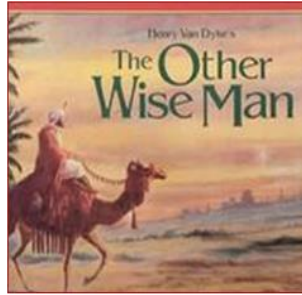


A most successful Game Night was held on February 18 at Janeen Beebe's lovely home. We didn't have as many people come as expected, but everyone agreed we had a great time!

Sherilyn Wilmer was a surprise ringer at the pool table! The snacks were delicious, and we all agreed we'd like to plan another Game Night in a few months. Watch for the notice of our next one!

On Saturday, March 25th from 3-5 pm we are showing the movie, “Jesus” recorded live at Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA. The movie will take you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person to ever walk the face of the earth. No reservations needed to attend, and the movie is FREE! Information can be found in the Narthex.

On Sunday, April 2nd, at 4:00 pm we will be attending Horizon Cinemas in Fallston to see “The Journey: A Music Special from Andrea Bocelli”. If you enjoy listening to Andrea Bocelli, then this is a movie you are sure to enjoy! Flyers and a sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex. The deadline for signing up is March 5th.



At the 10:00 a.m. service on January 29th, our Sunday School presented The Other Wise Man, a story we read every January as we celebrate Epiphany and the journey of the Wise Men as they came to honor Jesus, the Newborn King.

Our special thanks to:

- Lily, as she not only acolyted for our service, but was our line prompter as well.
- Our friend, Mrs. Michelle, who donated the beautiful palm tree prop.
- Our friend, Mr. Dan, who served from the balcony as the voice of God (and helped us tremendously with the sound system).
- Our friends in Mrs. Allison and Mr. Joe’s classes, who helped make the Wise Men cards that welcomed each of you to our service.

We hope you enjoyed our presentation and will remember seeing how Artaban, the other wise man, lived out the scripture of Matthew 25, as he helped “the least of these” in his lifelong search for Jesus, our Lord.

Trystan, Sam, Sophia, Paige, Gabe, Lily, Ms. Debbie and Ms. Joyce



Trystan Boyd as Artaban
Sara Bosque as Young Mother
Sophia VanHook as Shopkeeper



Paige McLaughlin as Young Slave Girl



Gabe Zell as Soldier 2



Ms. Debbie as Sick Man & Soldier 1



Ms. Joyce as Narrator

Thank you to our Sunday School!



Come on Saturday, March 11th for a delicious Spaghetti Dinner. We are serving spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert and drinks. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. This is our first dinner since we were closed due to COVID. Please come out and support us!!

We are excited to have our own "Chef Mike DePalo back in the kitchen for this event. But, we still need some help for the dinner. Looking for greeters, servers, and bussers. Please call Denise at 443-787-8687 if you can help. We really need you!

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt is coming up soon! Sign up can be found at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4da4ae29a57-breakfast3#/ Be sure to register to help out and also to attend. We want this to be an awesome event for the kids!!



The thrift shop will be having fill a bag for the month of March \$5 for a brown bag \$10 for large trash bag.



- March 11 – Spaghetti Dinner
- 18 – Card Making Craft Night
- 25 – Jesus Movie
- 26 – Family Spring Craft Event
- April 6 – Maundy Thursday Church Service
- 7 – Good Friday Church Service
- 8 – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt
- 9 – Easter **Christ Is Risen!**
- May 13 – Spring Event TBD
- July 24-28 VBS
- 30 – VBS Sunday – ONE CHURCH SERVICE ONLY followed by potluck luncheon

