



### The Pastor's Searchlight—March, 2018:

A young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he lamented, "I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." The manager replied, "Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty." So, it is with evangelism. Our lives should be so filled with Christ that they create a thirst for the Gospel. (Contributed by David Browne)

Jesus cried out from the cross, "I thirst" (John 19:28), and though I don't want to diminish at all his humanity, I wonder if Jesus' statement at that moment also had to do with his desire, his thirst for righteousness for us. He began his ministry teaching from a hillside, a sermon that began with the "Beatitudes," which included this desire, this thirst: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6) Jesus thirsted for **our** righteousness, **our** relationship with the Father, **made right by his cross**. That's the water that Christ promised the woman at the well he **alone** could provide—a water that will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Christ's desire is always about ushering us into God's embrace...is God's embrace our ultimate priority for others around us, no matter their race, bank account, ethnicity, background, religion, politics, gender, or sexuality? You are the salt of the earth, Christ said to his disciples. Isn't it amazing that if we live lives faithful to Christ (saltiness), we create a thirst among others who don't know God's love, and it can lead to the satisfaction of their thirst for abundant life. (John 10:10)...SO, get out your "Morton's" and shake it on everyone around you this Easter!

**Yours In Christ, Pastor Dave** ([reved87@verizon.net](mailto:reved87@verizon.net))

**Don't forget!** The Deacons have special gold envelopes in the pew racks for those who wish to donate to their caring & assistance ministry on communion Sunday each month. **Please remember** that we have **children's activity bags** for any children who aren't interested in using the nursery or children's church programs during worship. These bags include crayons, coloring pages, story books, & snacks. These bags should be returned after worship for continued use, but the snack and coloring pages can be kept by the child.

"**Thy Will Be Done**"—"Not as I will, but as You will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection during Holy Week. Each service in this series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day. There is also a special Lenten study shared by Belle Valley and Elmwood Ave.

## Worship

Churches on Tuesdays, from 6:30-8pm—**see the accompanying announcement!**

**Mar. 4 (Sunday, Lent III)** (communion; Mar. birthday off/g/coffee hr.): "God's Will and My Identity" (Mary)

**Mar. 11 (Sunday, Lent IV)** (Deacons' pasta dinner fundraiser): "God's Will and My World View" (Paul)

**Mar. 18 (Sunday, Lent V):** "God's Will and My Response" (Lydia)

**Mar. 25 (Palm Sunday)** (Penny Sunday; Sunday Funday after worship): "God's Will When We Are Not Willing"

**Mar. 29 (Maundy Thursday):** "God's Will and Joyful Service"—7pm @ Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church—a shared service with Belle Valley, Elmwood, and Emmanuel; including communion, a joint choir anthem, and a sermon dialogue with Revs. Rick Cepris and Dave Edmunds.

**Mar. 30 (Good Friday): "God's Will Is Done"—Men's Communion Breakfast @ 6:30am @ Belle Valley Presbyterian Church**—join in the fellowship and sacredness of beginning this Holy Weekend with a special focus. We'll enjoy a catered breakfast buffet (\$10/each), and a brief devotion with communion. This event is open to the entire Erie area (of at least Presbyterians—though all are welcome)! RSVP to Dave Edmunds (397-1861, [reved87@verizon.net](mailto:reved87@verizon.net)) by Monday, Mar. 26. **Good Friday Passover Seder**, 6pm in fellowship hall, RSVP by 3/26.



**April 1 (Easter Sunday): "God's Will for the New Creation"**—Please feel free to join with Belle Valley in the **68<sup>th</sup> Annual Community "Sonrise" Service** @ the Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery (by the gazebo at the top of the hill) @ 6:30am. We will worship together as the sun, and the Son, rises. Then remember our **Service of the Resurrection @ 11am**, with communion,

chancel choir, the glory of the lilies, and the Glory of the Son! Followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt for the kids @ 12:15pm**. (See the **Easter flowers order ann.** @ the end of this newsletter) **No Easter breakfast this year following the "Sonrise" service!**



**The Lenten Study Group continues this Tuesday, 3/6** at 6:30pm at Elmwood Ave. Church. The next three gatherings are at Belle Valley Church (Mar. 13, 20, 27) @ 6:30pm as well. The studies will follow the themes of our worship series ("Thy Will Be Done") in Lent, and light refreshments will be provided! Please come and join in the fun and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

**Praying for:** (Please contact us with any changes to or removals from this list) MaryJo Poulson, Rich Hoover, Mary Bardo, Mark Schaas, Camille Jimerson, Melissa Pepple, Ellie Poulson, Jim Glass, Cathy Marshall, Mary Ann Lasko, Dale Albert, Adam Muse, Kathy Feidler, Ralph Acker, Ruth Ridgeway, Bev Hopkins, Jacquie & Dave Phillips, Rusty Kerr, Joan Ragen, Cory Poulson, Zach Napierkowski, Robert Agnew, Jeremiah Murosky, Sophie Poulson; the victims of storm, flooding, tornado, fire, and earthquake across the US, Caribbean, Mexico and Iran, the victims of senseless shootings around the world, a fair resolution for the Dreamers (DACA), Erie's growing epidemic of heroine & opioid addictions, Isis terrorism tragedies around the world, current military services personnel (especially Jared Marzka), the Ghana mission partnership (We pray especially for the Chereponi District: 11 churches, 528 members, and District Pastor M. L. Agbovi), Josh Heikkila (our PCUSA W. Africa Liaison), Salome Mansa Oye (newly ordained pastor serving in the Katiejeli district for whom we provided educational scholarship), the Wapuli Health Clinic, the Bindati Family; **Presbytery prayers:** Revs. Rick Cepris, Jim Moelk, Rachel Johns, Jim Haas, Jim McCormack, and Jeff Fowler.



### Upcoming Events: Sunday Worship—11am

\***Recycling:** drop-offs anytime (newspaper in west property trailer/aluminum cans) \***Communion**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. \***Penny Sunday**, Last Sun.

\***Deacons**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. \***Confirmation**, 3/6 @ 4:30pm \***Lenten Study Group**, 3/6 @ 6:30pm @ Elmwood Church

\***The Big Event**, 3/10 @ 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant, 9am-3pm, \$15/each \***Session**, 3/12, 6:30pm

\***Adult Study Group**, 3/6, 10:30am @ Harborcreek Perkins \***Maundy Thursday Svc.**, 3/29 @ Elmwood, 7pm

\***Good Friday: Men's Communion Bkft.**, 6:30am @ BVPC, \$10/each (RSVP 3/26) \***Passover Seder**, 6pm, RSVP by 3/26

\***Easter: "Sonrise"** @ Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery, 6:30am \***Svc. of the Resurrection**, 11am \***Kids' Candy Egg Hunt**, 12:15pm

**"Per Capita" Giving:** For those who are able to pay their Per Capita for 2018 (\$31 per member) there are envelopes available on the table in the foyer. Your "Per Capita" giving supports mission efforts throughout our presbytery and the world-wide Church.



**Please Minister to Members Challenged by Chronic Health Issues** (cards, calls, visits, and prayer):

Bill Bullock: Elmwood Gardens, 2628 Elmwood Ave., #E-6, 16508; Janet Crain: 1417 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., 16504 (616-0114); Rusty Kerr: Sarah Reed Retirement Ctr., #139, 227 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., 16502 (878-2758); Jean Moorhead: 1023 Raspberry St., 16502 (459-9077); Marge Parker: Independence Court, 41 W. Gore Rd., #252, 16504 (864-4867); Harold Keefe: 4322 Pine Ave., 16504 (315-9594); MaryAnn Stein: 919 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Erie 16503 (520-5082); Doris

Feeney: St. Mary's-East, 607 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St., #114, 16504 (528-0108); Dan & Diane Horton: 643 Elk St., Apt. 2, Franklin, PA, 16323 (860-9173, 282-9944), email: [2525@gmail.com](mailto:2525@gmail.com).

**\*\*Don't Forget:** During the fall/winter, the church is on a zoning heat process, therefore, be sure to close all doors behind you when finished! This saves heating costs!

**Financial Secretary Notes:**

1. Anyone that wants tithing envelopes for 2018 please let Gwen Ebert know (825-2989 or 860-4477).
2. Anyone (member or non-member) that wants/needs a printed record of their giving to the church must have a number in order for their giving to be recorded. If you do not have a number and would like one please contact Gwen Ebert.



**Any Church Family Needs...** sickness, hospitalization, funeral reception after the loss of a loved one, financial need, etc. Please contact the Deacons thru Kim Ragen (392-5831)—confidentiality is maintained! **Are you or anyone you know in any kind of emotional crisis or grief over loss** (loved one, employment, mobility, independence, etc.)? We have access to trained Stephen Ministers: gifted listeners, free, and confidential. Call Pastor Dave (397-1861).

**Food Collections:** Please keep up all the good work of your ongoing support of canned goods and staples for the Mt. Carmel food pantry. There is also a list of suggested food staples that are most welcome at that receptacle (for example: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, pasta, tuna, chicken, etc.). We also continue our City Mission food pantry collection. Both receptacles are in the foyer.



**Belle Valley's Recycling Ministry Needs YOU!** Unloading the newspaper trailer onto a delivery truck will take place (check w/ Charlie Blanchard first: 825-3925). **New recycling criteria** please take note: **only aluminum cans**, newspaper (*and old phone books*). **We also recycle printer ink cartridges** from your own personal computer systems—the collection bin is in the foyer by the phone (*we receive funds for this recycling!*). **We also recycle cell phones!!** We are asking you to donate any old cell phones, and those of family/friends. The collection bin is in the foyer.



**Interested in Exploring Membership?** What exactly does it mean to become a member of Belle Valley Presbyterian Church? Why would I want to take that step of commitment? What do I need to know about this congregation (its history, design, and vision) to help me decide? If you'd be interested in further discussion (no strings attached!), please contact Pastor Dave to RSVP (397-1861).



**Would You Like to Join the BVPC Nursery Care\* or Custodial Teams?** If you're able to serve BVPC by participating in a rotation of volunteers who help serve the needs of younger families at worship, or to keep the facility clean from week to week, then contact Chris Tombaugh (882-8932). We will provide the training and answer any questions you have. \*You need to have your PA clearances (but those can be obtained free of charge via the internet, and we can help you do that).

**2018 Worship Schedule!** Please register your interest in participating in this year's worship tasks as a volunteer (liturgists, ushers, acolytes, nursery help) by contacting Chris Tombaugh (882-8932).

**Our Mission Partnership with the Upper Northern Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana:**

**As you pray for this partnership, our church has been partnered with a cluster of LEP churches in prayer for a district of**

**churches in the Upper Northern Presbytery of EPC-Ghana:** Seeking to be faithful to God we encourage faithful prayer for each other. While it is good to pray for all churches, your Ghana Mission Team encourages prayer for specific groups of churches. You can certainly pray whenever you desire but you are especially encouraged to pray at least once a month for your sister congregations.



Chereponi District

11 churches  
126 male members;  
183 female members;  
219 children

**District Pastor:**

Rev. Joshua Nabuer

Lake Erie Presbytery

Ripley, NY  
North East  
Harborcreek  
Erie, Eastminster  
Erie, Emmanuel  
Erie, Belle Valley  
Erie, New Hope  
Erie, First Covenant  
Erie, Elmwood Avenue

**Having Trouble Controlling the Way You Eat?** Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is based on the 12 Steps of AA. It is a fellowship of women and men who are recovering from the disease of food addiction. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins. Weekly mtgs. take place at: Erie Church of Christ, 2317 W. Grandview Blvd. (Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm); St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 427 Plum St., Edinboro (Thursdays, 6:30-8pm). Visit our website at: "foodaddicts.org."



**The Presbytery of Lake Erie invites you to "The Big Event: Discovering Joy Right Where You**



**Are** March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm, @ 1<sup>st</sup> Church of the Covenant, Erie. Registration forms are available in the foyer. Our keynote speaker will be Rev. David Hansen, retired Presbyterian pastor (having served congregations in Montana, and Cincinnati, OH). He is also an accomplished author (*The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers* and *Loving the Church You Lead: Pastoring with Acceptance and Grace*). David is also a contributing editor for *Leadership Journal* (a publication for clergy/church leaders, published by Christianity Today Institute). It will be a day filled with workshops and worship, and lunch, and will leave you feeling encouraged, refreshed and ready for joyful service to our Lord! Cost is \$15 each (includes lunch)—payable online, by mail or at the door. Please register by Feb. 28 @ [www.pbylakeerie.org](http://www.pbylakeerie.org) or by mail. Babysitting will be available (call 456-4243).

**Deacon's Pasta Fundraiser Dinner!** will be held on 3/11 from 11:30am - 2pm. Homemade sauce (by Chef Dave), meatballs, pasta, toss salad and rolls (donated by Texas Roadhouse) and desserts. Adults \$8.00, Kids ages 5-12 \$5.00, and kids under 5 free. Families are \$25.00. Deacons are asking for desert donations from the congregation. Sign-up sheet in foyer. We will also be selling the homemade sauce for \$5.00. If you have any questions call Kim Ragen at 392-5831.



**Annual Belle Valley Rummage Sale** will be held May 18-19. If anyone is able to chair the bake sale or work just the lunch table please see Fred Marshall or Sandy McConahy. More information will follow very soon. **START SAVING YOUR TREASURES!**

**Presbytery of Lake Erie Mission Trips:** Hi everyone! Just wanted to be sure, as previous participants in the Presbytery of Lake Erie Mission Trips, you got the following info for this summer's trip. The dates are June 17-23 and we are going to Fayetteville, NC for hurricane recovery efforts. Flyers will be available soon and will be distributed at the next presbytery meeting. Just wanted to give you the heads up. I know not everyone has email so if you could pass the word along that would be great. I will be passing on additional details soon. Let me know if you are interested! Blessings as we begin our Lenten Journey! Sincerely, Rev. Jamie Fowler (814-673-0874).

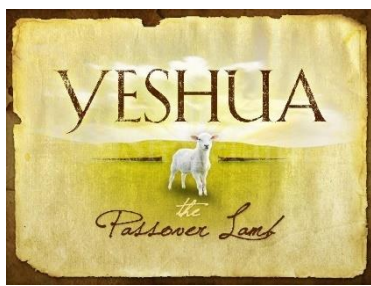


**Are You a Junior or Senior in High School?** Would you have interest in attending Westminster College? They are accepting nominations for scholarships from our congregation. Contact Pastor Dave (397-1861) for more information.

**PRESBYTERY OF LAKE ERIE Meeting HIGHLIGHTS, FEB. 24, 2018:** The February meeting of Lake Erie Presbytery – the first of five for 2018 – included approval of three overarching priorities to guide the presbytery into the future, the enrollment of our first inquirer into the preparation for ministry process since 2012, and reminders of presbytery partnerships and grants to foster ministry in local communities. The 48 presbyters who met at First United Presbyterian Church in Edinboro endorsed a renewed list of goals to shape presbytery activities into the future: "3 Priorities for the Next 3 Years": **Praying...**The Presbytery will ask questions and challenge churches to wonder, so that we might claim and reclaim the church's identity. **Listening...**The Presbytery will focus on congregations. **Sharing...**The Presbytery will offer leadership development and support for pastors, elders, and congregational members. The Coordinating Committee is also recruiting a "Futuring Team" which will explore longer-range issues of mission priorities, congregational vitality, finances and leadership. The Open Space conversation on Feb. 24 used a format which encouraged every person to talk about their own experiences of racism, otherness and bias. The hour provided guided discussion, with each person paired with someone else for each question or topic. The Ghana Mission Partnership was highlighted during worship and in committee reports. Through the end of March, Lake Erie will match congregational and individual donations to provide a replacement vehicle for Africa regional coordinator Rev. Josh Heikkila. Without new transportation, Josh is limited in the ministry he can do across multiple nations in northern Africa. Ben Nti, a Pittsburgh Seminary graduate from Ghana was the worship preacher for this meeting. Erin Lavery, a member of the Titusville congregation, has begun the preparation for ministry process, and was enrolled by Lake Erie Presbytery as an Inquirer. Inquiry is the first step to explore a person's calling and can move toward ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. The process can last 2 or 3 years. Erin is a student at Dubuque Seminary, taking classes primarily online. The annual summer mission trip coordinated by the presbytery will go to a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance site at Fayetteville, North Carolina, which is still needing long-term recovery efforts after last year's hurricanes. Rev. Jamie Fowler encouraged congregations which might have only one or two or three people interested are especially encouraged to promote this June trip. Teens at least age 14 and adults of all ages may apply. Six of the 20 positions have already been claimed. The Presbytery's Christian Education Committee is transitioning to a new name and a new focus: Spiritual Formation. The Presbytery will offer combined events for young people, to open opportunities for fun and faith-building to all teens, assisting congregations which cannot offer as many programs. High school students may register for the Montreat Youth Conference, when nearly 1,000 youth from across the country will gather for a week in July. We also are forming a delegation to go to the Middle School Conference July 18-22. The Presbytery Trustees will provide matching grants totaling \$10,000 to help local churches to enhance their technology. Options include upgrades for worship, education, offices and Web presence. Applications will be reviewed March 15 and May 17. A significant revision to the Presbytery Manual and Standing Rules was presented as a first reading. Presbytery members and commissioners to the April 24 meeting will consider whether and how to amend the manual. The changes – the first large overhaul since 2012 – would provide more flexibility to committees and presbytery meetings, update terminology to match the current Book of Order, and provide patterns for quicker responses to congregational requests on time-sensitive matters. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 24, 3PM, First Church, Bradford.



**Do you have any youth who have not yet received a beginner reader's Bible from BVPC?** BVPC normally gifts all kids entering second grade with a first Bible and we know we haven't yet done that with some of our children, but we also would like to gift our older youth who are newer to our BVPC congregation with a special age-appropriate Bible as well. Please contact Pastor Dave (397-1861) or Kristin Woodring (572-5463) with names and ages so arrangements can be made to present those Bibles at worship in the near future.



**Good Friday Passover Seder Experience:** Traditionally, Jews celebrate Passover (the historical "Exodus" of God's people freed from Egyptian slavery by Moses and led to the Promised Land) around the general time-frame Christians celebrate Easter. We would love to have you join us for a Passover Seder meal on Good Friday, 3/30 @ 6pm @ Belle Valley Church, as we experience what

Jesus and the disciples shared on the Thursday evening before Jesus' arrest. There are significant mystical connections between the parts of the seder meal and the identity and ministry/events of Jesus' life and Passion Week. We will learn more about this as well as enjoy fellowship around the tables as we approach Easter together with our brothers and sisters from Elmwood and Emmanuel churches. Please contact Clay Woodring with any questions (572-0743). Please RSVP by 3/26 so we can plan for the amount of food to prepare. There will also be a list of supplies that we all can donate towards the meal in the bulletins over the next few weeks.

***Belle Valley Presbyterian Church 2018 Easter Flower Orders*** (to decorate our chancel area in the sanctuary):

- *Easter Lily Plant of 4-5 blooms per pot: \$8*
- *6" Hyacinth Plant containing 3 bulbs: \$9 (Color Choice, if available)*
- *6" Tulip Plant containing 5-6 bulbs: \$9 (Color Choice, if available)*
- *6" Daffodil Plant: \$9*

In Memory of, or In Dedication to someone special in your life. Order, details of dedication and monies/check (payable to "Belle Valley Church") due to Stacey Simons (882-1323, stacey.simons111@gmail.com) by Sunday, March 18.