

A Thankful Pastor for a Faithful Congregation...



In a recent conversation with a few local United Methodist pastors, I couldn't help but be grateful for the faithfulness of our congregation. All of those pastors have had to cancel worship services recently, either due to snow, cold, or facilities issues brought about by this unrelenting winter.

That conversation led me to be thankful for so many things. I am thankful that our church members are willing to come out in difficult weather. I am thankful that our church is not afraid to try new things, like worshiping on Saturday. I am thankful for our trustees who keep our building in tip-top shape. I am thankful for the technology that allows those who cannot be with us to still worship as part of our faith family.

Everything is a little harder this winter it seems, but there is still so much to be thankful for!

Stay safe. Stay warm. See Ya' Sunday.

Pastor John

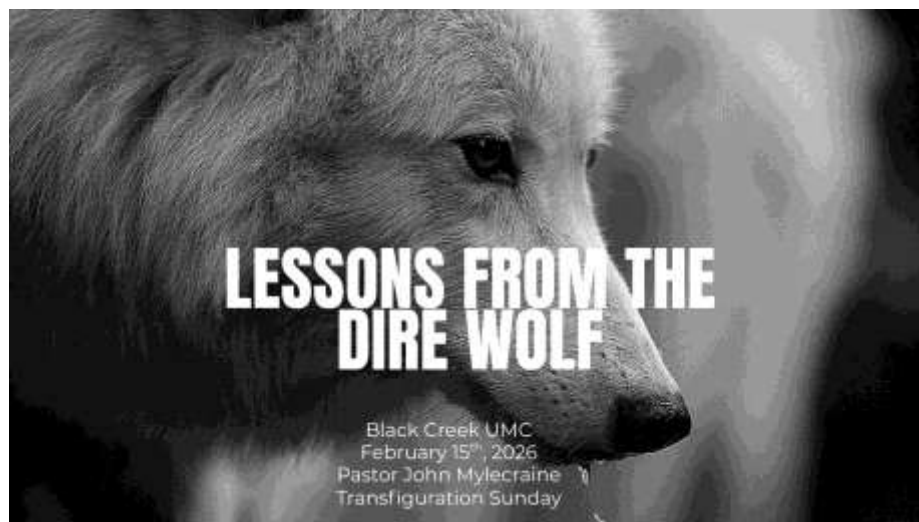
This Sunday at Black Creek UMC



Transfiguration Sunday

Jeremiah 18:1-6 and Matthew 17:1-9

In our worship service this week, we celebrate the Transfiguration, the moment high on a mountaintop when Christ revealed Himself in all of His glory to His closest followers. The Transfiguration is a foretaste of the glory of Resurrection, a revelation of Jesus' divinity that had been hidden, but was no less real.



In our message, *Lessons from the Dire Wolf*, we celebrate that there will always be a majesty and mystery in Jesus Christ as He is so much more than we can ever possibly imagine. And we also find some hope; reassurance that although our journeys may not always be easy, God is always working to mold us into the image of Christ if we just let him.

I hope that you will join us as we prepare for the Holy Season of Lent, which begins next Wednesday.

There are **four** ways to participate in worship at Black Creek UMC. Our service begins at 9:30.

- In person – All are welcome, come as you are!
- On Facebook Live.
- Right at the top of our website, www.blackcreekumc.org
- Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel. Just go to YouTube and type in @backpewbelievers and our channel will come right up! Don't forget to subscribe for new updates.

Upcoming Church Meeting:



We will have a Church council meeting **THIS Thursday, February 12th at 6PM**. All are welcome to attend.

Food Pantry Distribution is **This** Week



The Black Creek Food Pantry is open **THIS** week to all residents of Black Creek Township. It is housed in the lower level of our church. Please help us share the word with anyone in our local community who could use the support. The food pantry is open Tuesday (February 10th) from 4-6PM and Wednesday (February 11th) from 10:30AM to 2PM.

Our Food Pantry Could Use a Hand...



Our food pantry is now looking for donations of coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Please consider bringing some warmth to our neighbors as we all struggle through this brutal winter! Donations can be left in the back of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to see Sandy, Denny, or Donna.

Intervalley Faith Council Collection for Easter



The Intervalley Faith Council will be providing Easter dinner for 50 families in need in our local community. Our church has been asked to purchase boxed scalloped potatoes for these meals. If you have any questions, please feel free to see Sandy or Marylou. Donations can be left in the back of the church.

Ash Wednesday



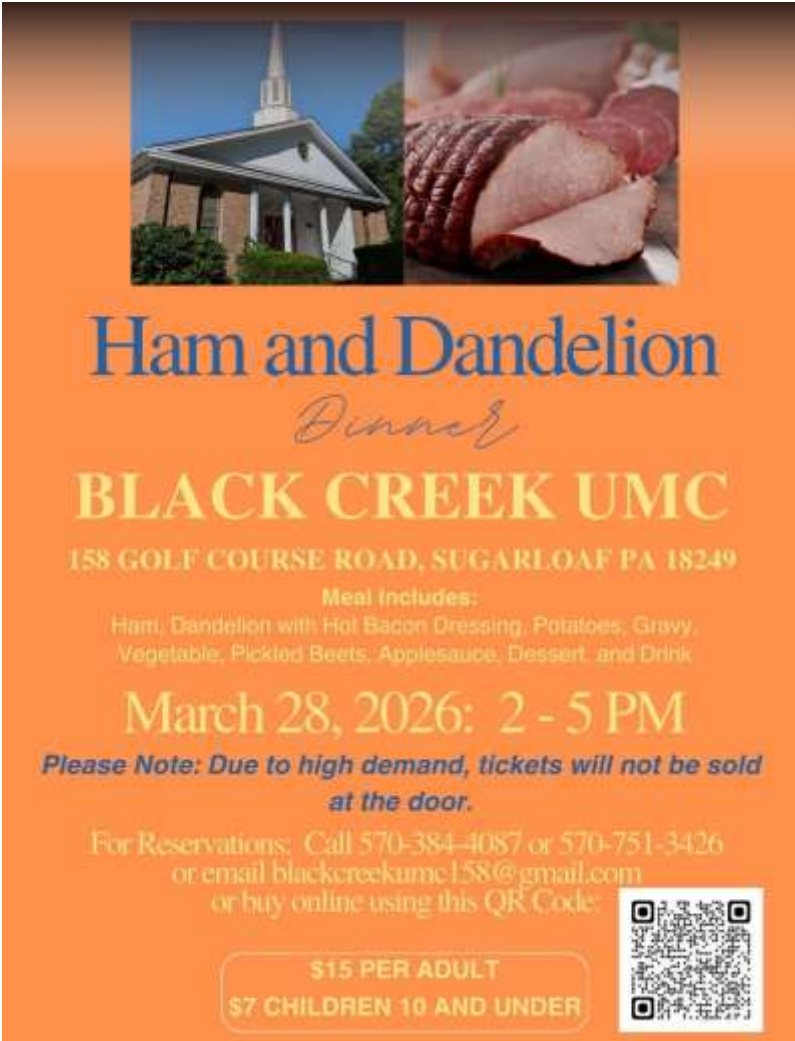
The Holy Season of Lent begins next Wednesday, February 18th. We will gather as a faith family for a special Ash Wednesday service at 6PM. You are invited to join us for this solemn time of worship and reflection.

Informal Lenten Services



Our Lenten journeys can be difficult, and we can all use a little encouragement along the way! You are invited to join us for some positive, faith affirming worship throughout the upcoming holy season. These informal worship services will focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and how that event affected several individuals in the Easter Story. Our services will each focus on one personal story: Mary Magdelene, Thomas, Peter, and the Emmaus Disciples. Come and see how the Resurrection changed their lives and how it continues to change ours even now! Services are Saturday at 4PM in our fellowship hall!

Ham and Dandelion Dinner



The flyer features a header with two images: a church building on the left and a ham on the right. The main title 'Ham and Dandelion' is in a large blue serif font, with 'Dinner' in a smaller, cursive script below it. The church name 'BLACK CREEK UMC' is in a bold yellow serif font, followed by the address '158 GOLF COURSE ROAD, SUGARLOAF PA 18249' in a smaller yellow font. The meal details are listed in a small black font, and the date and time 'March 28, 2026: 2 - 5 PM' are in a large yellow font. A 'Please Note' section in blue italicized font states that tickets will not be sold at the door. Reservation information is provided in a small black font, including phone numbers, an email address, and a QR code. A yellow box at the bottom contains the pricing: '\$15 PER ADULT' and '\$7 CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER'.

Ham and Dandelion
Dinner

BLACK CREEK UMC
158 GOLF COURSE ROAD, SUGARLOAF PA 18249

Meal includes:
Ham, Dandelion with Hot Bacon Dressing, Potatoes, Gravy,
Vegetable, Pickled Beets, Applesauce, Dessert, and Drink

March 28, 2026: 2 - 5 PM

***Please Note: Due to high demand, tickets will not be sold
at the door.***

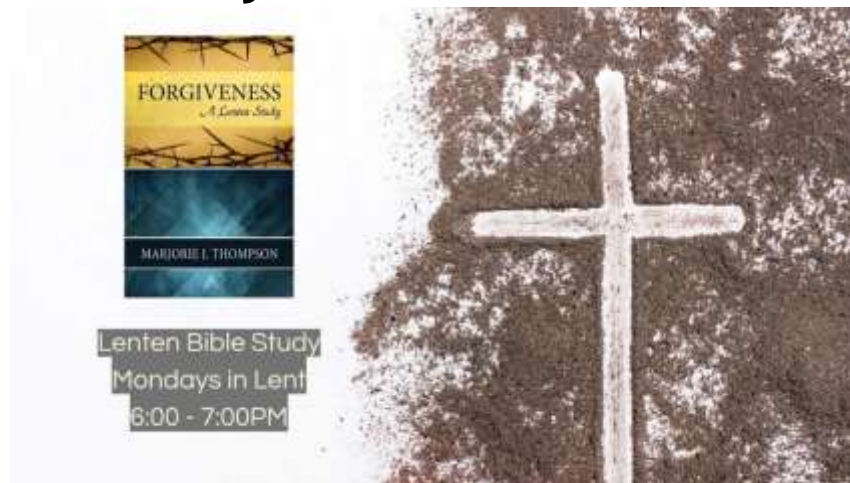
For Reservations: Call 570-384-4087 or 570-751-3426
or email blackcreekumc158@gmail.com
or buy online using this QR Code:

\$15 PER ADULT
\$7 CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER

Our famous Ham and Dandelion dinner is coming up in less than two months. Please help us get the word out. Flyers are available in the back of the church. Please feel free to grab some and post them around town! All details for the event are on the flyer above. If you can lend a hand, please let Joann know! This is an “All Hands on Deck” type of event...

Messages that Were in Last Week's Bulletin

Lenten Bible Study



Books are now available at the church for our upcoming Lenten Bible Study. Feel free to grab one any time. Our study, which focuses on the difficult but important topic of forgiveness, begins February 23rd.

Liturgists and Ushers



Signup sheets for ushers / greeters and liturgists are now available for the 2026 church year! These positions are open to everyone in the church, and they are a great way to grow closer to God and one another. Please consider signing up for a month for one or both these important roles! **If we get three more volunteers, we can take this out of the weekly email...**



Valentines for Our Church Friends

As a church, we will be providing some joy for our church members who maybe don't get out to church as often as they once did.

- Feel free to fill out Valentine Cards for our church friends and leave them in the Valentine Box in the back of the church. Pastor John and family will deliver them on February 21st.
- Also, please feel free to bring in small, individually wrapped baked goods to be delivered. Please have them to church on **February 19th**.
- A list of church members Pastor John will be visiting is at the church. There are **twelve** people total if you would like to make something for everyone.

Bulletin Prayer List



Pastor John is currently working to update our bulletin prayer list. If you know anyone who should be added, please email him at blackcreekpastor@gmail.com.

Our Church Schedule for Lent

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 18th... This is a busy time at the church. Our complete Lenten schedule is here. There are also cards available at the church!



An Opportunity from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC!

North District Tools for Ministry

- Tools for Ministry returns to Eastern PA with a leadership development event for lay and clergy leadership. Courses offered will offer practical advice, thought-provoking inspiration, and district/region-wide relationship building. This event is **Saturday, March 14 from 9-1 at Asbury UMC in Allentown**. Please see Pastor John for more information.