



Main Street Messenger



2
0
1
1

2
0
1
1



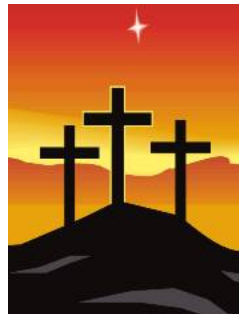
From Pastor Gary

Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are the highlight of the year for us. God accomplished our salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Son of God. This year I plan to do something different on Palm Sunday. Normally we think about Christ's entry into the city, announcing himself as Israel's King, come to bring salvation (see Zechariah 9:9). We remember disciples waving palm branches and welcoming the Savior riding on a donkey into Jerusalem.

This year we will be focusing our attention on why he came into the city. I invite you to read and meditate on Isaiah's fourth servant song, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, in preparation for Palm Sunday—and beyond that, to Good Friday. This amazing poem, written 700 years before the events, presents in detail the suffering of the Servant to bring salvation. This will be the text for the message on Palm Sunday.



Be sure to come early on Good Friday, when Dr. Jonathan Sastic will be playing a special prelude to bring us into the presence of our Savior, focusing our thoughts on the cross and our Savior's suffering. The prelude will begin at 6:45 pm. Pastor Phil will bring the message based on Mark 15:22-47. We will celebrate communion together.



Pray for our Easter Sunday celebration—beginning with the 7:00 am Sunrise Service at Frisbee Field at Hartwick College, then at 10:30 our morning worship. Often many guests come. *So please help us by filling the front pews and squeezing in, leaving open seats by the aisles.* (It helps newcomers find a place to sit!) Pray that the Lord touches each heart with his grace and his call to repentant faith. My message will be based on Acts 26:8-23, "Light that Shatters Darkness!"

Looking ahead, plan to be present at church meetings coming up. Our annual church budget meeting is Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. This is the meeting where we project ministry costs and plan for the coming year. Please come!

This year the annual meeting will be on Sunday after church, May 15. We will share a covered dish dinner and then have our annual meeting. The annual report will be in your hands ahead of time. Please read the annual report in preparation for the meeting. This will be a time to look back, take stock, give thanks to God, and look ahead to the future.

Education Notes Pastor Phil

Our current **adult classes** conclude on April 17th and the final session begins on May 1st. The **new classes** will be as follows:

Our Great Salvation Seminars:
The Gospel Explained to My Friend

Living Witness Seminars:
Christian Ethics

Love Increasing & Overflowing Seminars:
How to Start & Lead a Home Group

Further information will be provided in the May-June Adult Education pamphlet and on our website.

There is no education and discipleship hour on **Easter Sunday**, April 24th and on the Memorial Day weekend, May 29th. Our last Sunday is June 5th.

We're gearing up for our **Fun in the Son** program, July 25-29th, 1:00-3:00 PM. This is a local outreach mission experience, serving children and parents of the James Lettis Apartments and Lantern Hill trailer park. We're starting to form this mission team! If you're interested in being a part of the team, please contact Pastor Phil (432-5712, ext. 213).

Surveys

The **MSBC Gift and Skills Survey** is a tool we're using to help better place church members and attendees into ministry. Please complete your survey and submit to the church office. If you have further questions, contact Jo Brown (783-2037).

Education continued....

We are also going to re-take the two surveys we administered in November 2009. The Life-Cycle Survey is an on-line survey. Every member and attendee is asked to take this survey. Thirty selected ministry workers and leaders will be asked to take the Natural Church Development Survey. Both surveys help the elders assess our ministry, comparing it with the surveys that were taken previously.

Easter Offering 2011

Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 11, the Japanese people have been in a constant state of shock and turmoil. Daily, **Japan** is receiving large aftershocks. Some as large as 7.1! Crippled nuclear reactors, radiation leaks, the tremendous loss of life, and the daily struggle to survive continue to be a part of everyday living there. WorldVenture is there, ministering in the heart of Sendai, volunteering and sharing the love of Christ.

This year's Easter Offering will be given through WorldVenture to directly aid in the relief, rebuilding and restoration of the affected areas of Japan.

For inspiring stories and updates on **WorldVenture's** ministry to Japan, visit www.worldventure.com.

Check your home mailboxes for this year's Easter letter and be inspired. Bring your offering envelopes in by April 24.

Let's be a blessing to those in need in Japan! Give as God leads you.



Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. Meats, vegetables, drinks, fruit, etc. are all available. Special selections are made possible for those on special diets, too.

Everyone Qualifies: There are no qualifications, minimums, income restrictions, or applications. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Locally, you can purchase food by calling 607-432-2031 or visiting www.angelfoodoneonta.com.

Monthly order forms are often posted on our bulletin board. Orders must be placed and paid for by the 15th of the month. Items ordered are available for pick up at The Lord's Table, 18 Elm St., a few days later.

Snack Help Needed:

Volunteers are needed to provide snack for Saturday night youth group. Baked items are tasty but, remember that carrot and celery sticks, cheese cubes, grapes, and apple slices are a few other ideas that are appreciated, too. If you would take a turn please, contact Darleen at dfournierrdh@yahoo.com.

Helping Hands

Our church **Social Concern Team** would like your help for this program sponsored by Family Service Association.

Items are needed to fill shelves for people in need.

Items Needed are:

- * Deodorant
- * Shampoo
- * Conditioner
- * Bath Soap
- * Shaving Cream
- * Razors
- * Toothpaste
- * Toothbrushes
- * Laundry Detergent
- * Dishwashing Detergent
- * Toilet Paper
- * Paper towels
- * Household Cleaners:
 - * Window cleaner
 - * Floor Cleaner
 - * Toilet Bowl Cleaner
 - * Fabric Deodorizer
 - * Sponges/Mops/Brooms/
Cleaning Cloths

Items can be dropped off at the church from Sunday, May 1st through Sunday, May 30th.

Please consider how you can help replenish this supply. If you have any questions, contact Priscilla Thompson at Family Service Association, 432-2870 or a member of the **Social Concern Team**.

There will be a collection box at the front door and the parking lot door.

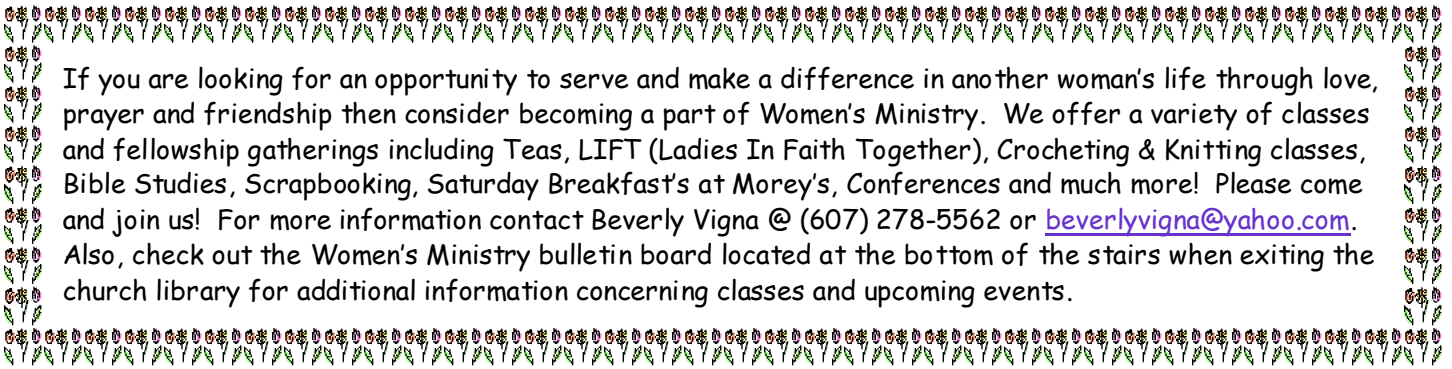


Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project

Begin your shoebox shopping now!

Now is a good time to stock up with on sale items for your shoeboxes! The stores are filled with lots of items for Easter and clearance from winter stock. Take a moment to load up on fun and appropriate items to be saved for those shoeboxes. Let's be a blessing to kids around the world. If you have questions or need more information, contact Michele McFee, 967-5422, or Meg Zulkosky, 437-0918.





If you are looking for an opportunity to serve and make a difference in another woman's life through love, prayer and friendship then consider becoming a part of Women's Ministry. We offer a variety of classes and fellowship gatherings including Teas, LIFT (Ladies In Faith Together), Crocheting & Knitting classes, Bible Studies, Scrapbooking, Saturday Breakfast's at Morey's, Conferences and much more! Please come and join us! For more information contact Beverly Vigna @ (607) 278-5562 or beverlyvigna@yahoo.com. Also, check out the Women's Ministry bulletin board located at the bottom of the stairs when exiting the church library for additional information concerning classes and upcoming events.

Monday Night LIFT (Ladies In Faith Together)

We host these dinners each month on the second Monday at the Bluefields Café, 6:30-8:15 PM. For details contact Julie Ruffo at pjruffo@verizon.net.

Women's LYFE Conference at Baptist Bible College Clarks Summit, PA

Theme: "Imagine, God Outside of the Box," June 2 – 4, 2011. For more information contact Jennie Livermore 432-9240, jlivermore1@stny.rr.com

Women's Tuesday AM Bible Study

The MSBC LADIES BIBLE STUDY meets Tuesdays at 9:30 AM at the church. We average 10 ladies each week, with all levels of maturity and life experiences represented – from newly saved young wife to seasoned great-granny – and it is not too late to join in the fun!

We are currently using the text Peacemaking Women, Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict (Barthel & Dabler, 2005). This book is available for \$10 and is an excellent resource for self-study as well. The first section, "Conflicts with God," has taught us what our personal idols look like and has given us a new perspective on suffering well. On 3/29 we will start the second section, "Conflicts with Others," which will help us examine and improve our varied relationships here on earth. For more information or to purchase a book, contact Chris Elsbeck (441-3063, celsbeck@gmail.com).



Knit and Crochet Group

The knit and crochet group continues going strong with both new and ongoing participants. We continue to work on basic instruction and helping with and sharing patterns along with some good social time. We have started a new service project of making finger puppets for the next Nicaragua Team to take with them for the children. The plan is to make 200 puppets! All are welcome to join us effort whether you can come on Tuesdays at 1 pm (room 4) or make some at home.

The basic body pattern using a size F hook is : chain 2, 6 sc in 2nd chain from hook, join .
 Row 2 - ch1 sc in same stitch, 2 sc in each stitch around (12 sts) join.
 Row 3 - ch 1 sc in each stitch around. Continue sc around until body is about 2 inches long. Finish off.



You can get directions for noses, beaks, ears, tails, etc. from us on Tuesday or at the Coffee Hour after Church.

Contact Peg Falco 432-0002 or Arvida Bellinger 434-2378 if you have any questions.

Women's Breakfast at Morey's : Sat., April 16, 9:00 AM

Do you have a ♥ heart ♥ for women?

We would like to invite you to join our women's ministry team. Please come to share your ideas and help us brainstorm how to better serve the women of our church. We'd love to hear from you! Contact Bev Vigna at beverlyvigna@yahoo.com.

Join the MSBC Women's Group Email

list on Yahoo! Share activities, needs and what's going on with other women of the church. Send a request to be signed up to Bev Vigna at beverlyvigna@yahoo.com or leave a request in the office.

Monthly Scrapbooking Crop Night



Creating an album full of travel photos or special times spent with friends or family is a great way to learn how to scrapbook. **The next scrapbooking date will be announced soon.** Contact Tami Lincoln at 267-4289 or misstami@aol.com.



Please remember to park in the other lots available to us on

Sunday mornings. If you come early to serve in a ministry, remember that attendees who are disabled, or have families, will be arriving soon and would appreciate being able to park closer to the church. Parking is available in the Bookout Funeral Home lot, the Post Office lot, the Grummons Funeral Home lot on Grand Street, and the Hughson-Benson lot. Let's keep parking available for newcomers too, as they may arrive a little late, not knowing where else they can park.



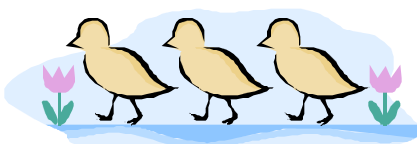
Christ the Lord is risen today! Hallelujah!

Easter is fast approaching with much anticipation and joy. Easter, my favorite time of year is the reason we have hope and joy! This year, Easter is a little later in the year and we are going to have an Easter party at Fortin Park. I have been thinking about this for many years and we are praying that April 20th will be a nice warm day at the park as we would love to have the opportunity to share again with the kids and the moms the real meaning of Easter. As a kid I remember being in a mall, overhearing two people talking about what Easter means or really what it doesn't not - bunnies, spring, ducks, etc., and it has echoed in my heart as there are so many who have been so deceived and have no idea who is the real meaning. There will be an Easter egg "pick up" as it will be geared towards kids 1-6 although because school is on break we are anticipating older brothers and sisters so there will also be crafts and activities for them. The playground and lots of room to run is great for everyone and a bring your own picnic lunch as a conclusion. Please pick up a flier if you are interested in coming or if you know someone who is it will be Wednesday, April 20th from 10-12 in the morning but stay as long as you would like. In the event of rain/snow we will meet in the church gym.

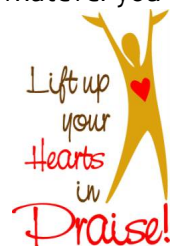


Our MOPS Easter brunch will be April 6th as it is our only official meeting in April. Amy Kropp will be our special speaker with a simple cross created by laying polished stones on each table as decoration. Jean Napels and Ginny Coddington are the other special speakers we have lined up in the rest of the year which is only 4 more meetings. Our attendance has been around 40 women. After having just listened to the "new" Barna survey on only 17% of "Christians" 18-40 year olds would say that Jesus is the one and only way I would have to say that would be an accurate reflection of our group. It is a troubling statistic but it is wonderful that these women are interested in coming to MOPS and bringing their kids and we are there to be salt and light and offer guidance during an often difficult time. Please remember us in your prayers as we reach out to these women, children and families.

New this year as a fundraiser we will be at one of the MOPS mom's home during Otego days which is scheduled for May 14th. We are collecting gently used items to sell at the garage sale all the proceeds will go toward our budget, and it is a great opportunity to hand out schedules and invite new moms. So, as you Spring clean, if you have anything that you would like to donate please contact me. We are welcoming clothes, furniture, toys etc., and we can arrange pick up at anytime. The money raised will help pay for our childcare workers which is the largest part of our budget. We are always looking for loving arms to help the ladies transition in leaving their kids for just 2 hours so they may be ministered to after spending hour after hour with their kids. If you would be able to serve in this way please let me or Marge Merzig know we have just 5 meetings left and are looking for volunteers either one time or one hour each meeting or one meeting a month on an as need basis... whatever you are able to give - Thank you.



Serving Him together,
Laura Downie, 432-8718




The Lord is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible—Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task—but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Do you know Jesus as your Shepherd? If you have questions about what that means, talk with one of our pastors. Let your questions be as a little child and seek answers.

We have heard the stories of people coming to church for the first time, or even many times, and never being greeted by other people attending the service. That is hard to imagine, especially in this size of a church, but this is what has happened.

When you come to church on Sundays and are seated in the pews, look to your left, to your right, in front of you and behind you.  *Do you know the person sitting there?* Take a minute to introduce yourself. Let them know who you are and that you are glad they are here. If they are new to Main Street, there is helpful information that they can be given. As Easter approaches we often have more visitors than normal. **Practice sliding to the center of the pew to make room for others.** New people can show up a little late and need a place to sit. Often the open spots are in the middle of the pews, way up in the front, or way back in the Sessions Room, none of which is very welcoming to a new person.



April/May

- * **MOPS** - 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18 9:00—11:15 AM. 4/20 Easter Party at Fortin Park 10:00 AM—Noon.
- * **LIFT-Ladies in Faith Together** - 4/11 and 5/9, 6:30 PM-Bluefields - 40 Walnut.
- * **Women's Breakfast** - 4/16, 9 AM, Morey's
- * **Good Friday Service** - 4/22, 6:45 PM (Prelude),
- * **Easter Sunrise Service** - 7:00 AM Hartwick College,
- * **Easter Morning Service**—10:30 AM, no Education Hour and no Crossing/Crossing Kids, Brigade or Pioneer Girls.
- * **Annual Budget Meeting** - 4/27, 7:00 PM
- * **Friday Fun Night** - 4/29, 6:30 PM Dining Room
- * **Pioneer Girls Award Program** - 5/1, 3:30 PM

- * **Annual Report Deadline** - 5/4
 - * **National Day of Prayer** - 5/5
 - * **Mother's Day** - 5/8
 - * **Red Cross Blood Drive** - 5/14, 8:00 AM - gym
 - * **Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon** - 5/15, noon.
 - * **Memorial Day** - 5/30
- And beyond.....**
- * **Fun in the Sun** - 7/25-29
 - * **Bike Trip** - 8/8-8/13

Article deadline for the next issue is Sunday, May 22nd.

You can email your submission directly to Debi Hunsberger at msbc@msbchurch.org or leave shorter handwritten articles in the Messenger mailbox in the church office.

Easter

Jesus died for my sins
And has set me free
When He was nailed on Calvary's Cross
Through His victory I have strength to always win.
Jesus rose from the dead
Now I have eternal life instead
He took the sting out of death
Now I don't have to face everlasting wrath
Every day I can have the victory
in this present evil world
Unto the day I enter into Eternity

-Alan Weill

Spring

Spring is a new time of growth
That through the tiny buds show
The gentle rain falling
Enhances the beauty of Creation to continue growing
Spring is the time to plant the seed
That one day will help feed
Especially for the ones in need
Spring reflects God's footprints everywhere
It was meant for you and me to enjoy and share
God has wonderful and divine reasons for each of the
four marvelous seasons
Praise His name above all
During this season unto him continue to call.

-Alan Weill