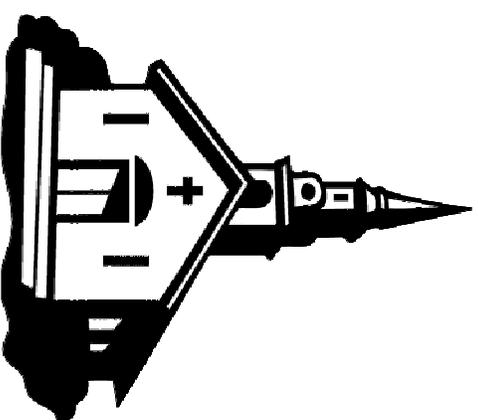


Wright's Word



Wrights United Methodist Church

788 Venetia Road

Venetia, PA 15367

724-348-5718

www.wrightsumc.com

Email: wrightumc@gmail.com

Worship 9:30 A.M. Sunday

6:30 P.M. Saturday night

Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Wright United Methodist
Church
788 Venetia Road
Venetia, PA 15367

Please forward

Change service requested

Dated material- Please expedite

Wright's Word

Wright's United Methodist Church February & March 2018

788 Venetia Road Venetia, PA 15367 ~ 724-348-5718 ~ www.wrightsumc.com

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Merry Christmas Friends!

When I was a child one of my favorite Christmas songs was the "Twelve Days of Christmas" from the Perry Como Christmas album. Unfortunately on one of the verses the record skipped when it got to "three French hens...three French hens...three French hens." I thought that's how the song went until I learned it differently in school! 2017 for the Roberts family was an adventure - some parts I would like to have skipped and certainly not repeat, but here are our Greatest Hits for the year.

I will begin year five of pastoring Wright's and Edward's Chapel UMC's and every morning brings new opportunities to be in service to our Lord. I most recently visited with a seminary friend Rev Danny Orr and his family in Ohio, traveling back from my brother's home in Michigan. While visiting with Laura's family in Kilmarnock VA, I visited with a former UMYF youth Scott Tingen and family that are now 30 years older from Salem UMC in Covington Ga when I was his youth director and a seminary student at Emory in Atlanta. Keeping in touch and valuing the relationships that we've met over the years has been a comforting theme this year with all the challenges that emerged for our family. In May, my mom Roberta, was diagnosed with abdominal cancer requiring months of chemo and major surgery in October, with additional chemo that followed. Mom turned 80 in June and was still a daily cook and chauffer for the kids and kitchen leader at both churches. She is resilient and is getting her strength back, but hasn't made an apple pie since Easter. We are all adjusting to that. In June, Laura's uncle, Ed Clark, died suddenly in Kilmarnock, VA our beautiful vacation home area. He was such a daily source of joy, strength, and fun for Aunt Carol, the rest of family and all who he ever met. I talked to him no less than 3 time week by cell, about music. "The Law Man Preacher Man Band," current world events, and how to retire earlier to move there and play music all the time? We were still grieving all those situations when my Brother Gary died suddenly at 59 years of age, on Veterans Day from an aneurism. We made two trips to Battle Creek to be with his wonderful wife Marci, my nephew, Daniel, and kids and a niece, Patti. Gary had 40 years of federal service, was 3 months shy of retirement and was buried with full military honors, honoring his multiple tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Uzbekistan and everywhere he was sent by Uncle Sam. Hearing from so many family and longtime friends, the comfort of church and Laura's work families, and the random acts of kindness from almost total strangers during this year has sustained us through all the unexpected challenges and turns, hopeful that God is present and evidenced in the daily affirmations of life. As I look out over both congregations I can see the same look of grief, sorrow, frustration and perhaps anger that I have seen in myself this past year, looking in a mirror of illness, death and uncertainty with a world culture that is claiming the words "I'm not judging", but is in essence is more unforgiving, judgmental and divided in polar opposites more than history has ever recorded. Where do we go from here? What are we called to do as individuals and as the body of Christ which corporately has found itself perhaps wondering in the wilderness looking for a moral compass? My Advice? Erase the chalkboard of grievances from 2017 and all years prior and start anew. The babe in the manger gives us that redemptive possibility if we accept him. If we believe that he was who the prophets said he is and what this Christmas thing is all about. 'Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.' Those beautiful words from Isaiah put to such powerful music in Handel's Messiah will have to be our marching orders for this year 2018. Not the broken record stuck on "Three French Hens...click". You and I must stand and sing together for the future of the church, the family, and the world.

Would you like to submit an article?

It is encourage that each ministry team within the church submit an article. If your group is able to do so please submit by 12th of the month.

Email: wrightsumc@gmail.com

In person: Please drop off in office

Paper: Please drop of in the office



Worship Service

...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.

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



Free income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be available at The Bible Chapel, 300 Gallery Drive McMurray, PA beginning Monday, February 5, 2018 through Friday, April 13, 2018 (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.



2018 Summer Camp information is now available. To find out more about what Jumonville offers for your child, please refer to their website @: www.jumonville.org. Form for registration can also be located on the website.

For active members, please have your \$50 non refundable payment checks made payable to Wrights. All payment and registration form to be given to Doreen Franks by March 25th. Forms can be printed or picked up in Narthex.

If sending more than 1 child per family an additional form will need to be filled out. See Doreen with any questions. 724-348-9183 or email:

Ash Wednesday

Lenten begins at Wrights Feb 14th, with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00pm. Come and begin your 40 day journey of spiritual reflection, repentance and renewal with the imposition of Ashes in a night of great reverence.



Stewardship Update

A big welcome to all of our new members & baptism from 2017. That helps us all renew our covenant in Christ that we pledged when we joined Wright's UMC. We said we would support Wright with our prayers, presences, gifts, services & witness. You will receive your annual statements of giving for 2017 and also envelopes in the Narthex for 2018. Thanks to all who regularly support the ministries of Wrights, The United Methodist church nationally and missionary workers through out the world.



January

7 Gwen St. Cyr
8 Dave Hummel
Sarah Schafer
19 Lou Kernen, Jr.
20 Dan Lutes
22 Chelsey Leech
24 Jody Simmons
26 Ed Schults
30 Pat Durham

February

7 Cam Waalters
10 Matt Lytle
11 Marion Zipfel
20 Helen Matyas
Kelly St. Cyr
27 Robert Leech Sr.

March

1 Bobby Schafer
8 Malina Ridgeway
9 Olivia Taylor
14 Michael Ridgeway
14 Marion Sphar
16 George Peterson
17 Greg Smaroff
17 Jesse Muntan
21 Matthew Blasch
22 Kenton Hummel
26 Darryl Jones
29 Donna Schwarz



January

26 Jack & Cheryl Gereshenski

February

26 Matthew & Sharon Blasch

March

5 Pastors Ron & Marge Lindahl
9 Pat & Joyce Durham

Washington District

Lay Servant Ministries School

February 18 –March 18, 2018

Mark your calendars now! Plan to attend Lay Servant Ministries classes in the new year!

The school will be open to anyone who wants to be inspired to a deeper commitment to Christ, to be equipped for more effective discipleship and encouraged for leadership and service. Classes will be held five Sundays during Lent, February 18th, 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th & 30th from 2:00 pm.–4:30 pm. at the First United Methodist Church of Washington.

Classes offered:

Basic Course for Lay Servant Ministries

Youth Focus

Go Preach

The Spirit & Art of Conflict

Social Justice

Prayer

Note: Please encourage our Youth to attend Lay Servant Ministries School! There will be a separate Basic Course class available for Youth, registrations permitting. Youth are also welcome to take any of the other classes being offered.

We hope you will announce this information in your churches now! More information about Washington District's Lay Servant Ministries School, class details, and registration forms will be distributed in late January early February.

Christmas at the Village of Venetia Wrap-Up

Over 160 folks strolled thru the Christmas Lites, Displays, Trains and Automobiles decorated for the Season of Joy!

New this year was a Walk-Thru-Guided Tour to “The Bethlehem Village” of Shopkeepers and Shepherds, even a visit with kind Inn Keepers and a young pregnant couple ready to give birth.

The excitement of the night had many exclaim “It’s like a Giant Block Party”

Ham BBQ, Walking Tacos, Hot Chocolate & Hot Dogs along with Smores on two open fires warmed tummies and toes welcoming new visitors to the village.

Red Bird Mission made approximately \$3400 to share with the Appalachian Artisans back home in Kentucky. Thanks to all the hard working volunteers at Wrights UMC, the Venetia Heritage Society, The DARE Model Train Club, Junior Girl Scout Troop 52499 and Peters Creek Historical Society, Sundays Soup and Stroll was the best ever.



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SEDER MEAL – The Seder is the joyful family dinner & worship service that Jesus ate with his disciples on Passover. The ceremony recounts The Exodus with symbolic foods of lamb, roasted egg, bitter herbs along with other indigenous foods of cheese, nuts & olives, etc. The meal is eaten during the service of scripture and song and holy communion shared as Christ instituted on that Thursday Night before his crucifixion. The meal will on March 29th at 7PM. Sign up in the Narthex

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

UMC at 7:30PM

A service of Tenebrae with extinguishing of candles lit at Christmas Eve as we experience the darkness of crucifixion. It will take place at Wright UMC at 7:30PM



Sunrise Service at Mingo Park Observatory- Sunday April, 1st at 7 AM. “Memories of the Resurrection” drama/musical. Bring a lawn chair and blanket. Breakfast to follow at shelter. Bring a dish to share. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you’ve never been there at Sunrise – It’s AWESOME – Y’all Come!



WRIGHTS ROCK-AND-ROLL EASTER EVENT IS SATURDAY, March 31st

10-12. Fun includes lunch, game and craft stations, egg hunt, and Resurrection Egg celebration. Activities Include:

- Cross Toss Game
- Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt
- Egg Dying
- Cookie Decorating
- Easter Basket making
- Easter craft
- Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

Bring your children out for a morning fun and discovery of the

“egg-straordinary” truth of Easter!