

# **BERN BUGLE'S**

## **March 2022**



# **JOYFUL NOTES**

## **Volume 25, Issue 3**

### **MAILING ADDRESS:**

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church  
820 West Leesport Road  
Leesport, PA 19533  
Phone: 610-374-4343  
Fax: 610-374-1014  
Email: [bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.bernchurch.org](http://www.bernchurch.org)  
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

### **WORSHIP AVAILABILITY:**

Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**  
In-Sanctuary Worship  
Parking Lot Service (91.7 FM)

### **MINISTERS:**

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

### **PARISH SECRETARY:**

Korinne Hotzman  
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Jane Battaglieri  
Phone: 610-370-0965

### **BUILDING PRINCIPLES:**

- Devotion to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Compassionate Sharing and Community Service
- Persistent Faithfulness
- Courageous Witness
- Flexible Leadership

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

God's purpose for our congregation is to:

Learn God's mission

Share God's love

Witness through Word and Service

Welcome all to a fellowship of forgiveness and thankful praise

### **BERN BUGLE NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

The *Bern Bugle* for this month is given to the Glory of God in honor of Verna Speicher's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday by Barbara Speicher, Tim and Beverly Moyer.



The *Bern Bugle* sponsor for February was given to the Glory of God with a sincere thank you to our outgoing council members and congratulations and welcome to our new council members. Thank you all for your service!

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 20:

- Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler's UCC in Leesport has agreed to be our Designated Pastor. More information about what this means can be found on page 3.
- Bids are being accepted to upgrade our sound system.
- The upgrade to the Secretary's computer has been approved.
- A Call Committee will be formed after the ELCA Congregational Report is submitted to the Synod office.

### **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, February 21:

- Rachel Mountz will lead Confirmation classes for the second year.
- Approved holding a joint Vacation Bible School with Epler's UCC during the summer.
- Supply Pastors have been scheduled until the end of May. See the schedule on page 3.
- Council approved to resume the use of the church facilities on Saturdays, but there will still be no use of the propane stoves.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on**  
**March 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Please join us from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 6, 13, 20 and 27. We meet in the second classroom on the right.

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles for the March *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, March 22.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNUAL REPORTS**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 20, after worship. If you were not able to attend the meeting but would like a copy of the Annual Report, please notify Korinne in the church office and one can be mailed to you.



You are welcome to join us every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the library for Bible Talk. This is a time for fellowship, conversation and discovery. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Marks at 610-223-8771 or email her at [dmrx69@gmail.com](mailto:dmrx69@gmail.com).

### **EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

We are planning to beautify our sanctuary with flowers and decorating the Lily Cross on Easter Sunday (we will need 28 lilies to fill the Easter Cross). Please see the order form included with this newsletter or you can click on the link below to order online. Orders are due by Wednesday, April 6th.



[Easter Flower Order Form](#)

### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**

This year's assembly will again be held virtually this year. The theme for this year is "Stronger Together." The Synod Council met and voted to conduct the assembly online due to COVID's unpredictability and to ensure the safety of all who attend.

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome to the Bern Lutheran Church family Christopher and Annette Becker, and Edward Hafner, Jr. They were accepted as new members at our worship service on Sunday, January 30, 2022.

### **REMIND TEXT ALERTS**

We needed to establish a new text alert account so everyone who would like to receive them will need to sign up. If you received them in the past and would like to continue to receive them, you will need to sign up again. These alerts have been used for daily scripture, announcements and reminders as well as service cancellations due to inclement weather. If you would like to receive text messages, please type **@bernlut** on your phone and send to **81010** to sign up. If you want to register an email account, please provide your email address and you can be added to the group. If you need help signing up, please see Korinne in the office and she can help you. If you don't text or email, please contact Korinne in the office, and you can be added to a phone chain and contacted that way if the situation arises.

### **WINTER WEATHER**

The winter season is upon us, and may from time to time affect scheduled worship services and activities at church. Particularly when bad weather conditions arise on Sunday mornings, you may wish to tune into WFMZ TV69 or check their website for any information regarding our worship services. Any decision to cancel will be made through consultation with the Council President by 5:15 a.m. Those members who signed up for text alerts will receive notification on your phones. If you don't text or email, please contact Korinne in the office, and we will contact you can be added to a phone chain and contacted that way if the situation arises.



### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

For those who purchased wreaths for "Wreaths Across America" please see the note below.

**Please note:** The Bern Cemetery Company and Historic Graveyard is a federal non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3). Your donations are tax deductible. In the case of donations to "Wreaths Across America," no goods or services are considered to have been provided by the organization in exchange for your contribution.



### **BERN UCC LOTS FOR SALE**

If you have questions about lots for sale or genealogical questions, please contact either Ed Fisher at 610-488-1967 or Barbara Reed at 610-678-2890.

## **BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER, AND ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS**

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month, or you can help by sponsoring Altar Flowers. **Please note: As of January 1, 2022, the cost to sponsor Altar Flowers has increased to \$35.00/week.** You are welcome to sponsor any of these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you wish to sponsor Altar Flowers, but don't want to pay the cost for both vases, you can split the cost with another member. Each vase would cost \$17.50 and each sponsor could still include a dedication in the bulletin.

### **Altar Flower sponsors for March:**

March 6 – Toni Sweitzer  
March 13 – Brent, Kate, and Hattie Schuler  
March 20 – The Braucher Family  
March 27 – The Lash Family

### **Bulletin sponsors for March:**

March 6 – *sponsor needed*  
March 13 – *sponsor needed*  
March 20 – Terri Shurr  
March 27 – *sponsor needed*

### **Church Openers for March:**

March 6 – Terri Shurr  
March 13 – Matthew Kasisky  
March 20 – Dianne Leininger  
March 27 – Rick Gruber

### **Church Greeters for March:**

March 6 – Nancy Malandra  
March 13 – Barb Auchenbach  
March 20 – Nancy Malandra  
March 27 – Barb Auchenbach

### **Supply Pastor Schedule:**

March 6 – Pastor Rod Sutcliffe  
March 13 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
March 20 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
March 27 – Pastor David Kistler

---

## **MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE**

Please update your current Member Directory with the following address change for one of our members. ROBERT FREY is now residing at the

Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 401 University Drive, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972. His phone number is 570-385-0331.

## **DESIGNATED PASTOR**

Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler's UCC in Leesport has agreed to be our Designated Pastor. What this means is Pastor Rarick will be available for homebound visits and communion, funerals and weddings, and other pastoral care needs. Feel free to contact him at 610-401-1545 or email at [pastorrrarick@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrrarick@gmail.com).

If anyone would want home communion, please contact Korinne in the office and arrangements can be made.

## **DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION?**

Has your address changed? Did you drop your landline phone? Changed email providers? Do you notice something wrong in the directory? Please click on the link below to update your information or contact Korinne in the church office to make any changes to your personal information. Thank you!



## **PASTOR PHYLLIS' LAST SUNDAY**

A floral arrangement consisting of 7 roses, one for each year that Pastor Phyllis served our congregation, was given to her on her last Sunday leading us in worship. It was a gift from the congregation in appreciation for Pastor Phyllis' life of ministry and in celebration of her retirement. Each rose had a special meaning:

White for her Reverence and Humility  
Yellow for our Friendship  
Light Pink for her Gentleness  
Pink for her Grace  
Dark Pink for our Appreciation  
Peach for our Gratitude  
Red for our Love and Respect

We will truly miss Pastor Phyllis and wish her well as she starts her retirement with her husband, Pastor Alan.







## WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT (WBMD) LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Plans are being made to again offer virtual WBMD worship services for Ash Wednesday and other Wednesday evenings in Lent. Please join your sisters and brothers during this holy season as we pray for and work toward keeping holy connections alive during this prolonged pandemic. We hope you will join us.

- Ash Wednesday Worship on March 2 is a full worship service. It will be broadcast on Comcast Channel 190 at 7:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday and will be posted to YouTube by noon that day. Worshipers will be invited to impose their own ashes at home. You can use ashes from a fireplace, soot from a burned candle, or even soil from a potted plant, which you may use to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead at the appropriate time in the service.
- Other Wednesdays in Lent we will gather on Zoom. We will feature a recorded Lenten service from a different WBMD congregation each week. We will gather on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. for a short opening prayer and introduction, share the recorded 20-30 minutes worship service, and then finish as our Zoom group afterward with some discussion, sharing of upcoming events, etc. You can click on the Zoom invitation below or enter the information into your computer to join the meeting:

Topic: WBMD Wednesday Lenten Service

Time: Wednesdays in Lent - March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84551069168?pwd=MV4QnBRcG5hVDN5UGQ4cWFPTXNNQT09>

Meeting ID: 845 5106 9168

Passcode: 478157

**ASH WEDNESDAY** – Epler’s UCC, 1151 West Leesport Road, Leesport, will be holding a drive-through ashes-to-go on **Wednesday, March 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Come through the parking lot where Pastor Gary Rarick will offer a short prayer and Imposition of Ashes while you stay in your car. Any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Rarick at [pastorrrarick@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrrarick@gmail.com).

## MEMBERS:

Jason Spieker, Jeff Gruver, Bob Frey, and Ruth Keeney

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Bob Stoner, Betty Gruber, Ashley, Stacy Laroche, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Ryder Knechtle and family, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, Erin Ascencio, and Lesley Wegman

## GLOSSY MAGAZINE RECYCLING PROGRAM for Ronald McDonald House.

We continue to collect glossy magazines. You will find a black bin under the coat racks to place your magazines. Thank you to all who have brought magazines in.

### *Why do we do this?*

### To help each other and the environment.

When the containers are full, Ronald McDonald House calls Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. to pick up the containers. They process the contents and sell them to a paper mill, which turns the discarded paper into new magazine paper. A portion of the proceeds from each ton of paper collected comes directly to RMHC-CP. Since this program began in 2004, over **\$371,000** has raised by recycling over **14,000 tons** of glossy paper.



## FAITH FORMATION SATURDAY

What happened with the followers of Christ after the first apostles — Peter, Paul, James — passed away? How did the churches of the “Jesus movement” survive and develop? Join the Rev. Dr. Roger Timm on **Saturday, March 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in exploring the various religious and theological emphases that “the churches the apostles left behind” used to shape the development and continuation of the Christian tradition and discuss how they remain helpful for us today. To register, click on the link below or go to the synod website at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

[Register Here](#)

## INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

| <u>For the<br/>Week Ending</u> | <u>Income toward<br/>Budget Expenses</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|

|                              |            |    |
|------------------------------|------------|----|
| 01/30/22                     | \$2,060.00 | 57 |
| 02/06/22                     | 5,348.00   | 44 |
| 02/13/22 (service cancelled) |            |    |
| 02/20/22                     | 2,655.00   | 47 |

***\$3,259.19 is needed per week to meet 100%  
of the Budgeted Expenses***

### Budget Report – Year to Date

|                | <u>January</u>     | <u>YTD</u>         |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income         | \$13,548.94        | \$13,548.94        |
| Congregational |                    |                    |
| Fund Raising   | 226.84             | 226.84             |
| Total Funds    | <u>\$13,775.78</u> | <u>\$13,775.78</u> |

| <b>Actual Income / Expenses</b> | <u>January</u> | <u>YTD</u>   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Budgeted Income                 | \$13,093.24    | \$ 13,093.24 |
| Non-Budgeted Income             | 682.54         | 682.54       |
| Budgeted Expenses               | 13,816.10      | 13,816.10    |
| Non-Budgeted Expenses           | 1,031.50       | 1,031.50     |
| Benevolence to be Paid          | 350.00         | 350.00       |
| Surplus/Deficit                 | (1,421.82)     | (1,421.82)   |

| <b>Benevolence</b> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>2022 Pledge</u> |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Synod and ELCA     | \$210.00   | \$3,000.00         |
| World Hunger       | 45.00      | 1,500.00           |
| Mission Field      | 50.00      | 1,300.00           |
| W.B.M.D.           | 45.00      | 600.00             |
| Other              | .00        | .00                |

| <b>Capital Improvement Acct.</b> | <u>January</u> | <u>YTD</u>         |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Member Contributions             | \$130.00       | \$130.00           |
| Interest                         | .70            | .70                |
| Expense                          | <u>0.00</u>    | <u>0.00</u>        |
|                                  |                | <u>\$41,088.17</u> |

| <b>Savings Account</b>  |    | <u>YTD</u>          |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Thrivent Choice Dollars | \$ | 0.00                |
| Interest                |    | 3.24                |
| Expenses (Piano Tuning) |    | <u>145.00</u>       |
|                         |    | <u>\$131,739.41</u> |



(\* Denotes 80 years young)

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 7  | Nicole Knabb        |
| 7  | Christopher Knabb   |
| 9  | Phyllis Stonefelt * |
| 10 | Verna Speicher *    |
| 11 | Adam Schuler        |
| 12 | Gerald Pawlyk       |
| 13 | C. Jacob Stricker * |
| 14 | Patricia Brown      |
| 14 | Jay Field           |
| 14 | Linda Heck          |
| 20 | George Zimmermann   |
| 21 | Emily Goetz         |
| 21 | D. Barry Shurr      |
| 22 | Jean Lash *         |
| 23 | Cerina Readinger    |
| 24 | Barbara Braucher *  |
| 27 | Cassandra Cote      |
| 29 | Michael Reichart    |
| 30 | Linda Lash          |
| 30 | Derian Readinger    |
| 31 | Dennis Egan         |
| 31 | Gladys Krick *      |



|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 6  | Robert and Tina Hissinger (52 years)  |
| 7  | Clayton and Patricia Brown (15 years) |
| 8  | Gary and Evelyn Drobnick (19 years)   |
| 24 | C. Jacob and June Stricker (71 years) |

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** begins on Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead 1 hours before going to bed Saturday night.



## Friendship SOUP

Make jars of Italian barley soup to share love and warmth with friends.



### What you need:

- 1 cup pearly barley
- ½ cup sundried tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp dry minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp dry minced onion
- 1 veggie bouillon cube
- Glass pint jars with lids
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pen

### What you do:

1. In order, layer the first five ingredients into the jar.
2. Trace the outline of the lid onto cardstock. Cut out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Remove wrapper from bouillon cube. Add contents of jar to saucepan. Add 4 cups water and a can of diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low. Simmer about 20 minutes, until barley is tender. Serve with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Screw on the canning ring to keep it in place.

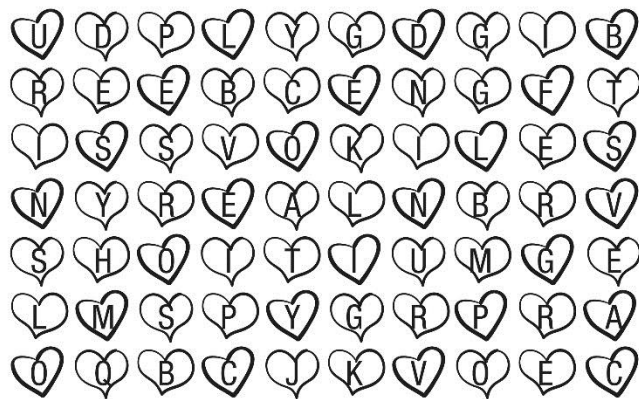


## PUZZLE

### The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

*Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.*



Above all, love each other   D     ↓     →     ↑     →     →  , because love  
  ↓     ↓     ←     ↓     ←     ↑   over a multitude of   ←     ←     ↓  . Offer  
  →     →     ↓     →     ↑     →     ↑     ↓     ←     ↓   to one another without  
  →     →     ↑     →     ↑     ←     ↑     →  . Each of you should use whatever  
  ↑     →     ↓     →     ↑     ←     ↑     →     ↓     →     ↓   you have received to   ↓     →     →     ↓   others, as faithful  
stewards of God's   ←     →     →     ↓   in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace





# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

---

MARCH 2022 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 30

Beloved Members of our Synod,

At its January meeting, the Synod Council made the difficult decision to once again hold the Synod Assembly online instead of gathering in person. We know this decision may come as a disappointment to you, and I'd like to explain how the Council came to its decision.

First, please know the decision wasn't easy, nor was it unanimous; however, the decision to move online did pass with an overwhelming majority voting in favor. Initially, many council members, like you, very much wanted to hold the assembly in person and gather as planned in Reading. But in discussion, a few realities just could not be overcome: vaccines were still not available for our youngest children (ages 0-4), a new variant was ushering in extremely high transmission numbers, and our local hospitals were struggling to keep abreast of testing and available beds. Given the swift onset and spread of the Omicron variant, the council wondered at the possibility of a new variant emerging at the time of the Synod Assembly. Like you, we just simply can't see into the future.

The gravity of these unknowns increased when coupled with the fact that there was a significant down payment cost for the facility – a cost we could not recoup even if, for whatever reason, we needed to cancel or downsize the Assembly. Use it, or lose it. As long as I have been chairing Synod Council meetings, I have never witnessed the Council making spendthrift decisions. Each financial decision is taken on deliberately and with care, the council focusing on being good stewards always and in every way. It was, in the end, a financial risk too great to take.

So, once again, we will see you online on June 10th and 11th. But we hope you will find a way to see each other in person, gathering safely in smaller numbers as the situation allows, and enjoying each other's company as we get the business done and see what's happening around our Synod and throughout the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,  
Kristen Edelman-Weiner  
Vice-President, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARAMENTS

Brenda Stauffer was the catalyst for the new altar and pulpit paraments that were dedicated for our 50th Anniversary. Brenda brought up the idea of creating quilted paraments at the brainstorming session that was held at Prince of Peace in January of 2021. A suggestion was made that the paraments be green so that they would be able to be used during the season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. This is the longest season of the church year and is represented by the color green.

The 50th Anniversary Task Force approved the designs for the paraments, Kim drew the designs out to scale and delivered them to Pam. Pam chose the fabrics and used an appliqué technique to create them. Brenda kept communicating with everyone to make sure the new paraments were completed on time for their dedication on January 16, 2022.

[VIEW FULL STORY HERE](#)

## BOOK STUDY: WAKING UP WHITE

The Racial Justice Team (a part of the Witness & Service Ministry Team) invites you to participate in a 5-part online Lenten book study, beginning Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm and continuing the next 4 Monday nights at 7 on Zoom. Contact Samantha Drennan for more information!

## STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

**JUNE 18, 2022**  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, LANSDALE**  
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE  
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS  
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)

**boundless**  
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Save the date  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
2022

June 10-11  
Virtual



# MARCH 2022

| Sun  | Mon                             | Tue                       | Wed   | Thu                        | Fri                            | Sat  |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Secretary Office Hours:</b><br>Tuesday: 8am - 2pm<br>Wednesday: 12pm - 4pm<br>Thursday: 8am - 1pm   |                                 | 1                         | 2<br>11:00am-1:00pm-Drive-thru ashes-to-go at Epler's UCC, Leesport<br>7:00 pm – Boy Scouts<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b> | 3<br>9:00 am – Bible Talk  | 4<br>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond  | 5  |
| 6<br><u>First Sunday in Lent</u><br>10:00 am – Worship<br><b>Supply Pastor:</b> Rod Sutcliffe<br>11:00 am-Sunday School<br><b>Opener:</b> Terri Shurr<br><b>Greeter:</b> Nancy Malandra  | 7                               | 8<br>7:00 pm – Boy Scouts | 9<br>7:00 pm – Boy Scouts   | 10<br>9:00 am – Bible Talk | 11<br>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond | 12<br>10:00 am-12:00 pm-Faith Formation Saturday |
| 13<br><u>Second Sunday in Lent</u><br>10:00 am – Worship<br><b>Supply Pastor:</b> Kenneth Gould<br>11:00 am-Sunday School<br><b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b><br><b>Opener:</b> Matt Kasisky<br><b>Greeter:</b> Barb Auchenbach | 14<br>1:00 pm – Senior Berners  | 15                        | 16  | 17<br>9:00 am – Bible Talk | 18<br>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond | 19   |
| 20<br><u>Third Sunday in Lent</u><br>10:00 am – Worship<br><b>Supply Pastor:</b> Kenneth Gould<br>11:00 am-Sunday School<br><b>Opener:</b> Dianne Leininger<br><b>Greeter:</b> Nancy Malandra                                      | 21<br>7:00 pm – Council Meeting | 22                        | 23  | 24<br>9:00 am – Bible Talk | 25<br>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond | 26   |
| 27<br><u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u><br>10:00 am – Worship<br><b>Supply Pastor:</b> David Kistler<br>11:00 am-Sunday School<br><b>Opener:</b> Rick Gruber<br><b>Greeter:</b> Barb Auchenbach   | 28                              | 29                        | 30  | 31<br>9:00 am – Bible Talk |                                |  |