

The Oak Leaves –April 2024

April 2024

FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

Pastor: Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stupastor@gmail.com

Secretary: Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office hours

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 –

jellingsworth22@gmail.com

Moderator of Deacons: Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 samccrea@gmail.com

New phone numbers/emails/ address

Please update the Church Office whenever you have NEW information

Thanks

Elisabeth Gauthier

717-776-7525

1stupoffice@gmail.com

Happy April Birthday

- 2. April Messenger
- 3. Steve Burd
- 13. Sally Canazaro
- 16. Andrew McCrea
- 18. Glenn Gilbert
- 21. Lynette McCulloch
- 25. Brian Lehman
- 27. Deb Barrick

Happy April Anniversary

- 3. Janet & John Nimmon
- 6. Dee & Gerard denHartog
- 7. Heidi & Tom Hefflefinger
- 21. Glenn & Elaine Gilbert
- 26. Elisabeth & PV Gauthier
- 28. Carol & Steve Burd

If you have a **Church Key** and no longer use/need it, please return it to the Office. If you pass the key to another person, please notify the Office so we can keep track of each key. Thanks.

Need Offering Envelopes?

If you **do not** have envelopes and would like them, please see Elisabeth Gauthier Thanks!

Memorial Fund Contributions

None

Good Housekeeping

Last to leave the building? Turn out lights, check heat etc.

Thank You.

Thanks to Dick & Ann Smith for the artwork in the entrance way.

We collected \$330 for **One Great Hour of Sharing**
Thank you

Clean Up Day
Saturday April 20th
8am

Please come and help clean up the church yard and make it look pretty.

All are welcome for as long as you are able to help.

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Highlights of Session Meeting held on March 21, 2024

- The following Elders and Church employees have completed “Boundary Training “on March 6, 2024 and have received Certificates of Completion from the Carlisle Presbytery: Elisabeth Gauthier, Elaine Fry, Mike Fry, Tom Hefflefinger, April Messenger, Lynette McCulloch, Hale McCulloch and Clerk of Session Jim Ellingsworth.
 - Tom Hefflefinger suggested that we have a challenge presented to the congregation to ask someone to come to worship with us, perhaps on a specific Sunday, idea of Bring Someone to Church; somewhat like a Rally Day. Session thought it was a good idea and this could be done when the Church Picnic is on August 11th at Doubling Gap Park.
 - Gail Kunkleman will be hired for the custodian work of SPY
 - Dee Den Hartog notified Pastor Vern know that after 2 1/2 years of running the video camera during the Sunday worship, she will no longer be doing so. She feels that she has loyally fulfilled this duty, by alternating with Karyn Cunningham over these past 2 1/2 years. She has let Karyn know and Karyn will fill in as much as she can. This coming week, April Messenger will be running the camera
 - Karyn Cunningham will continue running the video with backup from Elisabeth Gauthier and April Messenger until someone to replace Dee volunteers.
 - **The ending checking account balance as of 2-29-2024 was \$8,171.91. Income for February was \$17,644.51 and the year to date income is \$31,064.98. Expenses for February totaled \$17,872.50 and year to date expenses were \$32,986.75.**
- Lynette McCulloch and Nancy McCullough audited the Church Books for 2023 on March 05, 2023 and found everything to be in order.
 - Regarding the Church's Library of Music Pastor Vern stated that he would like to see someone in the Congregation to be responsible for maintaining the Music Library, set up the weekly use of the music, etc. It was felt among the Session members that a stipend could be done for this responsibility. Further discussion will continue next month.

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session

(DECLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

SESSION 2024

JIM ELLINGSWORTH- CLERK
HALE MCCULLOCH
LYNETTE MCCULLOCH
APRIL MESSENGER
ELAINE FRY
MIKE FRY
SHERRI MAINS
TOM HEFFLEFINGER
PASTOR VERN MODERATOR

DEACONS 2024

SALLY ANN MCCREA
BOB KOVANIC
DONNA WEER
SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RAY HECKMAN
DEE DENHARTOG

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Happy Spring Everyone!

As most of you know, we have been using recorded organ files in worship since Ted Krocheski retired as our organist. We have built our digital music library for free due to the ministry of two men who live on different continents.

In Australia there was a man named **Clyde McLennan**, an ordained Baptist Pastor. For 35 years, he served in smaller churches across New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. On some occasions he was also the church musician.

As a church organist, Clyde recognized it was often hard to find suitable musicians to play for worship, particularly in small churches, home groups, aged care facilities. So in 2006 he founded the website “**Music for Small Churches.**” He used his talents as a computer programmer and musician to create the Small Church Music website. During his retirement, and before his death in 2022, Clyde recorded almost 15,000 hymns and songs that could be downloaded free to accompany congregational singing.

On the other side of the world from Clyde McLennan, was a man named **Richard Irwin**, an English Organist who created the website “**Hymns Without Words.**” The website is a free service providing high quality recording of hymns for use by congregations and choirs, including on-line services. Unfortunately, Richard passed away on 7th December 2023 after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer.

Most of the Hymns that we sing on Sundays were recorded by Clyde McLennan, with a few supplemented by Richard Irwin. All the music we currently use for Preludes and postludes are from Richard Irwin as well.

I mention these two men, because I believe their ministry which continues even

after their death, says something about the nature of the Church of Jesus Christ.

In the **Apostles Creed** we pray that we believe in “**the communion of saints.**” This phrase expresses the belief that a bond unites believers in Christ across generations, cultures, and denominations. It emphasizes the shared inheritance of faith, the mutual participation in the life of Christ, and the collective identity as members of God's redeemed community. With this communion extending beyond the earthly realm, to those who have died and are with God. Like our brothers in Christ, Clyde and Richard who minister to us even now.

Another example of this communion can be found in the **African Palm Crosses** we use on Palm Sunday. The Palm crosses are made in eight villages in the Masasi area of southern Tanzania, these being Mpeta, Namikunda, Mlundelunde, Mumbaka, Machombe, Chirikiti, Makanyama and Marika. While some of us may have heard of the Masasi, I bet none of us have heard of these villages (never mind pronounce them). Yet we support them when we use the crosses they have fashioned as the proceeds go to enriched the lives of those living in these 8 villages.

By the way, this ministry was begun in 1963 by Anglican Priest **Alan Talbot** who died in 2018. Yet, Palm Crosses continue to be sold around the world, with profits used in education and healthcare projects. It is a ministry that connects you, me, Alan, and those in Tanzania who benefit from it. It is a ministry that is just another living example of the phrase “communion of saints.”

In Christ,

Pastor Vern

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See our website at www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com **Grab n**

Go Lunches: A hot and a frozen meal is provided to all those 60 and better when ordered and are distributed Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon. If you want to come into the Big Spring Senior Center to sit down the meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. All meals are a recommended donation of \$3. If you are 60 and better and want to request a meal (you must come to pick up), please call the senior center. Meals must be reserved one business day by 12 noon prior to pick up.

Free, Fun and Interactive Nutrition Lessons sponsored & presented by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank (attend all 4 sessions and receive a free gift: All sessions are offered at 1:00 p.m. at the Big Spring Senior Center. Dates of sessions are Wednesday, April 3rd: A Close Look at Nutrition Labels; Tuesday, April 16th: Focus on Fats; Tuesday, April 23rd: Too Sweet-the Lowdown on Added Sugars; and Wednesday, April 24th: Spotlight on Sodium. Signup at the Senior Center.

Live Exercise Classes (If you are new to our exercise classes, please contact the Senior Center prior to attending class)

Zumba Gold: Every Monday at 9 a.m. at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Cost is \$3 per class for those 60-plus and \$5 per class for those 50-59. Zumba Gold is a low-intensity version of the Latin dance-inspired fitness class aimed at a mature audience. Research at Minot State University in North Dakota has indicated that Zumba not only influences physical fitness, but also on cognitive (mental) function. Just walk in.

T'ai Chi for Arthritis: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Cost is currently \$1 plus donation until further notice. To register, call 717-776-4478.

Movement with Mindfulness (evolved from Yoga): Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Yoga is a mind-body practice that combines stretching exercises, controlled breathing, and relaxation. Cost for a 10-week program is \$55 for members of the Big Spring Senior Center, and \$65 for non-members. Registration and payment are due before you start a class. Start dates will be prorated. Call 717-776-4478 to register. **Class instructed by the YMCA – Carlisle.**

Senior Wellness Exercise Program: Thursdays at 9 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Avenue, Newville. The Senior Center. This program instructed by Cathy Graver, Director of the Big Spring Senior Center will concentrate on strength, balance, coordination, endurance, and flexibility. Keeping to basics exercise will take place standing, sitting and a little dance to music centered on the oldies of the 50's & 60's. Per class charge is \$3 for seniors and \$5 for those 50-59.

Virtual Exercise Class: Contact the Big Spring Senior Center for more information. Currently we provide virtual classes for T'ai Chi for Arthritis.

Walk with Ease: Begins Tuesday, April 2. Are you looking for a walking group? Well, here it is. Meet the Newville Trailhead, do some pre-walking stretches, walk for approximately 45 minutes to an hour, and end with post-walking stretches. Join us at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Walking is at your own pace.

Bike Club: Begins Wednesday, April 3 at 1:00 p.m. Who is interested in a seniors' bicycle club? Meet at the Newville Rails to Trails Trailhead for a leisurely one-hour ride on this well-maintained trail. Those interested may contact the senior center at 717-776-4478. **More to Do:**

Watercolor Painting Opportunity: Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Do you have an interest in water coloring? It takes space, **inspiration, and motivation, and we can help. Join our friendly group of painters with our instructor, Kathleen Schungel.** The cost is \$5 per week to the instructor and \$1 to the Senior Center. **During this time, we also offer Coloring for Adults for \$1 (includes adult coloring books and coloring pencils)**

Jewelry Making Class: March 12th and March 26th at 1:00 p.m., Kathleen Schungel, professional art instructor (retired), will teach the techniques to create a variety of jewelry pieces. Cost is \$5.

Crafts: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays. We could use your help, hands, and ideas. Come and make seasonal and everyday crafts, as well as new friends.

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Pastor Don Snyder of Doubling Gap Church of God will present the study "The 7 I Am statements of Jesus from John's Gospel". Drop-ins are welcome.

Game Day: Lots of opportunities to play cards and games can be found at the Big Spring Senior Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Thursdays.


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Community Life Committee Activities

The Community Life committee is busy planning opportunities for fun and fellowship over the next several months. Please speak to a Committee member if you have interest in any of these opportunities OR just show up. If you have any ideas for further ways that would enhance getting to know each other better, please let us know. Our committee consists of Elaine Fry, Tom Hefflefinger, Rausa Roscinski, Lucy Jansema, Doris Mae Kennedy and Sherri Webber-Mains.

- **Community Garden:** Bob Roscinski will place a sign in the lower yard to demark the garden space in the mid-March timeframe. If anyone is interested in securing a 5X10 foot plot, please talk with Bob. The Community Garden will be advertised on “Everything Newville”, the church FB page, and other Newville based FB forums. Also, paper flyers will be distributed throughout the community.
- **Arts and Crafts Fellowship nights –** The meeting will be **Tuesday April 2nd at 7:00pm** and ongoing as the 1st Tuesday of the month. These monthly meetings encourage members to bring a craft or art project of their choice to work on while enjoying fellowship with other members.
- **Bowling outing and Cracker Barrel Dinner** – Join us on a Bowling outing on **Sunday, April 14th at Midway Bowling center at 3:00pm**, followed
- by dinner at Cracker Barrel (for interested folks) – Please speak to Sherri Webber-Mains if you are interested in participating in bowling and/or dinner.

- **Game nights –Saturday, April 27th at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship hall with participants asked to bring their favorite game and a snack to share – Committee to provide drinks, paper products (Depending upon interest, this offering may become a monthly event)

Recycling  is being collected here at the church. Please put your bulletins & other paper in the baskets provided at the back of the church following services, not in the trash can. There is a container for cans, plastic, and paper in the stairwell behind the kitchen, for those using the kitchen and the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, ask Elaine or Mike Fry. Thank you!

Ladies Bible Study - The Chosen Season 1, meets March 27th; April 10th; April 24th at 6:30 p.m. Please invite everyone!

Deacons are looking for people who are willing to **deliver CDs of the service to members who cannot attend Sunday services** due to health reasons. All this ministry involves is waiting for the CD to be copied and then deliver the CDs to the reception desk at Green Ridge Village along with the bulletin for that day’s service. This sign-up sheet will be on the table in the hallway starting. If you have any questions, please speak with any of the deacons.

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SESSION SPEAKS APRIL MESSENGER

I've been thinking about Stewardship lately. According to one result of my Google search, compiled by The Bible Study Tools Staff in 2021, it is stated that "God created Earth for mankind and we are stewards of His creation." That's pretty much as far as I usually get in my thinking on this topic, but I read a little further and it really got me to thinking. The reference went on to state that our stewardship of creation involves the caretaking of the environment and animals, (and here is the part that got to me,) as well as our families and communities.

Obviously, the Property Committee is focused in on stewardship of our church building and grounds. I think it is safe to say that we all are stewards of our families, and as a congregation we have been taking steps to practice stewardship in our community. In the next several weeks and months you will be hearing more about opportunities to practice stewardship at 1stUP. One way is to help out on our Spring clean up day on April 20 beginning at 8:00 or whenever you can arrive. There will be sticks to pick up, weeds to pull, mulch to spread, shrubs to trim.... Our church also needs to get ready for the summer SPY program which will begin in July with children, but also earlier to get our Sunday School classrooms in order. We will need some help with that.

You will read about some activities that the Community Life committee is planning. One of those is an attempt at a flea market/yard sale. I propose that we have many items in all of the nooks and crannies of our church that we don't use or need anymore that may be of benefit to others. What a great way to practice stewardship by helping us clean out those items and sort between sellable, "keepable", and "pitchable". We would not only be caring for our building, but also maybe raise a little money that we could put back into community outreach and missions.

We all have gifts and talents to share, even those of us who don't get around to well. We need individuals who are up to the physical tasks of cleaning up and out. We need individuals who can provide food or a monetary donation towards food that we can sell at a yard sale. We need individuals who can sit in a classroom and go through games and art supplies deciding what is sellable and what is not. We need individuals who can pray for the goings on at our church. Where do you see yourself as a good steward?

**THE NEW 2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS NOW
DONE. THANKS TO ALL WHO HAD ANY PART IN
GETTING IT COMPLETED.**