



Zion United Methodist Church of Iona
1920 South Fifth Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042-9101

The Advance Edition

March 2010 Issue

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Special points of interest:

- "Five Practices" of a Fruitful Congregation
- YF's 30 Hours to "Feed a Village"
- Congregational Audit

Yearning for Spring to Arrive?

I can't even begin to tell you how much I yearn for spring this year. Enough with the snow, the cold, the drifts, and the ice already!

If you have similar feelings, you may enjoy the March worship services. **We're going green in March!** And by going green, I mean we're going to pray for spring – the Celtic way. The ancient prayers and songs of the Celtic Christians are filled with images of spring, creation, the harvest, and the cycles of nature.

We will celebrate God's power as manifested through St. Patrick, we will celebrate the Celtic *Imbolc* – the joyful expectation of spring to return. We will celebrate with Celtic tunes from Ireland, Scotland and Wales; with flutes, harp, bagpipe and dulcimer. We will experience folklore and sacred dance, Celtic-style, and we will pray the ancient prayers and hear our favorite Irish blessings.

In other words, we will do all in our power to prove Punxsutawney Phil wrong. Let's "tease" spring to arrive early!

Here is a little Irish poem from the litany of the *Imbalc* that speaks to my winter-laden and shivering soul (and perhaps it will kindle a warm glow in you as well).



*Lie upon the ground
Soon to feed the earth
In nature's wondrous cycle
Of death and rebirth
Within the tree is a stirring of new growth
This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding
A poem that is being written
Not in words
But in colours
Wind's whisper
Soaring bird
Snowdrop's petal
Gentle rain
Sunlight's warmth
This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding*



ZION U. M. CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FUND BALANCES (as of December 31, 2009) Report with new figures to follow ASAP.

Capital Improvement:			Memorials:		
Capital Imp. (other)	-19,469.05		Bachman, Edna	1,175.00	
Wish List	100.00		Bloss, Jess (Tape Min.)	600.00	
Windows	-16,765.00		Brubaker, Richard	1,155.00	
Total Capital Imp.:		-36,134.05	Deck, Stanley	-23.40	
			Dundore, Susan	100.00	
Special Projects:			Light Mem. (Courtyard)	1,780.00	
Drama Fund	786.97		Marinkov, Mishi	205.00	
Youth Fellowship	2,874.22		Miller, Lela	605.00	
Outspoken	5,533.49		Reed Mem. (Camping)	594.12	
Children's Church Min	500.00		Walters, Donald	30.00	
Bell Choir	-67.60		Memorials – Other	200.00	
Kid Free Friday	75.00		Total Memorials:		6,420.72
Total Special Projects:		9,702.08	Endowment Fund		6,697.25
			Missions		-20.00
			General Fund		13,053.84
			TOTAL		\$ - 280.16

Life Line Screening at Iona Church – April 1, 2010 *sponsored by The Good Samaritan Health System*

Zion of Iona United Methodist Church, 1920 South Fifth Avenue, Lebanon, PA, will host a health screening on **April 1, 2010**. On that day, five screenings will be available:

Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening; Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation); Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening; Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening; Osteoporosis Screening

The Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package costs \$139; add an osteoporosis screening for \$10 more (all 5 tests for \$149).

If interested, please call 1-800-679-5192 to register. **Pre-registration is required.** For more information, visit the website at www.lifelinescreening.com or pick up a pink flier at Iona Church from the table in the back of the sanctuary.



The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

"The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," is a sermon series developed by Bishop Robert Schnase, from the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. This congregation wide initiative was prepared in response to requests from many pastors and lay leaders who wanted more tools to help imbed these five practices into the culture of their congregations. At the heart of the initiative is intense focused reflection, learning and practice. Many churches who have used this series have experienced a rebirth and renewal in their congregations. We hope for this outcome here at Iona as well.

The sermon series will be presented in the church sanctuary, at the usual times for the first and second service, as follows:

- ◆ April 11 – Radical Hospitality
- ◆ April 18 – Passionate Worship
- ◆ April 25 – Intentional Faith Development
- ◆ May 2 – Risk-taking Missions & Service
- ◆ May 9 – Extravagant Generosity

May 15 will be a congregation-wide Work Day out in the community. The Missions Team is working on this and more information will follow.

May 16 will be one combined service for a Celebration Sunday outdoors. Plans are evolving, but right now we plan on a big tent.

We have Teams that have begun meeting and planning the five services. Listed below are the Practice Area Teams and Team Captains:

- ◆ Radical Hospitality - Bonnie Hartman & Beth Keeney
- ◆ Passionate Worship - Sally Frantz & Brian Keeney
- ◆ Intentional Faith Development - Jackie Krezmien
- ◆ Risk-taking Missions & Service - Faith Williams
- ◆ Extravagant Generosity - Ken Hartman

We also have a Prayer Team, led by Pastor Judy Shirey, that is praying for God's blessing and the intercession of the Holy Spirit on this initiative.

We would love to have more volunteers to join our teams!

If interested in helping with any of these services, please contact any one of the team captains, Bonnie Hartman, or the church office (273-2958 or ionaoffice@comcast.net).

**Save the Date
May 15, 2010**

Please clear your calendar on Saturday, May 15, 2010, for a special work day in the community.

More information will be following in conjunction with the Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation, but we are asking you now to keep this date free!

Thank you!

Upcoming Services – March 2010

7 March – Third Sunday in Lent (last Sunday for Roman History)

- ◆ 8:45 & 11 am – Message by Pastor Frank: Multimedia presentation: “The Gospel Message as told by Crosses from Around the World”
- ◆ Various Scriptures
- ◆ Church History Moment: The First Hurdle of the Empirical Church: the Donatist Crisis
- ◆ Music: 8:45 am – Chancel Choir; 11 am – Songs led by OUTSPOKEN, Iona’s Praise Band

14 March – Fourth Sunday in Lent

- ◆ 8:45 & 11 am – Message by Brandon Allen, Ministry Candidate
- ◆ Celtic History Moment: St. Patrick, the Missionary
- ◆ Music: 8:45 am – Men of Zion;; 11 am – Songs led by OUTSPOKEN; Special Music: Both services – Irish Song by Maura Casey

21 March – Fifth Sunday in Lent

- ◆ 8:45 & 11 am – Message by Clydette Overyturf
- ◆ Celtic Music and Celtic Dance in Worship (by our youth)
- ◆ Music: 8:45 am – Joyful Ringers / Iona Bell Choir; 11 am – Songs led by OUTSPOKEN

28 March – Palm Sunday, Communion

- ◆ 8:45 & 11 am – The Celtic Celebration of the *Imbalc* – Prayers for the resurrection of Spring!
- ◆ Message by Pastor Frank: “Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies, It Cannot Bear Fruit”
- ◆ Music: 8:45 am – Cherub Choir / Rainbow Ringers / Chancel Choir; 11 am – Songs led by OUTSPOKEN

LOOKING AHEAD:

1 April – Holy Thursday Service, Communion

- ◆ 7:00 pm – Worship

4 April – Easter Sunday

- ◆ 6:30 am – Easter Sunrise Service
- ◆ 7 am – Easter Breakfast
- ◆ 8:45 am – Morning Worship Service
- ◆ 11 am – Soul Connection Praise Service

11 April – Second Sunday of Easter

- ◆ Begin “The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” Services
- ◆ This week: “Radical Hospitality”



30 Hours to Feed a Village

Can you envision a land where there is very little clean water to drink, where children forego going to school because they have no shoes to walk three miles to school, and the average income is less than \$5 per day? Our YF members want to share with you a challenging ministry opportunity God has presented to them. On March 26 and 27, the youth will be fasting for 30 hours and volunteering at CATRA (providing recreational and therapeutic horseback riding to physically and mentally challenged people of all ages) and LCCM (providing food and clothing for people less fortunate) to raise money for Ensenada, Mexico through the Lantern Hill organization.



Our youth from Iona Church along with the youth of St. Stephen Lutheran Church will be focusing on learning more about indigenous cultures, feeding, educating and caring for children and families in this area of Mexico. We are hoping that the money raised will make a difference in the many community based outreach centers that Lantern Hill supports, such as preschools, daycare centers, and abused women and children centers. Please visit their website to see the work this faithful organization is doing (www.lanternonthehill.com).

We are excited about this opportunity and experience, and hope to visit Lantern Hill on a mission trip in the future and see the results of our faithful giving. The YF members are asking you to prayerfully consider showing your spiritual and financial support during their fasting and service projects by making a donation on the Lantern Hill website at www.lanternonthehill.org. Your donations are not tax deductible. Lantern Hill has applied to the IRS for Tax deductible status, but it has not been finalized and they are in the process of becoming a 501c3 Charity.

Click on "Team Sites" and then click on our group name (Iona Methodist and St. Stephen Lutheran Youth Groups), then click "Make a donation." If you would like, you can also support this outreach by sending a check to: Lantern Hill, c/o Kinde Durkee, 1212 S. Victory Blvd., Burbank, CA 91502.

While money is important, it comes in a distant second to the youth members' need for your prayer support.

Youth Fellowship members please note:

For the 30 hour fast, youth should stop eating on Friday, March 26 at 12:30 p.m. We will meet at the Lebanon County Christian Ministries at 5 p.m. and serve there until 8 p.m. at which time we will travel to Iona Church to set up our "village."

On Saturday, March 27, at 8 a.m. we will depart for CATRA in Grantville where we will serve until 4 p.m. then leave for the Grantville Italian Restaurant and return to Iona Church by 7 p.m.

Parents are needed for transportation on both days. If you can help or have any questions, please contact Roy Craig.

Congregational Audit during March/

During the month of March and into April a congregational audit will be completed by telephone or mail. Persons from our church will be contacting you to complete the missing data for your file.

Please welcome us when we call: Judy Shirey, Priscilla Swanger, Sheri Allen, Nancy Hartzell and others.

Confirmation Class begins March 14

All Junior or Senior High youth, who are not yet church members, are invited to confir-



mation classes which will meet eight Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (10 – 10:45) on the following dates: March 14, 21 and 28, April 11, 18 and 25, and May 2 and 16.

All participants in the class who wish will then become full adult members on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 (both services).

If you are interested in the class, please sign-up on the sheet posted outside the church office, call the office (717.273.2958) or e-mail ionaoffice@comcast.net. Contact Roy Craig with any questions.

Lebanon Valley Youth for Christ **BIDS for KIDS**

Benefit Auction March 18-19-20

at the Lebanon Expo and Fairgrounds

Top 7 Ways to Raise the Bids for the Kids!

- 1** We are accepting donations of **quality new and used items** (not accepting used electronics, pianos (keyboards only), or exercise equipment). Donations may be dropped at the YFC Teen Center on Grace Avenue Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or call 272-5106 to make other arrangements..
- 2 Make a themed gift basket.** Themed gift baskets are fun to make. Wrap them up and deliver your creation to the YFC Teen Center by March 8! Call Marie Martin at 866-4778 for details.
- 3 Purchase Kauffman's Chicken BBQ** tickets for your staff, friends, family or church group encouraging them to support the Bids For Kids Auction. Call 272-5106 for tickets.
- 4 Calling all bakers.** Our bake stand needs you! We'll be accepting donations of **baked goods** on Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at the auction facility. Call Francine Dodson at 279-0182 for details.
- 5 Give a cash donation** to Lebanon Valley YFC or attend the auction and make a bid for the kids.
- 6 Crafters,** are you able to share a few of your handmade specialties to help the kids of Lebanon? Give Cindy Schreier a call at 838-8448 to donate.
- 7 Bring a Friend!** Spread the news to your friends, grocer, hair-dresser, doctor, co-workers, etc.

All You Can Eat
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 20
6:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Pay at the door

**Kauffman's Chicken
BBQ**
Saturday, March 20
10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Eat-in or Take-out

www.lvycf.com for more information. 717.272.5106

World Day of Prayer Service

Sponsored by Church Women United, the World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday, March 5, 7 p.m. at Annville United Methodist Church.

The 2010 theme is "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God!" and was written by the women of Cameroon who tell us, "In the Cameroonian context people praise God even in, and especially during, difficult times in their lives. This is because generally we consider life to be God's greatest gift to us. As long as one has breath, there is hope. So we sing in the hope that things will be better."

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

Everyone is invited to attend!

Birthday Greetings

(college, military, homebound, missions)

Mar. 6 – Tyler & Tanner Forney
Apr. 3 – Deena Weaver
3 – Hanna Najjar
16 – Amanda Althouse
23 – Travis Bensing
23 – Wesley Bensing
25 – Shalene Arnold

Please remember to contact the church: phone 273-2958; email ionaoffice@comcast.net with any changes or additions.

MARCH 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 6:00 Trustees Meeting 7:00 Administrative Council Meeting	3 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 John 3:16 Small Group Study	5 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	6
7 Third Sunday in Lent 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Soul Connection Service Praise Team Rehearsal foll. Service 4:00 Cherub Choir / Joyful Ringers	8	9 9:00 Young at Heart Breakfast @ Quentin Haus 7:00 SPR Committee Meeting	10	11 7:00 John 3:16 Small Group Study	12	13
14 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:45 Worship 10:00 SS / Confirmation Class 11:00 Soul Connection Service Praise Team Rehearsal foll. Service 4:00 Joyful Ringers	15	16 7:00 VBS Planning Meeting	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 John 3:16 Small Group Study	19 —"Bids for Kids"—	20 9:00 4H Friends (Gable Hall) Auction
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:45 Worship 10:00 SS / Confirmation Class 11:00 Soul Connection Service Praise Team Rehearsal foll. Service 4:00 Cherub Choir 4:30 Rainbow Ringers	22	23	24 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 John 3:16 Small Group Study	26 YF's "30 Hours to Meet at LCCM @ 5 p.m. – Church @ 8 p.m.	27 Feed a Village" Leave @ 8 a.m. for CATRA – Return to church
28 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:45 Worship 10:00 SS / Confirmation Class 11:00 Soul Connection Service Praise Team Rehearsal foll. Service 4:00 Joyful Ringers						