

A Message from the UM Council of Bishops

These are troubled and confused times in our world. As I prepared a short message for all of you this week about the events that are taking place in the Middle East, I thought that it might be more appropriate to share a statement that was released on Monday by the United Methodist Council of Bishops. May we all take these powerful words to heart. – Pastor John



We know that our hearts are heavy as we witness the mounting loss of life from the ongoing military strikes carried out by the United States and Israel, and from retaliatory strikes by Iran. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, and entire communities are shaken by the weight of uncertainty, fear, and profound sorrow. Innocent civilians are caught in the crossfire of a widening conflict they did not choose.

Scripture reminds us that “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). As bishops of The United Methodist Church, we hold fast to this promise as we pray for all who have been killed, all who are injured, and all who now carry trauma and fear in the wake of this violence. We stand resolute in remembering the uncompromising call of Jesus: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). This calling is a summons to act with courage and with a steadfast commitment to honoring the dignity and life of every human being.

We urge leaders on every side to turn from the escalation of violence and seek paths toward justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace. We implore them to place the protection of innocent lives at the center of every decision.

As followers of Christ, let us be steadfast in prayer for those whose lives were taken that they may rest in God’s eternal peace. Let us pray for the wounded that healing and comfort may surround them. Let us pray for families and communities in mourning that they may find strength for the days ahead. And let us pray for leaders and nations that they may choose the path of peace over the path of destruction.

May God’s Spirit move among us and within us, guiding our hearts toward justice, compassion, and the hard, holy work of peacemaking. May we be instruments of Christ’s peace in a world yearning for healing.

In Christ’s mercy,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

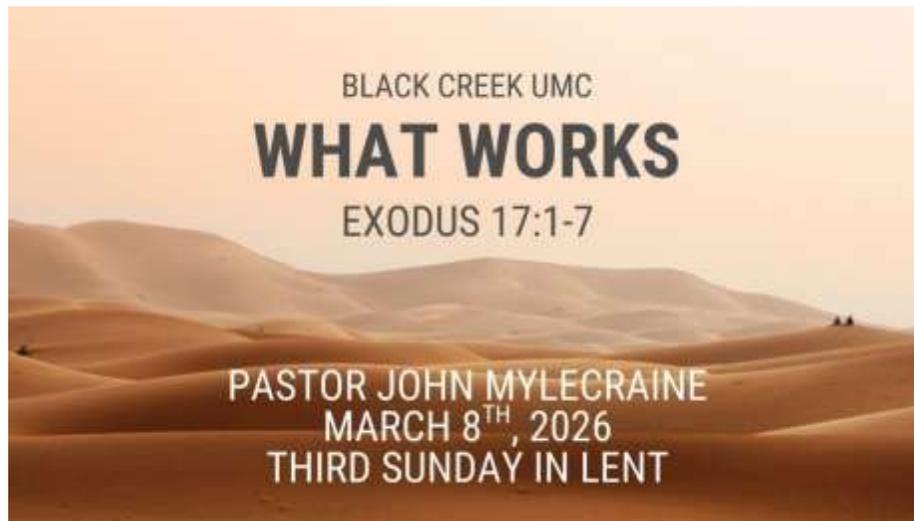
This **Sunday** at Black Creek UMC



Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 17:1-7

We have arrived at the midway point of our Lenten journeys. If you have really been doing the work of Lent; the deep introspection and the self-examination of this Holy season, you might be going to some places in your own heart that you didn't expect to be, finding some stuff that might surprise you, and working on some things that you thought were just fine. And honestly that can be tough. This might feel like a place in your Lenten journey where you might want to turn around, before things get too hard.

But this Sunday, I will encourage you to keep going! You are doing the hard work Lent!



For the second week in a row, our message will focus on the experience of a displaced, refugee people: the Israelites in the wilderness in the forty years that they wandered, homeless and dispossessed, between their escape from slavery in Egypt and their triumphant entry into the promised land.

We will find some powerful truths about our Lenten journeys, and our lives as followers of Jesus Christ, in this glorious scripture!

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.

This **Saturday** at Black Creek

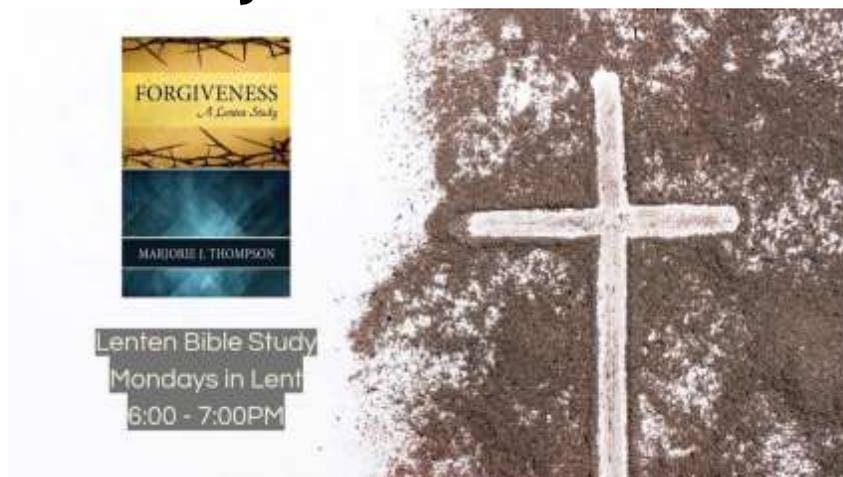


- Our Lenten journeys can be difficult, and we can all use a little encouragement along the way! You are invited to join us for some positive, faith affirming worship throughout this Holy Season. These informal worship services will focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and how that event affected several individuals in the Easter Story. Our second service will focus on Simon Peter, and our message is titled “Not Just Saved From, Saved For.”
- Come and see how the Resurrection changed his life and how it continues to change ours even now! Our second service is **THIS SATURDAY** at 4PM in our fellowship hall!



Messages that Were in Last Week's Bulletin

Lenten Bible Study



Our Lenten Bible Study, which focuses on the difficult but important topic of forgiveness, continues **Monday, March 9th**. All are welcome!

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 narthex.

Ham and Dandelion Dinner

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

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 Church Schedule for Lent

The holy season of Lent has begun. This is a busy time at the church. Our complete Lenten schedule is here. There are also cards available in the narthex.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 18th - Ash Wednesday Service, 6PM
 Monday, February 23rd - Forgiveness Bible Study, 6PM
 Saturday, February 28th - Informal Worship Service, 4PM
 Monday, March 2nd - Forgiveness Bible Study, 6PM
 Saturday, March 7th - Informal Worship Service, 4PM
 Monday, March 9th - Forgiveness Bible Study, 6PM
 Saturday, March 14th - Informal Worship Service, 4PM
 Monday, March 16th - Forgiveness Bible Study, 6PM
 Saturday, March 21st - Informal Worship Service, 4PM
 Monday, March 23rd - Forgiveness Bible Study, 6PM

Holy Week

Sunday, March 29th - Palm Sunday Worship, 9:30AM
 Monday, March 30th - Forgiveness Bible Study, 6PM
 Thursday, April 2nd - Maundy Thursday Worship, 6PM
 Friday, April 3rd - Good Friday Worship Service, 6PM
 Saturday, April 4th - Holy Saturday Vigil

Sunday April 5th -
Easter Sunrise Service, 6AM
Easter Worship Service, 9:30AM

In Case You Missed It...



Representatives from nine local churches met for a planning meeting at Tom's Kitchen on Feb. 4. From left, first row, are Arlene Stagg, president and Rosemary Meier, St. John Bosco; Betty Luschyk, CUCC; Joan Yeziorski, St. John's UCC; Back row left, Pam Hummel, St. Paul's UMC; Virginia Shank and Brenda Rizzo, Black Creek UMC; Gale Kubida, St. John's UCC; Cynthia Derr, Christ Lutheran; Paula Placenti and Jean Luchi, CUMC. Good Shepherd and St. John's Lutheran churches are also members. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

Sugarloaf Valley Church Women United to present World Day of Prayer

SUBMITTED TO
THE STANDARD SPEAKER

Sugarloaf Valley Church Women
United will present World Day of

Prayer at 2 p.m. Friday, March 6, at the
Providence Place dining hall in Drums.

Written by women of Nigeria, it
is an ecumenical program called "
I Will Give You Rest: Come" based

on Mathew 11:28-30.

The program is followed by
refreshments provided by the
Sugarloaf Valley Church Women
United. All are invited to join in.