

Wright's Word

The mission of Wright's United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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April 2016

Pastor's Ponderings

At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But we don't just celebrate his resurrection: We remember and celebrate what the event means. The Resurrection is a vindication of Christ's ministry, a confirmation of his identity, a validation of what he said and did. The Resurrection proclaims that evil and sin and even death will not have the final word. As Christians we say "We are an Easter People", declaring that the worst thing is never the last thing, and this gives us our identity. This is a message that seizes our hearts and continues to shape us and give us hope to the present day. In the gospel of John we are given the clearest definition of who Jesus is and the ways in which he offers life to those who believe in him. Jesus describes himself most clearly using the name "I Am", as the definition of who he is which is a direct reflection of God in the Old Testament when we are given God's name at the burning bush. Moses asked "Who are you?" and God replied, "I Am". In other words, everything that exists is contingent upon God for its existence. Every molecule, every atom, every subatomic particle, every cell in your body derives its energy and existence from God. Jesus utters the phrase "I am" over and over again to tell folks who he is, what defines him, what his mission was on earth as sent from God the father to bring hope, mercy and light to a dark world of anger, violence and indifference. Here are the "I Am" statements all from the gospel of John. "I am the bread of life" (6:35), "I am the light of the world" (8:12), "I am the gate of the sheep" (10:7), "I am the good shepherd" (10:11, 14), "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25), "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6) and "I am the true vine" (15:1, 5). Jesus says if you have seen me, you have seen God the father because "I am". One of the activities we did during our Wednesday night dinner/studies was tell people who you were by using simple "I am" statements. Example I said "I am a father, I am a husband, I am a pastor" and so on and everyone around the room had opportunity to do this. I imagined how would we define ourselves as a church?

In letters of welcome I send to visitors, how do we want to describe who we are as the church Christ calls us to be? We have a lot of great ministry, put forth by a lot of caring and Christ-like people, so how do we say in just a few words who we are? We are going to include a tear off, fill in the blank statement in the bulletins for April that you can share. "Wright UMC is _____". May the Joy of the resurrection and the hope of Christ be your "I am" this Easter season.

Agape
Pastor Richard

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EXTRA, EXTRA read all about it.... Newsletter Articles Wanted

All Ministry teams are encouraged to submit newsletter articles each month, no matter how big or small. Please have any/all articles to me by the 12th of each month. If you submit your article(s) via email (shelleywumc@verizon.net), or disk-word format only- (preferred methods) then your due date is extended to the 15th of each month. Thank you for your time and articles. They are appreciated

WORSHIP

...his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth. – John 4:24

Between Wrights and Edwards Chapel we offer three worship opportunities every weekend:

Sunday @ 9:30 AM – Family Worship at Wrights children's church is available following the Children's Message.

Sunday @ 11 AM – Family Worship at Edwards Chapel children's church is available following the Children's Message.

Saturday Night Faith Café is held 6:30 PM

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

TEAM TREKKERS OR OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT

youth and children's program will resume April 20th from 6:00 -7:30 with dinner, activities, worship and more interactive faith than imagined! See Pastor Richard to join the fabulous adventure!

NURTURE

Salkehatchie is our summer mission trip for youth and adults July 16-23 to Creekfront camp, Murrels Inlet South Carolina. We are so excited to have 8 youth and adults giving their time and talent to rebuild homes and lives in this pioneering ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference! Now comes the huge step of fundraising the \$230.00 per person plus transportation costs for this life changing experience of faith in action. Please support our youth as they become the hands and feet of Wrights UMC among those unable to help themselves.

OUTREACH

Community garden or Boaz field is getting ready for our second year of planting and growing. Last year was a great success but more volunteers are needed to volunteer to spend an hour on a weekly basis to weed, till and keep away the varmints once the fields are ready. Look for a planting party on a Saturday Night in April as we grow together in the footsteps of Christ.

Liturgist



April
Savannah Rankin

Greeters



April
Clayton & Marion
Sphar

FINANCE

Copies of the monthly Finance report is available in the Narthex.

United Methodist Women

Our most recent meeting was our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Service. The Wright's UMW put aside funds during the Lenten season and bring their offerings in for that service. This year's Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support programs that will empower women to gain resources they need to earn a living wage and care for themselves and their loved ones. Projects may include vocational training, job readiness and life skills training, small business development assistance and advocacy campaigns to educate communities around the area about economic justice at a local, national and global level.

The United Methodist Women are hoping to continue participating in the collection of UMCOR kit materials throughout the year, selecting a needed kit for each

quarter. This spring, we will be setting up a display of a cleaning (flood) bucket. You will be able to take a slip or slips for items that are required. Our goal is to provide four or more cleaning buckets. A list of the needed materials will also be provided in our weekly bulletins.

We will continue our support of the Ruth M. Smith Center with the collection of box tops and labels. Thanks to all who continue to help with this mission.

Our April meeting will be held Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m. in the church office. Our program is entitled Poverty and Possibility and will be taken from our 2016 Program Book.

Our most recent District Event was held at Jefferson UMC in Greene County. Our speaker was Jodale Barnhart. Jodale was a Study Leader at our 2015 mission u and has served the Western PA Conference as a Mission Ambassador. Her topic was Latin America. Jodale spoke about the history and colonization of Latin America and its impact on the native population. She also shared her slides of a recent mission trip to Paraguay.

Our next Washington District Event will be our Spring Social. The UMW of Central Highlands UMC in Elizabeth will be hosting this event. Our Spiritual Enrichment Program is entitled "Visitor from the Past: Martha of Bethany." The presenter will be Luella Krieger. Luella has been portraying women of the Bible and women of faith with dramatic story telling since 1992. Cost is \$10. Reservations are due to Twila Hummel by Sunday, April 10. Registration begins at 11:30; lunch will be served at noon. We will carpool from Wright's. Please see Pam or Twila if you are interested in attending. Come and join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship.

Please consider becoming part of our group. Come and get to know us and learn what United Methodist Women is all about. Remember, you do not have to be a member of UMW or of Wright's Church to come and join us. All women are welcome. United Methodist Women - turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women,

children and youth around the world for 150 years!

Women Of Wright's

Election Day Soup and Bake Sale

Tuesday, April 26 will be a busy day at the church. The Women Of Wright's will be selling homemade soups and baked goods in the kitchen, while in the Fellowship Hall, votes will be casting ballots in the Pennsylvania Presidential Primary.

A large turnout is expected. Donations of soups/baked goods for this fundraiser will be appreciated. W.O.W. donates all money raised to missions.



April

- 1 Nicole Mackey
- 2 Heather Peterson
Josh Yohe
- 6 Eileen Higbee
- 7 John Sneddon
- 10 Suellen Lynch
Dave Lynch
- 12 Cecil Fitch
- 13 Linda Metrovich
- 15 Pastor Tom
- 16 Pamela Peterson
- 22 Pastor Marge

If your name is not on our list, or if the wrong name, date, or month is listed, please call the church office, and let us know. Thank

Free income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be available at The Bible Chapel, 300 Gallery Drive McMurray, PA beginning Monday, February 1, 2016 through Friday, April 15, 2016 (Closed on Good Friday) Regular hours are weekdays 8:30 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.. There are no appointments, only walk- ins. For more information, see the flier in the Narthex.

Lifetouch Directories

If you would like to buy a directory, we still have extra copies available for you to purchase. They are \$7 per copy. You can see Shelley in church on Sunday's, call the church office or email shelleywumc@verizon.net. Please add an extra \$2.50 to the total if you need it mailed- to cover the cost of shipping. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer phone chain is currently being updated. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please let Kathy Jo know.

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS AND YOUNG AT HEART!

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday we meet next door at the Venetia Community center for food, fellowship and fun. A good meal, great informative meetings, blood pressure checks, and great entertainment all begin at 11:30-1:30 as you get a chance to share stories with old friends and meet new ones. Call Erma Grego for sign up. 724-941-6956

ATTENTION ALL STORYTELLERS AND SPINNERS OF LOCAL HISTORY!

The Peters Creek Historical Society is hosting an "Exploring the history of Wrights UMC" Monday April 25, 7:30 in the sanctuary. If you have printed history or could share old stories, pictures and the like of our historic church, see Pastor Richard to help tell our story. Invite your friends!



April 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1	2 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
3 9:30 AM Communion Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School	4	5	6 9AM Men's Breakfast	7	8	9 9-Noon Trustee Spring clean up day	
10 9:30 AM Worship Donut Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School	11 7 Finance 7:30 Council	12	13	14 Senior lunch at Venetia Community Ctr.	15	16 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café	
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	18 7 PM Trustees	19	20 6-7:30 PM Team Trekks Youth and Children	21	22	23	
24 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	25 Set up for Soup and Bake Sale Peters Creek Historical meeting (SC) History of Wright's church	26 Election Day Soup and Bake Sale	27 6-7:30 PM Team Trekks Youth and Children	28 Senior lunch at Venetia Community Ctr.	29	30 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café	