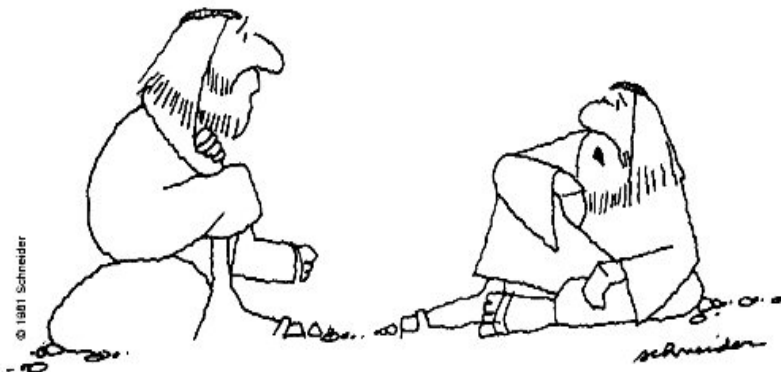


March



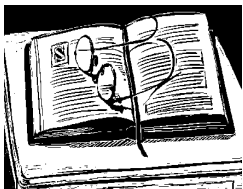
- 1 Merle Christner
- 8 Kevin Livengood
- 8 Emily Netzer
- 10 Pat Liller
- 11 Larry McFarland
- 12 Ethan Livengood
- 17 Ashlynn Light
- 17 Pat Yoder
- 19 Gail Rotruck
- 20 Aaron Monnett
- 25 Paulson Kurtz
- 27 Derek Dayton
- 28 Ron Hampton



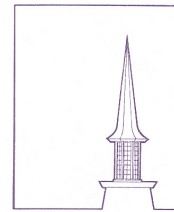
"I don't know what to think--the weather bureau says snow, my big toe says partly cloudy, and the Lord says forty days of rain."

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ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR LENT



Both Goshen College and Eastern Mennonite University are offering on-line devotions during this Lenten season. You may read these at <http://emu.edu/now/devotions/> and <http://blog.goshen.edu/devotions/>. You may also "sign up" to receive these by e-mail.



CONNECTION

March 2012
Vol. 2 No. 3

PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

"In Christ's body we're all connected to each other..."
Eph. 4:25 , *The Message*

Where do I sign?

Our Lent worship, from now until Easter Sunday, will focus on covenant relationship, with the phrase, "Where do I sign?" Our texts and worship are guided by *The Leader*, a church-wide publication.

As people of God, we have opportunities again and again to "sign on" with God. We will examine Old Testament stories that tell us about God's covenant with Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and Moses. The Gospel readings will focus our attention on the life of Jesus, God's obedient Son.

In our worship, we'll be encouraged to take a new or second look at places in our lives where we make serious and life-giving commitments to follow God's call and live in the way of Jesus.



Where do I sign?

March 4 "Give up everything to follow Jesus".

Gathering music: Denny Brown.

Sermon: Pastor Merle

Texts: Mark 8: 31-38, Romans 4:13-25

6 pm Movie "Courageous"

(See page 3)

March 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins, "Spring Forward"

"The Law: A burden or a blessing"

Gathering music: New Praise

Sermon: Pastor Merle

Text: I Corinthians 1:18-25

7 pm Mountain Anthems Concert

(See page 4)

March 18 "Signing on for wholeness"

Gathering music: Rejoice!

Sermon: Pastor Merle

Text: Numbers 21:4-9

Evening: Small groups meet



March 25 "A New Covenant"

Sermon: Pastor Merle

Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

7 pm Service planned by Men's SS Class



April 1 Palm Sunday

"Pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ"

Sermon: Pastor Merle

Text: Mark 11:1-11

We will celebrate
Communion together



7 pm Footwashing
service



The youth had the following comments on their experience at Sno-Kamp 2012.

Teagan: Rachel was talking about how God needed to be in the center of our decisions and I am seeking God's help in planning for the future, which is in the very near future for me.

Bree --is asking for God to show her the higher meaning behind her daily struggles she faces in school to reveal His higher plan and purpose because if God is not at the center of your U-Turn, it will not work. He must be your focus.

Caitlin- Is asking God to give her the strength and patience to work through struggles to help her slow down, not procrastinate and be willing to devote the hard work and attention to do things His way instead of taking the short cut.

Thank you for your support of MYF , if you get a chance ask one of our youth more about their personal experience at Sno-Kamp.

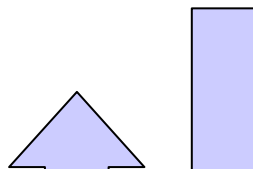
Sarecia Powers



*The Souper Bowl
Fundraiser
resulted in \$770
toward Sno-
Kamp and other
youth activities.*



SNOKAMP EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT FOR YOUTH

 Sno-Kamp this year had a focus scripture taken from John 5:1-8, the story of the healing at the pool at Bethesda. This passage set the stage for the U-Turn theme for the weekend.

When driving, U-Turns are dangerous and difficult with many obstacles coming against you and it is sometimes just easier to keep going in the direction you are headed. With some hard work and determination, U-Turns can be achieved successfully.

Guest speakers, including Rachel Swartzendruber, identified 4 basic steps in making a U-Turn in your life, whether it be a change in heart, attitude or habits. They challenged us to:

1. Name the story
2. Ask & answer the question, "Do you want to change?"
3. Seek Christ in the solution, not just a quick easy fix. Be willing to do the hard work to fix the situation with the assurance that God is with you.
4. Check your focus. No more excuses. Take action with your eyes fixed on Jesus. Make sure what you are turning towards brings glory to God and strengthens your relationship with Him.

After prayer and reflection in a small group, Pinto youth made a framed symbol of their commitment to work on a necessary U-Turn in their lives.



HONOR BEGINS AT HOME **COURAGEOUS**

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.

This move, from the makers of "Fireproof". will be shown here on Sunday, March 4 at 6 pm, sponsored by the Homebuilders Sunday School Class.

*"But as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15 (NIV)*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you so very much for your generous food donations during "The Super Soup-er Bowl". All of the canned goods and dried beans will help the Union Rescue Mission for a good long while. With all the churches and schools joining together, 4 tons of foods were donated. We are planning a "Super Soup-er Bowl, Part II" next year and hope Pinto Mennonite Church will participate again. Blessings to you all,



Rev. Ron & Donna Stivala

THE MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS HERE ON MARCH 11

The MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS Chorus hails from the Allegheny Mountains in Somerset County, Pennsylvania and Garrett County, Maryland, nestled at an altitude of over 3000 feet. The chorus members come basically from one church, The Mountain View Mennonite church, Salisbury, PA. They will have a concert at Pinto Mennonite Church on Sunday evening, March 11, at 7 pm. Following is a short history of the group as published on their website, www.mountainanthems.com



In the mid 1950's, the Mountain View Youth Group asked Menno Beachy to teach them basic rudiments in music and shaped notes. We called it singing school.

In 1960 churches began calling Menno and asking us to sing. It seemed the Lord was pushing us over a precipice, because we had no intentions of becoming a singing group for the public. It became a ministry ordained of God without the help of man.

In 1969 the MEN'S CHORUS produced their first and only recording. In 1970 the MIXED CHORUS produced their first recording. By now we needed a name for our recordings. The name MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS was chosen. As of 2000, we have a total of eighteen recordings. Up to 1974 we traveled in cars and vans.

In 1974 we bought our first Greyhound coach with money from freewill offerings and recording sales. In 1976 we built a rehearsal center with a bus garage at one end and a small apartment on the opposite end, again with freewill offerings and money from recording sales.

Since 1974 we have been booked every other weekend from February to November. Once every two or three years, we will take longer tours of approximately ten days at a time. We are constantly booked about 1.5 years in advance. We do our own booking, but don't solicit churches; they need to ask for us. During the winter months we disperse for a rest from travel and rehearsal. We give about 65 concerts a year and have ministered in 25 states, Canada, and Washington DC.

(Continued)

VALENTINE DINNER A "LOVELY EVENING"



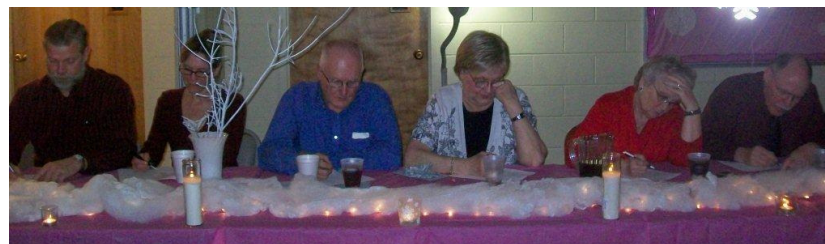
A delicious dinner and a relaxing, fun evening were enjoyed by nearly thirty people on February 18 at the church.

The evening, planned by the Maryland women's small group this year, featured the opportunity for "sweetheart" photos by the "Valentine trees" and the crackling fire in the fireplace.

The dinner of lasagna, salad, and garlic bread, catered by Fratelli's was topped off with a decadent dessert, Black Forest Brownies, made by Cathy Chapman.

Games, planned by Sarecia Powers and Paula Monnett both stretched our minds and tickled our funny bones.

If you missed this event, make a note to attend next year!



HELP MCC FIGHT HUNGER

- ♦ Contribute to the **Penny Power Offering on March 4.**
- ♦ Come to the **MCC Knot and Cut Night on Friday, March 16.** Join us anytime between 5 and 9 pm. Bring a salad, snack, or drink and we will share in a light meal, learn more about MCC, and help knot comforters to donate and cut grease rags to sell. No sewing skills required!



- ♦ Help feed the hungry through the **MCC mobile meat canner.** The canner will be in Chambersburg, PA, **March 5-9.** Contact Betty Helmick if you are interested in contributing time to this operation.



The canning unit is mounted on a flat-bed trailer, enclosed with fold-up sides. Four MCC volunteers operate the unit, traveling to 34 locations in 13 USA states and two Canadian Provinces: Manitoba and Ontario. The work of the local committees and volunteers is the heart of the program. Currently the canning unit processes an average of 9,000 pounds of chunked turkey thighs per day; 9,000 pounds of pork; or up to the equivalent of 20 head of cattle per day. Read more at www.canning.mcc.org.



The MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS average about 45 in number. The director and all personnel, including our bus driver, serve on a voluntary basis with no personal remuneration. On long, extended trips we have at times hired a relief driver.



The singers are not auditioned and vary in age from 15 to 50. Age is of little importance, but a redeemed and perfect heart before God is a requirement-- NO EXCEPTIONS.

Recordings are available at each concert. We do not make a charge for our concerts, but a freewill offering is accepted. We do ask the hosting church to provide a meal for us. On extended tours we ask for food and lodging.

God has always supplied our needs through the generosity of His people. He has kept us safe in our thousands of miles of travel. It is a privilege to serve Him in this ministry.



MENNONITE CHURCH USA **PRODUCES ON-LINE** **NEWSLETTER**

On Feb. 10, Mennonite Church USA released the first issue of a new online newsletter called *On the Way*.

Through the newsletter, Mennonite Church USA leaders hope to start conversations about how the church is living out its vision and mission, with the goal that these conversations will help all parts of the church to learn from each other.

The first issue contains a link to a video of Ervin Stutzman, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, explaining the vision for the newsletter.

Readers will be invited to respond to a question in each issue via the forum on Mennonite Church USA's new website or its facebook page.

All members of Mennonite Church USA are encouraged to subscribe directly if they would like to continue to receive the newsletter. To view the content of the first issue and to subscribe, see <http://mennoniteusa.org/on-the-way/>.

Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor Merle Christner

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Pinto, MD 21556

Phone: 301-729-2714
Email:

MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7 am Men's Bible Studies
4 Sermon: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: Denny Brown Penny Power offering 6 pm, Movie "Courageous"	5 6 pm Chorus Practice 6 pm Game Night	6 6 pm New Praise practice 7 pm Leadership	7 7 pm Bible Study	8 5 pm Venture Club Skating	9	10 7 am Men's Bible Studies
11 Daylight Savings Time begins, "Spring Forward" Sermon: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: New Praise 7 pm Mountain Anthems Chorus	12 6 pm Chorus Practice 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Rejoice! Practice	13	14 7 pm Bible Study	15	16 5-9 pm MCC Night	17 7 am Men's Bible Studies
18 Sermon: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: Rejoice! Eve: Small Groups	19 6 pm Chorus Practice 6 pm Game Night	20	21 7 pm Bible Study	22	23	24 7 am Men's Bible Studies
25 Sermon: Pastor Merle 7 pm Service planned by Men's SS Class	26 World's Attic Day 6 pm Chorus Practice 7 pm Celebration Practice 6 pm Game Night	27	28 7 pm Bible Study	29	30	31 7 am Men's Bible Studies Allegheny Conference Spring Faith & Life Gathering Crossroads Comm. Church, Johnstown