

**Canton Ecumenical
United Methodist
Church**

**Shunk United
Methodist Church**

**Ward United
Methodist Church**

**St. John's United
Methodist Church**



The Tri-County Parish

**Circuit Rider Series
March 15, 2022**

St. John's UMC
Worship: 9:30 am
539 Grover Road, Grover PA, 17735
Church Phone: (570) 673-5444
Office Phone: (570) 673-5294

Shunk UMC
Worship: 11:10 am
9881 Route 154, Shunk, PA 17768
Church Phone: (570) 924- 3099
Office Phone: (570) 673-5294

Canton Ecumenical UMC
Worship: 11:00 am
103 North Center Street, P.O. Box 313,
Canton, PA 17724
Church Phone: (570) 673-5860
Office Phone: (570) 673-5294

Ward UMC
Worship: 9:30 am
587 Church Road, Ward Township,
Canton, Pa 17724
Church Phone: (570) 673-4937
Office Phone: (570) 673-5294

Website: www.tricountyparishumc.yolasite.com

Facebook: Tri-County Parish

Please make sure all correspondence is clearly marked with P.O. Box 313 without it, it is undeliverable by the US Postal Service and will be returned.

Parish Office

Jennifer Jones, Senior Pastor

Monday – Wednesday:

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

or by appointment.

Office: 570-673-5294

Cell: 570-447-5966

Email: jsjones@susumc.org

Julie Wagner, CLM

Thursday evenings

or by appointment.

Cell: 570-666-0637

Home: 570-398-2642

Email: jwagner@susumc.org

Susan Shedden

Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

Office Hours: Mon – Thurs: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Email: tricountyparishumc@gmail.com

Office: 570-673-5294

Cell: 570-529-4340

Office hours are subject to change due to outside appointments, emergency calls or unexpected events.

If a member of your family or a friend is hospitalized, please contact the parish office (570-673-5294) as soon as possible (you can leave a message after office hours). Pastors Jennifer or Julie would like to make a visit, but since hospitals discharge patients so quickly, we need to know as soon as possible when your family member is in the hospital. Also, if you or a member of your family would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please let us know so Pastor Jennifer can arrange a visit. No one should go without this important sacrament in their lives.

Contributors:

Jennifer Jones, Julie Wagner,
Susan Stull, Suzi Fisher,
Andrea Sutton, and Dana Vermilya.

Items for the newsletter can be sent to your church's contact person or by email to tricountyparishumc@gmail.com.

The Circuit Rider is available by e-mail. If you would like to have your copy delivered by e-mail, please call the parish office, or contact us by email.

Office: 570-673-5294
tricountyparishumc@gmail.com.

The Circuit Rider is also available at: www.tricountyparishumc.yolasite.com.

**That person is like a tree
planted by streams of
water, which yields its
fruit in season and
whose leaf does not
wither— whatever they
do prospers.
Psalm 1:3**

Join us in person or stream us on YouTube or Facebook!

Facebook: Tri-County Parish

YouTube: Canton Ecumenical Parish UMC

Canton Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.cantonareachamberofcommerce.com/>

Announcements and Opportunities!

First Day of Spring – Sunday, March 20.

March 27th at 6pm, the Movie "Is Genesis History?" will be shown in the basement at St. John's Grover.

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 10.

Good Friday – Friday, April 15.

Easter – Sunday, April 17.

Upcoming Bible Studies:

Summer Study will be **Romans: 16 chapters, 16 weeks:**

Thursday: 2:00pm /Shunk, 6:30pm/Parsonage.

Wednesday: 10:00am/ Parsonage.

May: 5, 12, 19, 26

May: 4, 11, 18, 25

June: 9, 16, 23, 30

June: 8, 15, 22, 29

July: 7, 21, 28

July: 6, 20, 27

August: 4, 25

August: 3, 24, 31

September: 1, 15, 22

September: 14, 21

Submissions for the June Circuit Rider are due May 15th.

Prayer Warriors meet Wednesdays at **CEP** at 11:00 AM.

Canton Food Pantry:

- March – Spaghetti noodles (dry pasta)
- April – Spaghetti sauce
- May – Cans of fruit

Sullivan County Food Pantry: Only monetary gifts are being accepted at this time.
P.O. Box 55 Dushore, PA 18614

Words of Wisdom

by Pastor Jennifer Jones

Begin a new you!

In 2000, after recovering from full body paralysis, I can remember saying, "I don't know who I want to be when I grow up!" At this point in time, I was already 30 years of age. Most people had already been to college and chosen a career, but I did things a little backwards. I wanted to be a part of the world. I wanted to spread my wings and be the best person I could be. What I didn't understand at the time was that I was trying to figure life out on my own. I didn't realize my life wasn't my own. I didn't realize God already had made plans for my life.

It's often difficult for us to not be in control of our own life. We think we know best for ourselves. We don't like to allow others to lead us. BUT God is our Master, and we are His slaves. We are to be God's servants. We are to welcome His guidance and give ourselves over to Him completely.

Not easy, I know. Who wants to give their life over for someone else? Who wants someone to make the decisions for their life, mentally, financially, spiritually and so much more., but that is what we are called to do when we accept Christ Jesus as our Savior.

Ephesians 2: 10, For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Go to God in prayer, spend time in scripture and let Him guide your life. Give it a chance and see all the good God can do for you. As we begin Lent, Begin a new you! A new you in Christ fully and completely.

Minister's Minute

By Julie Wagner, CLM

Here we are, at the beginning of Lent. It seems just like yesterday we were celebrating the birth of Jesus, and now the Lenten season is meant for us to take the time and prepare our hearts and minds for the ultimate gift that Jesus made for us.

Lent can be like the advent season leading up to Christmas,

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

~Isaiah 53:4-5 NLT

where we are preparing our hearts and minds to receive God's gift. The advent season is full of little gifts and opportunities to give to those around us. The Salvation Army sets up their red buckets and while people are out shopping for their family and loved ones.

Then, in Lent, we give up things as a sacrifice to our Lord. Many people who belong to other denominations

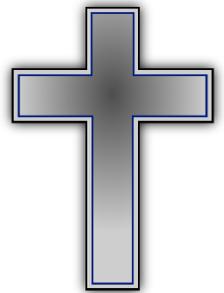
give up coffee, chocolate, red meat on Friday, etc. We hear regular questions of "what are you giving up for Lent?" I challenge you that we should be giving gifts this season as well. The sacrifice we make will bring glory to God, as well as honor the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

So, for this season, instead of giving up a beloved item as a sacrifice, I challenge you to sacrifice your time by saying an extra prayer for someone. Sacrifice your finances by purchasing an extra item for the Food Pantry. Sacrifice your gifts and talents by sharing them with someone in need. Instead of giving up coffee or chocolate, make a point to share them with a friend (or a stranger).

We are called to be Jesus to the people around us. Jesus gave up his life for our sins. What can we do to honor that sacrifice? We can give up the need for control in our lives and follow where God leads us. We can give up our time and share with others in need. We can give up our finances by supporting local missions to share food and love with others. What will you give up this year?

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

~John 3:16 NLT



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sister, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

~Romans 12:1-2

****Be sure to follow on the Facebook page, for daily Lenten devotions. ****

Shunk Church News

Contributors: Suzi Fisher

A lot of things happen during Lent. Some are religious and some are not. Ash Wednesday, Daylight Saving Time Begins, St. Patrick's Day, First Day of Spring, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday. It's a busy time of the year when many of us are looking forward to Spring as the drabness of Winter fades away. Colorful blossoms begin to appear, and Nature comes alive again. We also look forward to the promise of Redemption. Yes, it may be Friday now, but Sunday is coming!!!

Please watch the weekly bulletin for announcements about services and events during Lent.

As we are seeing very evil things happening in our world pray for the victims, service personal, government officials, and most of all for peace! Our church is very giving and has strong Prayer Warriors! Keep up the great work! Share your faith with others!!

Canton Ecumenical News

Contributors: Susan Stull

As I sit here on this February 4th morning, typing this report, I think of how faithful God is and has been to me throughout this long winter. Today, while watching my bird feeders, I discovered that the finches are back...not the gold ones, but the green ones. I have not seen them since last spring...I am not sure what it means...my bird book says they are immature finches, which I wonder if that means they will eventually become gold? Or are they a separate bird, altogether? The gold finches don't usually appear until late March or early April. I have had house finches and purple finches all winter at the feeders, jays, titmice, juncos, and cardinals, as well as my friends, the variety of common and plentiful sparrows. The sparrows remind me that if His eye is on the sparrow then I know He is watching me! The Carolina Wrens are busy at the suet holders as are the variety of Woodpeckers. The birds are my reminder to worship and be thankful in all things.



I am happy to report that I have been able to “attend” Bible studies and prayer warrior meetings by way of zoom at the parsonage on Wednesday mornings. I was present for the entire series of Philippians, and so far, the first chapter of Colossians. The Bible studies are at the parsonage on Wednesdays at 10am and at Shunk on Thursdays at 2pm and then again at the parsonage on Thursday nights at 6:30pm, through the month of February. Then they will resume, after Lent, in May. What a blessing this technology can be (when it works properly). I am so blessed to be included and busy again.

I am also happy to report that I have been faithfully attending the physical therapy sessions, which are really helping, and that my pain levels are decreasing to the point that I can actually enjoy things again. And except for very nasty weather (like today) I am out twice a day, walking my dog. She is so patient with me, as I slog along in my boots with the TRAX attached for traction, and she is finding new things to smell each trip out, as we are not yet able to go back up on the hill to the cemetery...it is just not passable...nothing has been plowed out and in fact the 2 entrances are plowed full. It will be a long time before we can get up there again, I fear.

I am also attending, via zoom, a class called GROW which is a leadership training program that will also qualify me to continue my position as a lay-speaker for another 3 years. It is an intensive class with a lot of homework. And we meet for 2 hours every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 for 8 weeks. And we have had to read 3 books to use in the sessions. A lot of reading, a lot of homework and a lot of hours put into this one!

There are so many people who are grieving right now, and I am more aware of those people now and if I know them, I try to stay in touch by phone, or at least send a message in a card and I always include them in my prayers. Grief is a difficult thing on our journeys here on earth. We are attached to people, draw love, security, and strength from them, and then all of a sudden, they are gone. Lifelong relationships are lost due to death and the ensuing grief is devastating and lasts a long time...and it is different for everyone. No one can be expected to just get over it and get on with life. It doesn't work that way! There have been so many people in our area lost to the pandemic, and to accidents, fires, heart issues, cancer, and just plain old age along with other not so common health issues. What a loss for so many and it will affect our churches, our neighborhoods, our schools, and our jobs, our families, and our homes for a long time to come. Please keep them all lifted in prayer for comfort and His perfect peace. It does help to know you are being lifted in prayer.

I am praying for a warmer March with less ice and snow. The ice has been terrible and is really frightening for me to negotiate. Thank you once again to all who have been so attentive to me, during the long process of healing and while I am grieving. You are all wonderful. And thank you for the prayers...I feel them! Stay safe and stay healthy. Virtual Hugs to all who are reading this, Sue Stull

Ward News

Contributors: Dana Vermilya

- Our Easter Service will be held at 7:00am with breakfast to follow. If you're interested in contributing to breakfast, watch for the sign-up sheet
- Tri-County Parish is providing the meal for the last Lenten Luncheon. We will be signing up for the part of the meal that we are in charge of supplying.
- Reminder that we are back to having coffee hour. It will be held the first Sunday of the month with the exception of July, August, September, and December. There will be no coffee hour in July and August. September's will be held the second week in the month and December will be the week of the Christmas program.
- Ward Ad Council meetings will be held May 5, August 25, and November 3rd at 7:15 at the church in 2022. We encourage you to attend.

As we enter this Lenten season, I find myself thinking about the life of Jesus and all of the things that he did. Not only did he lead by example, but because of the sacrifice made for us, we are able to have Eternal Life. How wonderful! He certainly was a good teacher, but it's still hard to live the way He intended sometimes.

I had the privilege of going to the Winter Jam concert recently. Levi went with a youth group, and Link, Barbie and I ended up in the section sitting with them. Looking around at all the youth from our area and those from other areas thriving in the environment listening to the word of God through music and story, was very moving. As with many events like this, one of the leaders lead a prayer for people to accept Christ and ask him into your heart. When he said let's pray, most of us bowed our heads. I believe he said something like, "Pray with me." A few rows in front of us, a mother sat with her two young girls. During the prayer, you could hear the older of the two, I'd say 6 or 7 years old, praying the words aloud after the leader. Now, it is quite possible that this young lady had already asked Jesus into her heart, but what joy it brought to hear her praying aloud in this huge building full of people! She was not embarrassed. She was just praying, as she had been taught, when asked to do so.

Later, a message was shared about reaching out to others. We were encouraged to think of one person who hasn't yet come to Christ. We were encouraged to pray for that person. We were told to just start with one person. If we each focus on one person and show them the love of Christ, together we can make a difference. We don't have to go out looking for mass amounts of people all at once. Maybe starting with one even seems hard, but if we just focus on showing God's love and praying for the person, I bet it wouldn't be.

This goes well with the sermons that we've recently heard at church. We've been encouraged to pray. We've been encouraged to not just give something up for Lent, but to do things intentionally for the glory of God. We are so fortunate that no matter how well we do this or how poorly, God still loves us and is there to guide us. We sinners have been given God's grace. We get a fresh start, if needed, and can strive to do better. I am far from perfect, but just like that little girl at the concert, I have asked Jesus to live in my heart and I am working to show his love to others. I have my one or two people that I am being intentional about praying for, and I'm hoping they also find Him. I want them to also experience the love and grace that I have found.

Have you thought of your person? How will you pray for them? I know you all do so many things to show God's love to others. It is just natural for you. You also pray for others. Do you already pray for a specific person to find Christ? If you do, keep it up! I'd love to hear your successes with this. Not names, just numbers. How many can we lead to Christ so they too can experience the greatness of the life of Christ, the sacrifice made, and life everlasting. Happy Easter!

St. John's Church News

Contributors: Andrea Sutton, Beverly Unruh

Once again, the church members have been on the move. This time it was a carry in dinner to help celebrate Valentines' Day.

After church and Sunday school on February 22, a delicious and a great variety of food was enjoyed by most of the church members. If you went away hungry, it was your fault.

The church council held a meeting on February 14, and it was decided that new doors and lights will be purchased. Also, Jim Unruh is looking into a chair lift, so everyone can access the basement and enjoy the many activities that will be coming up during the year. Must keep the church building up, as well as the God given spirit of the church.

Just like the rest of the parish, we are filling baby bottles and collecting food for the food pantry.

Our numbers have been low these past weeks, some due to weather, some Snowbirds, and some sickness. As always, we are praying for all, no matter why you haven't been able to join your church family.

The next big days will be Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Remember Lenten luncheons are back, and we are happy about that. What a great time to see our neighbors and hear the word of God each Tuesday during Lent at the Ecumenical Church on Center Street in Canton. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy.

The ladies met at the home of Bev Unruh on February 28. Another opportunity to fellowship, have a brief Bible lesson, and do a craft. Again, everyone is invited to come. We have a good time. If you know anyone who might need a little cheer, just let us know. We are friendly, if not a little bite "crazy" (fun). Never know what might happen.

So, until next time, please stay safe, enjoy the weather, and keep praying for our country, leaders, and world.

God bless you all and keep Christ in all your dealings.



Ladies fellowship meeting in February.

At the ladies' fellowship in February Julie taught us how to make hats with a loom. Pastor Jen made a newborn's hat. All ladies welcome! We open with devotions and then learn a craft to give away.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

March, April, May

Canton Ecumenical United Methodist Church	Ward United Methodist Church	Shunk United Methodist Church	St. John's United Methodist Church
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u> 10 - Beverly Madigan 11- Bob Rathbun 18 - Gisela Streeter</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u> 2 – Chantel Ward 3 – Bob & Shirley Rathbun 9 – Mary Bronson 17- Karen Robertson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u> 1 – Ken Robertson 4 – Doyle Morgan</p> <p>Staff and Family Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u> 19 - Carson Wagner 26 - Julie Wagner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u> 30 – Pastor Jennifer Jones</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u> 1 – Brent Wagner</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u> 4 - Vonna Powley 12- Olivia Shedden 16 - Bob and Karen Coles 27- Teresa Shedden 28- Jeremy Landon 30 - Sam Shedden 31- Barry Matthews</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u> 1 – Evelyn Shedden 4 – Charles Shedden 11 – Hilary Machmer 22 – Judy Kelley</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u> 2 – Ruth Ward 14 – Nancy Fisher 19 – Jake Shedden 19 - Bruce & Emily Chilson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u> 12- Ken Quail 28 - Ralph Miller 30 - Ed and Suzi Fisher</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u> 13 – Lucy Gibbs 21 - Wayne & Linda Quail</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u> 3 – Alice Brown 6 – Eunice Mcllwain 14 – Jerry Brown -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u> 7- Chuck and Julie Anderson 15- Don Heller 20- Chuck Anderson 24- Jim Unruh 27- Donny Blazer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u> 6 – Dorothea Doud 9 – Elsie Carnes 10 – Betty Schanbacher, Jayden Austin 11 – Joanna Yukevich, Nathan Wilson 18 - Jim & Beverly Unruh</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u> 10 – Don Blazer, Charlie Anderson 14 – Judy Brandenburger 15 – Aaron Unruh 28 – Rose Lloyd 24 - Carl & Andrea Sutton</p>

If you have corrections or additions to this list, contact the Parish office immediately so we can keep this list as accurate as possible.

Ephesians 2: 10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.