

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Church Staff

Pastor Karla Leiby
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570-854-3919

William Jacavage
Director of Music

Sue Billman
Office Manager
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Tina Pontius
Treasurer

Joyce Shearer
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer
Restricted Fund Treasurer

Congregation Officers

Mike Erdley, President
Holly Bedisky, Vice President
Eric Shearer, Secretary

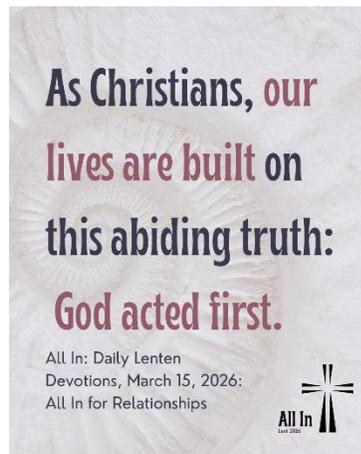
Congregation Council

Mike McWilliams
Teresa Meisinger
Pam Miller
Teresa Miller
Tom Propst
Karen Smeltz
Randy Stine
Craig Treacher

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Our journey through Lent has been showing us the ways that God is “All In” for us and how we too can be all in for God. Through all of this we have seen the truth that God acted first. God sent Jesus to live among us, to die for us, and to shower us with the gifts of forgiveness, mercy, and love. In return God asks us to also go “All in.” All in in our worship, our love for one another, and our care for all of God’s creation.

Remaining in our Lenten journey is the focus on relationships in which Jesus demonstrates for us how to be in relationship with both God and each other with the story of the Blind Man. The final week brings us the idea of Letting Go with the story of the death of Lazarus. Sometimes, we need to let go of our own expectations, our own need for control and simply allow God to do the work. When we cling to what we know, it’s difficult for us to see the possibilities of what can be.

And then we are headed into our holiest week of the year, starting with the journey to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ending with the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday! I hope that you can join us for this journey through Holy Week, as we not only recall what Christ has done for us, but also see what Christ is still up to among his Resurrection People.

When I think about Easter, I always think about new life and all the ways that God reveals God’s self to us within the new life. Not only are we beginning the season of Spring which always brings new life, but we are also in the process of taking on new ministries here at St. John’s. We are transitioning some of the vital ministries from Christ United Methodist Church so that they continue to be available for our community. The Blessing Shed, which will be moved to the parking lot at St. John’s sometime this Spring, provides a place for community members to share their abundance with others in need. The Born Again Boutique provides a way to swap out quality gently used

clothing items that no longer fit or are needed, in exchange for ones that do. This ministry served over 1,000 people in our community in 2025. We expect to transition this ministry to St. John's sometime in June. I am grateful for the leaders who have stepped forward for these ministries, Randy Stine for the Blessing Shed and Holly Bedisky and Pam Miller for the Born Again Boutique.

However, these are not the only ministries that are in need of volunteers. We also need help on our altar guild who prepares our worship space each week and ensures that all is ready for Sunday worship service. The Garden Crew is looking for some new members who are willing to get their hands in the dirt and help maintain our beautiful flower beds. We are also looking for some folks who will be willing to take communion out to our homebound folks monthly, see details later in the newsletter. Which of these new things is God calling you to be all in for?

May we be open to the ways that God is inviting us to go *All In* this Lenten season and beyond as we seek to follow our Lord Jesus Christ in all things.

Blessings,

Pastor Karla



Notes From the Director of Music



Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

One of my favorite hymns to play and hear our congregation sing is "Beneath the Cross of Jesus".

The hymn is so well known and most often many in the congregation remember the harmony parts. The feeling that the lyrics and song evokes is truly one that should remind us of the journey we take from Lent, through Holy Week and be reminded of the Sacrifice that was made for us, God's children .

Beneath the Cross of Jesus is a beloved hymn that resonates deeply with many Christians, encapsulating themes of sacrifice, redemption, and the enduring love of Christ. Written by Elizabeth C. Clephane in 1872, the hymn offers a poignant reflection on the significance of Christ's crucifixion and the comfort it provides to believers.

The hymn begins with a powerful image of finding solace beneath the cross, symbolizing refuge and safety in the shadow of Christ's sacrifice. This imagery serves as a reminder of the hope and peace that can be found through faith, even in times of sorrow and struggle. The cross becomes a place of healing, where burdens can be laid down and grace is freely given.

Each stanza invites us to contemplate our own lives in relation to Christ's suffering. It encourages us to recognize the weight of sin and the depth of Christ's love, which compelled Him to endure the cross for our sake. The hymn not only reflects on personal redemption but also calls for a communal response, urging believers to come together in unity and support one another under the cross.

The refrain, which speaks of the "shadow of a mighty rock," evokes a sense of protection and shelter, reminding us that in Christ, we are never alone. This assurance is vital in a world often filled with chaos and uncertainty.

As we sing *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*, we are reminded of the central message of Christianity: God's love conquers all, and through Jesus' sacrifice, we are offered new life. This hymn not only uplifts our spirits but also invites us to deepen our commitment to living out Christ's teachings in our daily lives.

In these times of reflection, may we all find our place beneath the cross, drawing strength and inspiration from the love that was demonstrated there. Let this hymn continue to encourage our faith and strengthen our community as we journey together in Christ's name.

Bill Jacavage

Director of Music

Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

March 29th

9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church with Holy Communion

April 2nd

6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Good Friday

April 3rd

7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary



Holy Week

Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

April 5th

6:30 a.m.

Shikellamy State Park Marina

Easter Worship with Holy Communion

April 5th

9:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

*Wishing you a very
Happy and Blessed
Easter*



From the staff and their families.

Pastor Karla will be away
April 10th - 18th for Continuing
Education and spiritual week.
Pastor Joel Zeiders will preside
at worship on April 12th.



Home Communion Teams

Help us to ensure that our
homebound members who are
unable to join us in worship
receive monthly communion.

Training Session
Saturday, April 25th
10-11:30 am
Library

RSVP to Pastor Karla by 4/22

VBS Planning Meeting

It's that time again to start planning for this year's
Vacation Bible School.

We will have a meeting on **Saturday, April 18th at
11:30 a.m.** We'd love to have anyone interested in
helping out to join us. If you are interested but
cannot make the meeting, please see Pam Miller,
coordinator.

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **February 21, 2026**.

We helped **657** people by distributing **204** household/personal care bags, **200** produce
boxes, **204** packs of meat and **344** bags of groceries. We helped **116** babies and
provided adult care products to **37** people.

The total cost was **\$5,948.32**

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with this Kate's Kupboard in any way.

Between our January and February Kate's Kupboard we helped **1** baby and provided
adult care products to **1** individual. We help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.

Preschool Registration 2026-2027

Registration forms are available for 26-27 school year. Students must be potty trained and age 3 by Sept 1st for the Tuesday-Thursday class and 4 years of age by Sept. 1st for the Monday-Wednesday-Friday class. Tuition is \$75 per month for the 3 year old class and \$100 per month for the 4 year old class. There is a \$30 registration fee. Please share with your family, friends and neighbors. Forms can be picked up in the church office or online at St. John's website.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Kate's Kupboard is grateful for the \$500 Daily Bread Grant it received from ELCA World Hunger. Kate's had a very busy January and February so this grant will be used to help replenish the shelves.



Honorarium Received

In honor of
Barb Moyer
By
Greg and Edie Moyer



PRAYERS: Pam Miller; Deb Jennis; Barb Eisely; Mary Siemsen; Sue Kurtz; Bill Wagner; Stephanie Zettlemoyer

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: Shirley Leiby; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Chris Eisely; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

2026	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Feb. Income:	\$ 21,758.34	\$ 21,934.83
Year to Date Income:	\$ 38,035.41	\$ 44,419.66
Feb. Expenses:	\$ 18,880.12	\$ 21,681.09
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 43,431.07	\$ 47,335.99
	Income Less Expense – Feb.	\$2,878.22
	Year to Date	-\$ 5,395.66

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6:30 p.m.	2 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner Church Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	3 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	4
5 EASTER Sunrise Service @ Marina 6:30 a.m. Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Venture Crew 2307 6-8:00 p.m.	6 Finance 7:00 p.m.	7 Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	8 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout District Meeting 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	10	11
12 Pastor Joel Zeiders Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	13 	14 Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	15 Fold Messenger 9:00 a.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6:30 p.m.	16 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m. VBS planning meeting 11:30 a.m.
Pastor Away – Continuing Education & spiritual week						
19 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-12:00	20	21 Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	22 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	23 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	24 	25
26 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Breakfast & Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	27	28 Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	29 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6:30 p.m.	30 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	MAY 1	2 