



Peckville – Bradley Memorial
United Methodist Charge
2013 Christmas Newsletter

FROM THE PASTORS PEN



Six year old Destiny Lopez was speeding in the hallway with a pencil in hand, returning papers to the principal's office at Youens Elementary School, Houston. It was then that she tripped and fell on the pencil. It pierced the right ventricle of the heart and she lay there motionless.

In minutes emergency personnel arrived and assessed the situation. The pencil lay embedded three inches in the girl's chest. Rather than extract it, the paramedics decided to let it in and rushed her to nearby Ben Taub General Hospital, where she underwent open heart surgery to repair the hole. Two days later, a smiling, perfectly healthy youngster was driven home by her appreciative parents.

But the question remains on the table, "What would have happened if a caring teacher, principal or rescue worker pulled the pencil out?" simply put, the child would have died. "The pencil was the proverbial finger in the dike," said Dr. Todd Maxson, a pediatric trauma surgeon. "The child would have not lived had it been removed." Question? What saved a life? Dilly-dally did.

Listen.

We live fast-paced and it isn't surprising that we feel a puissant urge to do things as quickly as possible. We feel compelled to wipe a tear, compelled to stop the bleeding, and rub the sore spot. It's the way we're built. But there are times when kind actions run counter to the best. Letting wounds bleed lessens infections. Letting sore spots alone can avert further exacerbations. Letting the person cry, well, that's good too sometimes.

A little girl was playing with her doll baby when the arm broke off. The father watching, left the room, but peeked around the corner. Tears welling up, she yelled, "Daddy, come help," but he stood firm. She lifted the doll to assess the damage, but he stood firm. She fumbled around to fix it, but he stood firm. Any moment he could have exited the shadows and played Messiah, but he didn't. He felt the girl would be better served, in the long run, having been exposed to life's anguish than for him to play savior. Only at the end, exhausting her capacity, he brought his.

Jesus in the Lazarus story waits four days before materializing to save the day, but His procrastination was blue-printed, by a wisdom that does not err.

Mary God help us wait for God this
Christmas Season 2013.

Rev. Michael Shambora

A WORD FROM PECKVILLE'S FINANCE CHAIRMAN



I may never see tomorrow,
there is no written guarantee.
And things that happened yesterday,
belong to history.

I cannot predict the future,
I cannot change the past,
I have just the present moment,
I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely,
for it will soon pass away,
And be lost to me forever,
as part of yesterday.

I must exercise compassion,
help the fallen to their feet.
Be a friend unto the friendless,
make an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today,
may never be undone,
And friendships that I fail to win,
may never more be won.

I may not have another chance
on bended knee to pray,
And thank God with humble heart,
for giving me this day.

Once again we are approaching the Christmas season. The hustle of shopping for gifts for our friends and loved ones and baking homemade cookies and breads. It is a time of the year to remember the many blessings we receive throughout the year.

This has been a busy year for repairs and improvements to our church building. A new gas furnace has been installed and updates have been made to the larger steam boiler. The gas furnace heats the entire downstairs and also provides hot water for the kitchen and powder rooms downstairs. The steam boiler provides heat for our sanctuary. A new covering over the Sunday school roof was installed in October and will last for many years. Arrangements are being made for a new powder room upstairs next to our elevator in the Sunday School section.

We will have poinsettia plants available to be given in memory of our loved ones. We also support needy families and our community pantry at the holiday time and throughout the year. Also you can make monetary donations in memory and/or honor of loved ones to the Renovation Fund or Memorial Fund.

Let us be mindful of the needs of others and **to include our church** on our Christmas list. This is the time of the year to remember God's gift to us of the birth of His son Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas  Marla

Respectfully yours,
Bob Elvidge
Finance Chairperson



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia plants will be sold in honor/memory of loved ones for Christmas. Please call Bob Elvidge 903-3108 to order. Price/plant \$ 10.00. Color choices are red, pink, white, and marble.

Memorial Fund – Bill Llewellyn 489-6106

Organ/ Renovation/Scholarship Fund
Susan Lucas 489-8042
Sue Snyder 383-2052

Music Fund –Bonny Taylor 489-6093

To insure that your memorial or honorium is listed in the Christmas booklet, please have them in to the designated funds by Wednesday December 15.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Christmas caroling will be on Dec 21 this year. We will sing at the Lackawanna Health Care Center. We are meeting at the church at 6pm or you can meet at the LHCC at 6:30pm. Please come along, Tis the season!!!

CANTATA

JOY"



CHRISTMAS

"HOW GREAT OUR

PUMC choir puts on an "Awesome" Christmas Cantata. Please **plan to attend** this year and why not bring a friend? The date is **December 22 at 11am**, during our worship service.



Bradley UMC ----- 7pm
Peckville UMC ----- 9pm





SKY LAKE
WINTER
RETREAT

All are welcome to join us for the weekend. Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center is located about one hour and fifteen minutes north off of route 17 near Winsor NY. Friday evening you will find the group roasting hotdogs and marshmallows at the large fireplace. Our prepared meals will be served in another building a very short walk from our lodging.

The cost for the weekend is:

Ages 3 - 11 \$50.00

Ages 12 and up \$108.00

Please supply your own shower necessities and bedding. Sleeping bags are easiest. Sleep arrangements are somewhat dormitory style.

Three meals a day are provided from the dining hall. There will be a short study Saturday morning & afternoon.

Games and music are impromptu and usually ongoing. Enjoy fellowship, singing, or the peace that getting away for awhile can bring. Depending on the weather outdoor activities can include ice-skating, sleigh riding, winter walks, or cross-country skiing (if you have skis).

If you would like to attend please contact Sarah Taylor Conlon 570-760-8235 – sartay579@hotmail.com

Tom Taylor 570-760-8233 – tgtaylor@peckvilleumc.org

Payment can be made at any time prior to the weekend. But the sooner the better.



Looking ahead to the month of February, please mark on your calendars that we will be having a **TAKE-OUT** roast beef dinner. The date is set for Feb 15th. You can place an order with Bonny Taylor at 570-489-6093

SOUP



WICH

January 18th will be the first Soup and Sandwich meal for anyone in need of a lunch. It will take place from 12 to 1pm. We will need help to serve and make soup/sandwiches also. Our church would like to see this become a success, so if you can volunteer to help please contact Bonny Taylor at 570-489-6093.





PUMC ON THE WEB!

www.peckvilleumc.org can keep you up to date on what is going on in the Peckville and Bradley United Methodist Churches.



FACEBOOK

There is much to say about Facebook. If you use it in a positive manner, people can be kept in-the-know of daily entries of our extended family and friends that we would seem to never keep in touch with on a daily basis. PUMC is on Facebook. Please **LIKE** our page so can see photos and church activities as they arise.

Your Advent Gift to Your Church

As we strive to be good stewards of what God has given us and try to cut back on some expenses within the church, we have not sent out Advent envelopes this year.

Please remember your advent gift to your church, you may place your gift in an envelope marked Advent Gift with your name on it. Thank You for Your Help.

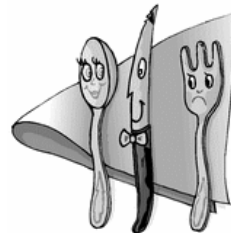
Peckville address:
732 Main St. Peckville Pa. 18452

Bradley Memorial address:
106 Lincoln St.
Dickson City, Pa. 18519



We are collecting food for the local food pantry. There is a shopping cart in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please bring non perishable food items and help stock the pantry at this time of giving. Donations of cash will also be accepted by dropping it in the offering plates, marked for food. It will continue through December.



PUMC FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

We are so pleased that our food and fellowship has been a huge success and we will continue this the 3rd Sunday of every month. So mark your calendars now and plan on staying after worship from some great good and even greater fellowship!!



CALENDER OF EVENTS

- 12/15 Food and Fellowship
- 12/21 Caroling at Lackawanna
Health Care Center 6:30
- 12/22 Christmas Cantata
"How Great our Joy" 11 am
- 12/24 **Christmas Eve Service**
Peckville 9pm
Bradley 7pm
- 1/2 Adm Board Meeting 8pm
following choir rehearsal.
- 1/2 Welsh Cookie order to be in.
- 1/13 Help is needed for Welsh
cookies 3-5 pm. PUMC.
- 1/18 Soup and Sandwich lunch from
noon to 1pm for anyone in need
of a meal.
- 1/19 Food and Fellowship
- 1/31 to 2/1- Sky Lake Weekend Retreat.
- 2/1 Welsh Cookie order to be in.
- 2/10 Help is needed for Welsh
cookies 3-5 pm. PUMC
- 2/15 Take-Out Roast Beef Dinner
- 2/16 Food and Fellowship
- 3/5 Ash Wednesday



If you have not already done so, please join our email list. We do mail out quite a bit of newsletters, so if you prefer to have your newsletter sooner or would like to see the church save on postage, won't you please consider the church reaching you by email. Please remember that your e-mail will be used only for church mailings.

*I'm thinking of going ice skating.
I could use a couple weeks
in a hospital to rest and recuperate.*



To a joyful present
and a well remembered past.
Best wishes for a Merry
Christmas
and a magnificent New Year.