

**Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge
Spring 2011 Newsletter**

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Lent is often associated with giving up something, making a sacrifice. However, Lent should be not be simply compared with giving up something. Generally, we focus on three traditional subjects for our Lenten observance—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer brings us closer to God. Fasting is a way to show our concerns for our brothers and sisters who suffer and fast involuntarily everyday as a result of poverty. The third subject almsgiving both illustrates our concern for the poor and is an expression of gratitude for all the blessings God bestows upon us.

Jesus gave us the greatest gift, the gift of Himself! Lent is a great opportunity to examine the obstacles in our lives that distract us from doing God's will and giving of ourselves fully. It is moving beyond giving up something of pleasure and focusing on conversion by giving up a habit of sin...not just during Lent, but for the rest of our lives!

I encourage you to perceive Lent as a serious time to grow closer to God and to share the Gospel message. We need to bring Jesus' love to those in need, not just for 40 days but each and every day.

Here is something to think about:

A Lenten Reflection

Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism—become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement—be full of hope.

Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred—return good for evil.

Give up negativism—be positive.

Give up anger—be more patient.

Give up pettiness—become mature.

Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.

Give up jealousy—pray for trust.

Give up gossiping—control your tongue.

Give up sin—turn to virtue.

Give up giving up—hang in there! *Author Unknown*

“The days before Easter signify the Life that we live now with all its trials and troubles. The days after Easter signify the happy days that lie beyond death. What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life, what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess.”

Commentary on Psalm 148, 1-2 ~ St. Augustine

Wishing you a fruitful Lenten journey,

Pastor Sharon and Fred

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

All glory, laud, and honor

To thee, Redeemer, King

To whom the lips of Children

Made sweet hosannas ring

Thou art the King of Israel,

Thou David's royal Son,

Who in the Lord's name comest,

The King and Blessed One.

2011 Ecumenical Lenten Services

Journey of Faith

**Sponsored by the Mid-Valley Ministerium
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Fellowship after service**

**March 16 – St George/St James Episcopal Church,
Jermyn**

March 23 – St Luke’s Lutheran Church, Archbald

**March 30 – Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick’s
Church, Olyphant**

April 6 – Blakely Baptist Church, Blakely

**April 13 – Peckville United Methodist Church,
Peckville**

“They Held everything in Common” Acts 2:42-47

A word from the Peckville Finance Chairperson

Friends,
I’m sure by now everyone is looking forward to spring and much warmer weather. Why does the cold weather seem to last so long? With the beginning of Lent, let us be mindful of the season and the journey that was made and fulfilled with the resurrection on Easter Sunday. As we prepare for Lent, let us remember the many blessings we have and to be mindful of the needs of others. We are holding our worship services on Sundays in the fellowship room downstairs but will return to the sanctuary on April 3rd. Please continue your support for our church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Respectfully yours,
Bob Elvidge,
Finance Chairman

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

***When I survey the wondrous cross
Where the young prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.***

Our Lenten Gift to our Church

Please remember we no longer have Lenten calendars or envelopes to cut down on our expenses, but we still need your gift in order to do the work of the Church. You may put it in your regular weekly envelope and put in the spot that says other Lenten gift, or please feel free to put it in a separate envelope and mark it with your name and Lenten gift to my church. Thank You.

Were You There

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble!
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

Easter Sunrise Service

We will be holding a joint sunrise service with our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Presbyterian church at 6:30am with breakfast to follow at the Peckville United Methodist Church. Please make breakfast reservations with Bonny Taylor or Tom and Beth Taylor at 383-2119.

Holy Thursday Service

A service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae will be held at the Peckville United Methodist Church on Thursday, April 21 at 7:00pm.

Good Friday Services

Good Friday services will be held at the Blakely Baptist church from 12:00 noon to 3:00pm and at the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!***

GRADUATES

If anyone knows of college or high school students who will be graduating in the spring, please let Pastor Sharon know. Thank You.

Near the Cross

*Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all--- a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.*

Scranton District Lay Academy

The lay Academy has announced that the spring Lay Academy will be held at the Hawley UMC . Friday May 6th , Saturday May 7th and Saturday May 14th at the Hawley UMC. Classes will include, Theology of Worship, Spirituality, Missions and a basic lay speaking class.

For more information please contact Beth Taylor. Pamphlets will be available shortly.

EASTER MEMORIALS

Peckville's Easter Memorials and honoriums should be in by Sunday April 17(Palm Sunday). Gifts and information should be given to the following people.

Memorial Fund – Bill Llewellyn

Organ & Renovation – George Kinback Jr.

Warring-Fendick Scholarship Fund – George Kinback Jr.

Music Fund – Bonny Taylor

Flowers – Bob Elvidge

(To insure your memorial or honoriums will be in the booklet please have them in by the 17th. This will be a great help for the secretary. Thank you.)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday June 4 at Rossi's the Bradley Memorial/Peckville charge will be honoring Pastor Sharon and Fred with a party. More info will be forthcoming, but in the mean time please save this date.

Please remember we are still in need of e-mail addresses for the newsletter. I have received many and we are already cutting down on expenses sending out our mailings. Your e-mail will be kept completely confidential and not given to anyone else. Thank You for your help in this matter. Beth

TO HERE GOD'S VOICE TURN DOWN THE WORLD'S VOLUME.

Looking Forward (Peckville)

Please remember for Memorial weekend we will be doing a booklet of those we would like to honor or remember. For \$1.00 per name. Please give Beth Taylor info by May22.

AN EASTER PRAYER

O God of Easter,

God of resurrection power,

Bring heavenly life to our

Earthbound souls;

Thou, who did'st call Lazarus forth

From his tomb,

Call us forth from dead works, and let our hearts be aglow

With immortal glory and power.

Call us out of the tomb of hollow profession,

Of cold creeds, and wordy ritual,

And let Thy life abundant permeate and

Saturate our stagnant souls.

Bring joy where there is heaviness of heart;

Bring peace where there is confusion;

Bring love were there is bitterness;

And may we henceforth live in

The glorious glow of The Life

Which that first Easter poured

Forth upon a world of darkness.

And may we always be mindful of the

Source of this life-giving power,

And come to Thee regularly to be fulfilled.

In the Savior's name. Amen.

Author Unknown

Calendar of events

Bible study, Tuesday evenings at Peckville UMC, 7:00p.m. All are invited.

Peckville Choir meets on Thursday's at 6:45p.m. All are invited.

3/20 – Food and Fellowship at Peckville, following worship

3/23 – St Luke's Lutheran, Archbald at 7:00pm

3/30 – Holy Cross parish at St. Patrick's, Olyphant at 7:00pm

4/6 – Blakely Baptist, Blakely at 7:00pm

4/13 – Peckville UMC, Peckville at 7:00pm

4/17 – Palm Sunday, all memorials in today, reservations for Sunrise breakfast in also.

4/21 – Holy Thursday service at Peckville at 7:00pm

4/22 – Good Friday services at the Blakely Baptist church, 12:00pm to 3:00pm

4/24 – Easter Sunrise service at 6:30am at the Presbyterian Church, Peckville, followed by breakfast at the Peckville UMC.

4/24 – Easter worship services – Bradley Memorial UMC at 9:00am – Peckville UMC at 11:00am.

5/22 – Peckville memorials in for memorial day bulletin

5/29 – Peckville worship moves to 10:30am for the summer.

6/4 – Charge dinner honoring Pastor Sharon and Fred.

Because the hospitals no longer call a pastor because it interferes with the patient's right to privacy, the pastor asks that the family of anyone in the hospital please call her. It will be the only way she will know. Thank You.

Pastor Sharon is in her home office Monday thru Thursday 10:00am to 1:00pm. The phone number is 489-0713. She can also be reached at home anytime at 282-0104.

You may reach the charge secretary (Beth Taylor) at 383-2119, edt1157@yahoo.com

The Peckville United Methodist Church is now on the World Wide Web at www.peckvilleumc.org and Facebook.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,

The lamb upon his throne.

Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.

*Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

**The mission statement of the
Peckville and Bradley Memorial Churches:
To Glorify God by sharing
The Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Nurturing disciples,
And reaching out to a world in need.**