Pastor Jan’s corner . . .

Slow Us Down

Slow us down..for this Holy Season.

Still our racing spirits...

Calm our racing minds...

Centre us..and let our longing linger.

Let it take root and create a beautiful yearning space that has the time to ache.

Slow us down, for this Holy Season. (Author Unknown)

It is Lent - the forty days before Easter. (Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter.) Basically, it’s about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time).

In its simplistic form, Lent is that pre-Easter season of personal spiritual preparation when we’re invited to take a long, good look at ourselves. Some keep spiritual practices or disciplines for these 40 days that offer focus on reflection and the passion of Christ. Some ignore the Lenten season altogether. Others of us dabble in it...meaning, we don’t quite know what to do with it, so we open ourselves for opportunities to explore our faith in a more intentional way.

Our congregation will be “taking on life-giving actions” during Lent this year as an intentional way of growing closer to Christ. (Please find three opportunities listed below.) We invite you to adopt one, two, or all three of these simple practices as you discover new ways of giving your heart to God.

“I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24:7

On the journey with you!

Pastor Jan
Fun Friday – March 6, 6-8 pm
Come join in the fun in Fellowship Hall. You never know what crafts or activities are planned for this kid-filled night!

Book Club – Sunday, March 8
We will meet in Fellowship Hall around 12 noon for lunch. We will discuss the book *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. Coordinator is Nancy Dotter

Love Life-Live Lent-Transform Your World
There are 3 opportunities to Live Lent:
- **Kindness Counts**
- **Cottage Teas (or Coffee):**
  - **Art Journaling**

Attached to this newsletter are explanations for each opportunity.

We hope you can join in one, two or even all three!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – Sunday, March 15
“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.” — 1 Corinthians 3:9

Invest in futures. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you support: Families rebuilding their homes and lives after disasters in places like Puerto Rico. Farmers who share food and agricultural training with their communities in places like Rwanda. Youth who attend faith-forming events like National Junior High Conference. Volunteers who serve for a week or a year, beginning a lifetime of Christ-like service. Thank you for investing in futures! *Donations will continue through Sunday, April 5.*

Soup Kitchen – Monday, March 16
Your help is always needed as we serve the needy at the New Journey Community Outreach, 138 South 6th Street, Reading.
A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board of food items and servers needed. Thank you for always supplying our needs.
Volunteer Recognition Award
This year the New Journey Community Outreach will be awarding our church for their outstanding volunteerism on Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 am at the Double Tree. Everyone is invited. There is a fee for the breakfast. Look for details in the bulletin.

Saturday, March 21 is Auction Night

AUCTION March 21, 4-7:30-ish
Auction month is here. We need donations! Please fill out a form, found outside the office or in room 3, when you bring in your item, or have decided on your donation (a service, dinner, a baked goods handmade or homemade items, a basket...) You can put any donation slips in Nancy Dotter’s mailbox. Auction items can go in room 3.

On Auction Day:
You will need to register and get a number when you arrive. You MUST be present to win any Dueling Auction or Best Offer Auction items. Plan to be there until 7-ish. It will take awhile to tabulate all the bids.

This year we will have THREE different auctions:

The Gifts of Gratitude: We did this last year. Buy your tickets, walk around the Gifts of Gratitude Table and put your tickets in any of the bags of the item you’d like home. If your ticket is picked, you get the item. New this year: Multiple tickets will be drawn for as many items that are donated. If we get 6 bags of your favorite chocolate cookies...we’ll draw 6 different tickets, for 6 winners!

The Dueling Silent Auction: We did this last year. See something you like? Write your number and your bid on the sheet in front of the item...but check back...someone could outbid you. There will be 2 different dueling auctions, closing at different times. Bids will close on the RED covered table at 5:15, bids close on the BLUE table at 6:15.

Best Offer Auction: See something you like on this table, and write your number down and the highest amount you’d be willing to pay. Fold your bid, put it in the jar, and wait to see if you’re the highest bidder. You can always go back and put a higher bid in the jar if you’re not sure yours is the best offer. Bidding ends at 5:50.
Food will be on sale. It’s a nice way to have dinner with friends and raise money for church programs and ministry.

The Auction in Brief:
- 4:00  Doors open /Kitchen Open/Bidding begins
- 5:15  Red Table Dueling Silent Auction Closes
- 5:50  Best Offer Auction Closes
- 6:15  Blue Table Dueling Silent Auction Closes

Gifts of Gratitude Drawings will begin around 5:30, and again at 6:30.

You MUST be present to win either of the Dueling Silent and the Best Offer Auctions.

Friendly’s Fundraiser
Wednesday, March 25, 5-8 pm
Join us for a wonderful fundraiser at the West Lawn location. Friendly’s will share a portion of the dinner proceeds with WCOTB! We will also be selling baked goods, so please help by baking some delicious items for us to sell and/or volunteering to work at the bake table. Please have all baked goods at the church by 3 pm.

Easter Flower Orders due Sunday, March 29
Attached you will find the order form for Easter Flowers. Please return your order no later than Sunday, March 29. There are many choices of flowers and colors which will enhance our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Updates to our Fellowship Directory:
Pg. 2 – Vicki & Dennis Clements’ phone number is 484-332-3615
Pg. 3 – Peter & Jeanne Hamilton’s phone number is 610-507-3185
Pg. 8 – Abi & Dan Young’s new address is: 2603 Saint Albans Drive, West Lawn 19609
In Our Prayers
Nancy Custo, Loretta DeLong, Dawn Ernst,
Tom Evans, Susie Gawinski, Joan Hornberger,
Bob Keim, Chase Kuhns, Rebecca Markey,
Glenn Pfautz, Betty Powell, Mike Ringler,
Ralph Scott, Karen Weller

Londonderry Village news
On Saturday, July 25, we will be holding our annual Auction
and Chicken BBQ. While our Auction is held in July, we need
to receive items much sooner in order to prepare the event and
advertise auction donations in event publications.

Auction Item Ideas:
Art: pottery, paintings, glasswork; Bakery – gift certificate
for a special occasion cake, basket of cookies, etc.; Beauty
Salons – gift certificate, basket of hair care products;
Cosmetics – Mary Kay/Merle Norman/Avon gift basket, gift
certificates; Entertainment & Dining – theatre tickets, movie
passes, restaurant gift certificates; Florists – silk
arrangements, plants, gift certificates; Gift Baskets – food
items, themed such as camping, baby auto care, pet, crafty,
etc.; Jewelers – unique or classic rings, necklaces, watches,
etc. Nail Salons – gift certificates, baskets with products; Spa
Treatments – gift certificates, etc.; Sporting Goods – tickets
to sporting events, sports memorabilia; Travel or Getaways
– gift certificate for a trip or overnight stay at a bed &
breakfast, resort, etc.; Unique Experiences – dinner party in
someone’s home, pizza or ice cream party for a small group, a
round of golf with someone, a tour of someone’s place of
business, vacation at a beach home. Some items will be
featured in event flyers, our BBQ booklet as well as included
on our website and Facebook page. All items will be included
in a PowerPoint presentation at the event. Donors are
recognized by their name being listed with their auction
item(s). Please contact Vicki Clements 484-332-3615
Our Vision:
The Wyomissing Church of the Brethren will be a loving, accepting community of believers. Together we will encourage and support each other both to grow spiritually through Jesus' teachings and to actively, personally serve the community, both locally and beyond, so that God's love is shared through us.

Our Mission:
To show God’s love.

Worship – Sundays, 10:30 am

March 1 – First Sunday of Lent
“New You!” Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

March 8 – Second Sunday of Lent
“Kites and Strings!” Isaiah 65:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17

March 15 – Third Sunday of Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing
“Good News!” John 4:5-42

March 22 – Fourth Sunday of Lent
“A Closer Look” Psalm 23

March 29 – Decidedly Different 5th Sunday
“That Sweet Sweet Fragrance”
Matthew 2:11; John 19:40; Mark 16:1
Be Ready for Summer and Camp Swatara!

Check your calendars and reserve early to get the Early Bird discount. See Pat Harris and let him know your choice so he can prepare the Good as God certificate which pays half of your fee. Campers may also write a few paragraphs about why they want to go to Camp Swatara and submit it to the Church office by **Sunday, March 22**.

One lucky camper will receive the Voelker Campership which covers the entire fee for camp. The winner will be announced **Sunday, March 29**, so start writing and planning for summer and a great time in nature, learning about God’s love at Camp Swatara.