



The Shepherd

March 2012

"Our Mission is to build disciples, grow in faith and serve in Christ's name, by reaching out in Christian love"

Our Staff

Pastor

Rev. Paula K. Archdeacon

Music

Director/Treasurer

John McGraw

Financial Secretary

Sheila Schauer

Custodian

Irene Inboden

Office Hours

Monday & Thursday

8:00am-1:00pm

Tuesday

8am-12pm

(330) 482-2382

ColumbianaUMC@att.net

www.columbianaumc.org

Sunday Schedule

Chapel Service 8:45am

Sunday School 9:30am

Bagels & Blessings 9:30am

Morning Worship 10:40am

Pastor Paula's Page

A few weeks ago, in our Tuesday morning Bible study, the subject of fasting was raised. We talked a little bit about how it used to be customary, especially in Lent, to give up something, or to fast from a specific food from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. In some faith expressions, this is still a common and traditional practice. Fasting is a biblical concept, though its significance has changed over the years, even from Old Testament understanding to its function in New Testament times. And, I believe that in contemporary times, fasting is viewed in yet another way. The discussion in our small group forced me to think again about my own personal understanding of the practice.

I have practiced fasting, several times, in my adult years. I see it as a sort of combination of an aid to piety, in which I'm drawn closer to God, and as a discernment tool, which, now that I articulate it, seems like a natural progression. Early in my faith journey, I would choose a time period, usually Lent, and give up something that I really enjoyed, usually chocolate or other sweets. The idea was that whenever I would "miss" the treat, it would remind me of what Jesus did for me, and I would pray. That isn't a bad practice, but since then, I've come to believe that fasting can be an even more fruitful experience.

I have fasted in order to discern God's will in a specific situation. In those times, it usually has taken more than giving up Hershey kisses—I need more time and deeper prayer to build a closer relationship with God. For me, fasting needs to be something that is time-consuming and disciplined; a deliberate setting-aside of an activity in order to spend that time in conversation with God. Once, I fasted from a worship service during Lent (now, I'm not suggesting this for any of you—this was a special circumstance in which I removed myself from one of two Sunday services in order to pray, and I was NOT the pastor!) so that I could spend a whole hour, uninterrupted, praying and listening for God's voice. How long has it been since you spent an hour reading the Bible, praying, listening—without allowing yourself to be distracted by household chores, the phone, TV, etc. etc. I highly recommend it! Time spent with the Creator and Sustainer is even better than time spent with my granddaughter, Harper, and that is saying a lot!

I'm not sure that I have defined fasting very clearly, but there are many resources around (bookstores, church libraries, the Internet, pastors) which you can consult to find out more. It's a very personal practice, and can be a very important tool in strengthening your faith. I challenge you to participate in this ancient tradition, and see how powerfully God speaks to you!

BLESSINGS AND JOY—Pastor Paula

¹⁶ "And when you fast, don't put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. ¹⁷ When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸ Then you won't look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-18 Common English Bible (CEB)

Mahoning Valley District Lay Speaker Training
Friday, March 23rd & Saturday March 24th
Poland United Methodist Church
1940 Boardman-Poland Road
Registration deadline is March 9th, Cost is \$30.

Handbag & Jewelry Sale

The sale will be held Friday, April 27th.
Please bring your donations to the Library.



*Thank you to my Church family for the cards sent
and prayers after my surgery.
Shirley Fitzpatrick*

March Birthdays

Jay & Jennifer Williamson	03/01
Kaitlyn Culp	03/03
Mary Windram	03/03
Stephanie Stacey	03/05
Debra Detwiler	03/08
Diane Hardenbrook	03/08
Joseph Bush	03/11
Joan Brooks	03/17
Harold Windram	03/19
Madalyn Garrod	03/20
Monty Armentrout	03/21
Robert Belding	03/21
Vivian Wenderoth	03/21
Jesse Travis	03/22
Ashley McMillin	03/23
Ruth Williamson	03/29
Danny Detwiler	03/30

Happy Birthday! We hope your day is very special
(If we have missed your special day,
please notify the church office to be added to the list!)

Book Group - March 6th 7:00pm at Kimpels

The Woman I Was Born to Be by Susan Boyle
In April 2009, a modest middle-aged woman from a village in Scotland was catapulted to global fame when the YouTube video of her audition for *Britain's Got Talent* touched millions all over the world. Susan Boyle has become an international superstar. This astonishing transformation has not always been easy for her and here she tells the story of her life and the challenges she has struggled to overcome with faith, fortitude and an unfailing sense of humor.

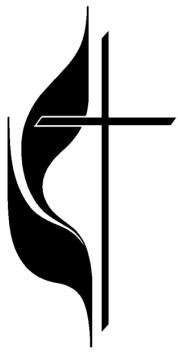
Can you hear me? Can you hear me now?

Have you notice the difference in the sound the past few weeks in the sanctuary service? Thanks to our new soundboard, things have greatly improved. Ken Duellley and I met with Dave and Chris, From DC Music in Calcutta, on a very snowy Saturday a few weeks ago to examine our old sound board and evaluate the situation. The determination was the old sound board was failing in many areas. Dave was kind enough to loan us a new Peavy 20 Channel Mixer (soundboard) for three weeks to test out. The four of us spent a couple of hours setting up the new board and adjusting all the levels for the different mics and monitors. I'm pleased to say with the grace of the Trustee's and Finance Committee we have retired the old board after 15 plus years of service and purchased the new Peavy board for only \$599. If you feel lead to donate to this worthy cause, please mark your envelope "soundboard" and I will make sure the funds are used toward the purchase.

Calling All Singers

The choir is looking for some new voices to strengthen our message through song. All are welcome. We practice on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 and warm up in the choir room at 10:20 on Sunday mornings. If interested please contact me via cell phone: (330) 853-7005, email: j.mcgraw@comcast.net or catch me before or after worship on Sundays.

John McGraw/Music Director



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March 2012

March 1	Trustees @6:30pm
March 6	Book Club @7pm
March 11	Creamed Chicken Luncheon
March 14	Finance @7pm
March 15	Christian Education @6:30pm
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 18	One Great Hour of Sharing
March 20	Council @ 7pm
March 25	Christian Ed. Luncheon
March 31	Men's Fellowship Breakfast @8am

Every Tuesday -Pastor's Prayer Group @9am

Every Thursday—Choir Practice @7:30pm

On Easter Sunday, April 8th, there will be an Easter Brunch in the Fellowship Hall from 9am-10am. Everyone is invited to attend.

Holy Thursday, April 5th- There will be a service in the Chapel at 7pm.

Thank you, Don Leonard for serving as our Liturgist Coordinator for the past several years. We appreciate you and your service to the church!

*To Our Church Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards,
gifts and food. It was a great comfort
to us. Bud & Bonny Moser*

February 29th 7-8:30pm—A Five-Session Study

Heaven is for Real: A little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back

Colton Burpo has a message for the world: heaven is for real and you're going to like it! Colton's unexpected trip to heaven and back during an emergency appendectomy when he was not quite four years of age has defined his life and changed his family forever. As we learn more about Colton's story, and as the group dives into scripture, we'll discover answers about what heaven is like, and experience God's love and plan for us in wonderful new ways.

****Please pick up your book in advance in the church office. There will also be dinner served at 6pm.**

January Financial Report

<i>Offering</i>	<i>\$13,056</i>
<i>Budgeted Amount Needed</i>	<i>\$17,390</i>
<i>Difference</i>	<i>-\$4,334</i>

Raise Our Roof Project

<i>Roof Monies Received</i>	<i>\$75,924</i>
<i>Projected Amount Needed</i>	<i>\$110,000</i>
<i>Difference</i>	<i>-\$34,076</i>

I would to thank everyone who sent cards, made phone calls and offered words of encouragement after my surgery. Also for all the Prayers and visits to the hospital by Pastor Paula. Good Bless you all! It has meant so much to Ken and I .

***Thanks again,
Delores Duelley***

One Great Hour of Sharing-March 18th

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. The special offering collected this day underwrites the administrative and programming expenses of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR provides direct assistance, coordinates volunteers, and partners with organizations on the ground worldwide to bring both immediate and long-term relief after natural and human disasters. This special offering makes it possible for 100 percent of donations to specific projects to be spent solely on providing relief, with 0 percent administrative costs taken out of them.

Would you like to be a party planner? On Pentecost Sunday, Sunday, May 27th. We will gather to thank God & honor the folks who have worked so hard to bring phase one of Raise Our Roof to completion. We need organizers and ideas, the sooner the better! Please call the Church office if you are a party-planner!

In Christ Alone

Join us on Palm Sunday, April 1st, 2012, during the morning worship service, as we present "In Christ Alone," an exciting, joyous, celebration of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Sit back, relax and enjoy the miraculous Easter story told through scripture and song by our choir.