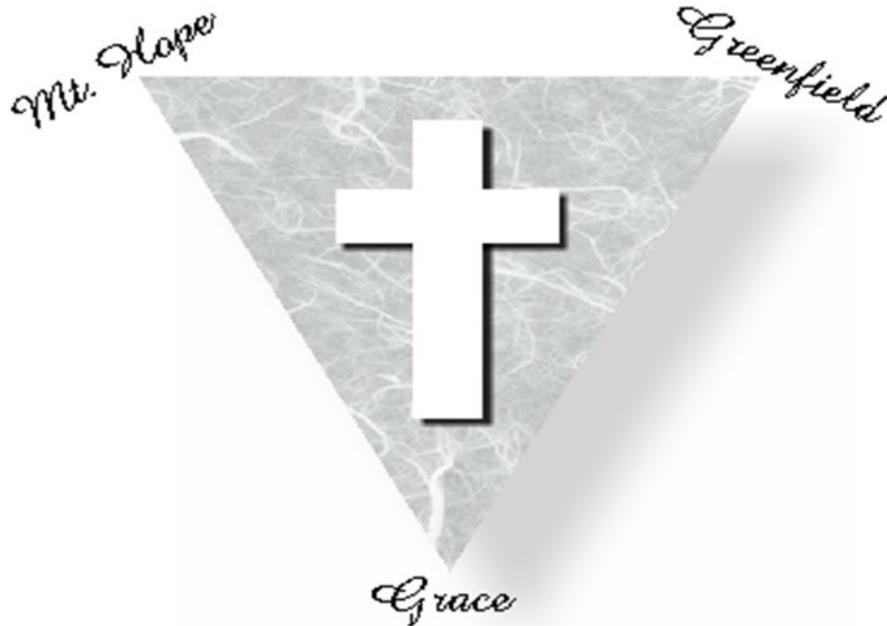


T
H
E

TRINITY Gazette

First Quarter, 2016

The Greenfield Charge



United Church of Christ



LEADING THE CHARGE!

A Message from Pastor Bob

It is hard to write this Easter Message some ten days before Christmas. You expect to hear what you hear every Easter: Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

Every Easter that is what everybody hears and that is where the story stops. This year, I want to do something different. Normally, during Easter, we do the same thing we do at Christmas; we look back to the past. At Christmas, we look back to a cradle and on Easter we look back at an empty tomb. This year, during Lent and Easter, we are not going to look backwards. Rather, we are going to look forward. We are not going to look in the rearview mirror. We are going to look out the windshield, because God was not finished with the resurrection. He was just getting started. God is not just about the past or the present. God is about the future, because the last part of the story of the Bible is restoration. God intended for the human race to live in a perfect world. That intention has never changed. God is going to restore us to a restored world where we are going to live forever!

Have you ever heard somebody say something like this? “I may not know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.” That sounds good, but it is not completely true. We do know what the future holds, because around 95 A.D., on an island called “Patmos,” the One who holds the future revealed what the future contains. This resurrected Jesus pulls back the curtains of eternity and reveals to a disciple named John, how God is going to restore everything the way it was supposed to be.

I believe every human being deep down implicitly realizes there’s got to be more to life than this. There has got to be something more to come or at least that is what we hope. Even the comedian, Woody Allen once said, “I don’t believe in the afterlife, but I am bringing a change of underwear.” This same Jesus that was raised from the dead is returning to restore us to a restored world. This is what it means for those of us who give our lives to this risen Jesus.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.” (Revelation 21:1, ESV)

I pray that you will join in our Lenten celebrations, as we study and reflect on God’s restoration project – a new heaven and a new earth.

Amen.



Easter Solution

As told by James Merritt

One time, Dr. Adrian Rogers was on an airplane when he went up front to get a newspaper. He met another man, very well dressed, very professional, looking for a newspaper, but he was complaining because he felt the newspapers on the plane were too conservative and he wanted one that was liberal.

That prompted a discussion and Dr. Rogers said, "Sir, what do you do?" He said, "I am a lawyer in Washington, DC." Then, he turned to Dr. Rogers and said, "What do you do?" Dr. Rogers said, "I am a minister." "What kind?" asked the man. "I am a Christian minister."

The man said, "I guess you are a lot more conservative than I am." Dr. Rogers replied, "I probably am." Then the man said, "Tell me, what do you read?" Dr. Rogers said, "My primary reading is the Bible and then most of my other reading would be somewhat theological in nature." The man said, "You read in a very narrow scope. How do you know what is really going on in the world? How do you know what the real problems are so that you can preach to people in a relevant way?"

Dr. Rogers said, "Sir, people only have three problems." The man said, "Are you kidding? People have a lot more than three problems." Dr. Rogers said, "No. They have just three problems." The man said, "No. People have more than three problems." Dr. Rogers said, "Sir, people only have three problems." The man said, "Okay. What are the three problems that people have?" Dr. Rogers said, "Sin, sorrow, and death. That is the only problems people have." The man said, "People have a lot more problems than that!"

Dr. Rogers said, "All right. You go think about it for a while and let me know of a fourth one." The man went back to his seat and Dr. Rogers said he could tell that lawyer's mind was working overtime. About twenty minutes passed, he came back to Dr. Rogers, sat down and said, "People only have three problems: sin, sorrow, and death."

God sent His son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to take care of our sin problem. Then, He raised Him from the dead to take care of our death problem. One day He is coming back to restore this world to the way it was meant to be to take care of our sorrow problem. The Bible ends the same way your life can end where God looks at you and says, "It is All Good." Amen.

Lectionary Texts for First Quarter, 2016

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Gospel
Epiphany Sunday January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
The Baptism of Our Lord January 10	Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 17	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24	Nehemiah 8:1-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Transfiguration Sunday February 7	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-43
Ash Wednesday February 10	Isaiah 58:1-12	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10	Matthew 6:1-21
First Sunday in Lent February 14	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Second Sunday in Lent February 21	Genesis 15:1-18	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35

Lectionary Texts for First Quarter, 2016 cont.

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Gospel
Third Sunday in Lent February 28	Isaiah 55:1-9	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 6	Joshua 5:9-12	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11- 32
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 13	Isaiah 43:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Palm Sunday March 20	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 23:1-49
Maundy Thursday March 24	Exodus 12:1-14	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17
Good Friday March 25	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
Easter Sunday March 26	Isaiah 65:17-25	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18

Pastor Bob's Contact Information

154 Park Heights Road
Bedford, PA 15522
Phone: 814-623-5801
Email: robertbpenner@gmail.com

Bible Study— We are still on Christmas Hiatus. We will start a new Bible Study on April 11th and continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Those that attended the 2015 Hymn Bible Study enjoyed the music. The Study for 2016 is still up in the air and all suggestions are appreciated. Everyone is welcome and we try to make each Bible Study independent so you can miss a day without getting behind.

Greenfield Charge
Schedule of Church Services First Quarter, 2016

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>SPECIAL SERVICE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Epiphany Sunday JOINT SERVICE January 3	GREENFIELD	Communion Jt. Consistory Mtg.	10:00am
The Baptism of Our Lord January 10	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 17	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 31	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Transfiguration Sunday JOINT SERVICE February 7	MT. HOPE		10:00am
Ash Wednesday February 10	GRACE	Communion	7:00pm
First Sunday in Lent February 14	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Wednesday Len- ten Service February 17	GREENFIELD	Fellowship Meal Service	6:00pm 7:00pm
Second Sunday in Lent February 21	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Wednesday Len- ten Service February 24	MT. HOPE	Fellowship Meal Service	6:00pm 7:00pm
Third Sunday in Lent February 28	All 3 churches		Regular Services

Greenfield Charge
Schedule of Church Services First Quarter, 2016

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>SPECIAL SERVICE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Wednesday Len- ten Service March 2	GRACE	Fellowship Meal Service	6:00pm 7:00pm
Fourth Sunday in Lent JOINT SERVICE March 6	GRACE		10:00am
Wednesday Len- ten Service March 9	GREENFIELD	Fellowship Meal Service	6:00pm 7:00pm
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 13	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Wednesday Len- ten Service March 16	MT. HOPE	Fellowship Meal Service	6:00pm 7:00pm
Palm Sunday March 20	All 3 churches		Regular Services
Maundy Thursday Service March 24	GRACE	Communion Covered Dish Service	6:00pm 7:00pm
Good Friday March 25	GREENFIELD		7:00pm
Easter Vigil/Time of Reflection & Prayer March 26	MT. HOPE		10:00am- 12:00pm
Easter Egg Hunt March 26	MT. HOPE		1:00pm
Easter Sunday March 27	All 3 churches	Communion	Regular Services



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child was a HUGE success this year. Thanks to all who participated by either building a box(es) or donating money. Also, “thank-you” to Wendy and Jeff for coordinating the project and delivering the boxes. The Charge donated 74 boxes, an increase of 24 over last year. Details are shown below:

Total Boxes	74	<i>Ages</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Mt Hope	21	<i>Boy</i>	7	22	10	39
Greenfield	6	<i>Girl</i>	8	18	9	35
Grace	47		15	40	19	74

There are quite a few new boxes available for next year if you want to start filling yours during the year. Help yourself to the boxes located at Grace along the side of the pew in the rear of the church.

After our collection deadline this year, I received an interesting email written by a missionary who witnessed the arrival of the Operation Christmas Child boxes in Senegal. She provides great tips for gifts. I will share with you now while the topic is still fresh and will reprint next year when we start the 2016 collection.

Unsolicited Advice About Shoeboxes

by Katie Garrett, SIM Senegal

May 11, 2015

<http://garrett.with.sim.org/index.php/archives/1675>

First, I can't believe a year has already passed since we were part of giving shoebox gifts to the kids in our Sunday school last May! How is that possible?!

Second, let me say that I know that each of these gifts is prepared with love and given from hearts full of generosity, compassion, and a desire to share Jesus' love. And each one is SO appreciated! No matter what is inside the box, each child (and family) is excited and blessed to receive a gift, given with no strings attached. For the local kids here, this is so unexpected, so unusual... Kids here do not get presents on Christmas or on their birthdays (if they are even aware of those days!). And most are only rarely given new things or presents at all. So to receive a box of gifts like this is such a treat.

You may or may not be aware of how Samaritan's Purse runs this project. They partner with churches and missions who are involved in children's ministry. So in our case, a leader of the denomination of our local church attended the Samaritan's Purse training meeting a few months ago to learn the parameters and the process. He requested boxes for the children in our Sunday school and the request was granted. So this past Sunday we had the fun of giving each child a shoebox after church along with a booklet. The booklet is written in the form of a comic book, and it tells the story (in French) of some children learning about the greatest gift of all - Jesus! The booklets are well done and thoughtfully appropriate for our context - and super

cool!

Now, given all that, can I offer some feedback to those of you who will prepare shoeboxes this Christmas? I can't remember how many times we have been involved, directly or indirectly, here in Senegal with the distribution of shoeboxes, but it is at least half a dozen times over the past 15 years. I have watched little people I know well open their boxes, ooh'ed and aah'ed with them over the contents, and answered their questions about some of the items. Every year, I have thought of giving some advice on this topic, but I don't want to seem ungrateful or critical. I just want to offer my advice, based on our experience in this one context:

BEST GIFTS:

- For any age boy here, what they really want is a soccer ball. So get the best quality mini soccer ball that you can fit into the box when it is inflated (or send a deflated ball with a pump) and you can basically forget about anything else! :)
- Brand new nice short-sleeved shirts (with no writing on them) for boys and girls. Kids here have few clothes and often wear old, ripped, hand-me-downs, so nice new shirts are really appreciated and will probably fit. (I don't know any obese Senegalese kids.)
- Small flashlight with batteries (Most families don't have electricity so a working flashlight is gold!)
- Good quality melamine plate, bowl, and/or cup (Practical and also special.)
- Soap AND a plastic soap dish that has a cover. When you bathe standing on a big rock in the dirt as kids do here, you really need the soap holder. And families never have enough soap. (Funny note: the kids didn't know what the soap was because it was in a box. I am sure they would have figured it out though, even without our help.)
- Toothbrush in a toothbrush holder. Again, the plastic case for the toothbrush is really great when you don't have a sink/counter/tiled bathroom but rather brush your teeth outside squatting over dirt and need to keep it in your room.

Pencils, erasers, colored pencils, and sharpeners for all school-aged kids. And good quality pens for kids aged 10-14, in black, red, green, and blue. All of these are required for school and the ones from America last so much longer than the cheap ones available here.

GREAT GIFTS:

- Jump ropes
- Band-Aids
- Hard candy and gum
- Comb
- Hair elastics or head bands for girls
- Marbles
- Harmonica
- A simple watch for older kids
- A solar calculator for older kids
- Sunglasses for older kids
- Socks
- For the youngest girls, a baby doll with light brown skin and no hair (good for a child of any color)

Cont. on page 10

Toy car, truck or airplane for the youngest boys (The ones with bigger wheels that are made for toddlers and are larger than Matchbox size are good. Matchbox wheels are so small, they don't work well in dirt.)

NOT AS GOOD items we have seen kids receive:

- Anything with instructions in English, even if it seems simple to you (We tried to explain to one girl who got a cool pair of markers that came with a clip so you could draw with them both at the same time and a set of paper 3-D glasses you then used to see what you drew in 3-D... but it didn't make sense. And how do you even say 3-D in Wolof??)
- Any toy that is not universally recognizable (We have seen kids receive matching memory card games - a great idea but with no one to explain it to them, they are wasted.)
- Yo-yo's (They don't know what it is here.)
- Gloves, winter hats (You don't know whether your box will end up in Siberia or Senegal.)
- Play-dough (Kids here have no idea what it is for.)
- Stuffed animals (Young kids here usually burst into tears when presented with stuffed animals from their shoeboxes. The kids who are old enough not to be scared are not interested. Also, animals carry meanings here that are culturally specific. One of our Sunday School kids got a cute stuffed owl and a much older sibling told me that he himself is terrified of owls. They connote evil and shapechangers. You can't know what the animal will signify in the culture your box reaches.)
- Stickers or temporary tattoos (Kids don't have anywhere to stick the stickers, and often the pictures don't make sense or connect with their world. For example, cute puppy stickers don't make much sense in a Muslim country because dogs are considered unclean in Islam.)
- T-shirts with words or pictures on them (Would you want to wear a shirt with something unknown written on it? And again, pictures have different meanings in different cultures. Stick with solid colors, stripes, or pretty designs.)
- Anything cheap or fragile (One box had a white skinned, red-haired porcelain doll in it...) Two of the 10-year old boys in our Sunday School class got adult sized XL t-shirts in their boxes that were obviously left over from an event. They were brand new and will be worn by some adult in the household, but in my opinion, they would have been better donated to Good Will or the Salvation Army. Approach filling a shoebox like you would approach picking out a gift for a friend's child, not as an opportunity to unload stuff you don't want.

That's my unsolicited advice on this topic; I hope you find it helpful!

Katie and her husband Corey Garrett have lived and worked in Senegal since 2000 with SIM, an inter-denominational, international evangelical mission. They have three daughters. Katie is involved in children's ministry and Corey is working on transcribing and publishing the Bible in Wolofal. For more information about their work, visit their website at: <http://garrett.with.sim.org/>

Here's a remarkable story that Wendy read on Facebook recently.

The search for Jesus was on last week at our Minneapolis Processing Center for Operation Christmas Shoebox as a church accidentally packed the most critical part of their manger scene and shipped it with their shoeboxes! Amid the nearly 800,000 shoebox gifts being processed, Jesus was found and returned. We love Kathy's comment "This is a great reminder that Jesus is in EVERY shoebox we pack!"



Annual Soup Meal and Gospel Sing

The Annual Soup Meal and Gospel Sing to benefit the Claysburg Library will be held on **January 30 from 4 to 7pm**. The meal will be ready at 4:00. The music will begin at 4:30. The schedule has not yet been finalized, but performers include The Keith Eicher Band, Heidi Kennedy, Kaleb Knisely and The Community Chorus.



W.I.N.G.S

(Women Into Nurturing God's Spirit)

The next regularly scheduled WINGS meeting is Monday, March 21st at 7pm at Greenfield. This is subject to change depending on the timing of the Homewood March birthday party since we will need to plan the event. Please watch the bulletin for updates.

Trinity Gazette Newsletter Briefs

Reported by Pastor Bob

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 10, at Grace at 7:00 PM. We will begin our Lenten Journey with Holy Communion and the administration of the Ashes.

Wednesday Night Lenten Services

Please review the Worship Schedule for times and places for the Wednesday Night Lenten Services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Mt. Hope on March 26 at 1:00 PM. All children are invited to attend.

The Trinity Gazette

The Trinity Gazette is published on a quarterly basis. It is available on the Church's Web site and hard copies are being distributed at each of the three churches. If you know of someone who would enjoy our publication, give me their name and address and we will put them on our distribution list.

Church Web Site is www.greenfieldcharge.org



Leo Update

The good news is that I have no Leo stories. We start back to class in mid-January after a long (and much needed) Holiday Vacation. Let us know you are reading the newsletter by saying the word "red" to Pastor Bob.

*Thank
You*

Dear Pastor Bob and Nancy,

The Greenfield Charge would like to extend its most heartfelt "thank-you" to you for the incredible Christmas Dinner that you prepared and served. Your talents and generosity are endless and we are truly blessed having you with us in our Charge.

12 Christmas PRAYERS

- 1 Faith** Father God, it is by Your grace we have been saved, and through our faith - this is not from ourselves, but a gift from you - not by our works. Ephesians 2:8-9
- 2 Hope** May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. Romans 15:4
- 3 Love** Help us to love because You first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 4 Forgiveness** Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- 5 Mercy** Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
- 6 Kindness** Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, You forgave us. Ephesians 4:32
- 7 Generosity** Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! 2 Corinthians 9:11
- 8 Compassion** Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. 1 Peter 3:8
- 9 Joy** Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
- 10 Salvation** Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to You. John 14:6
- 11 Obedience** Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. James 1:22-25
- 12 Life** Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10



Claysburg-Kimmel Elementary School

Bulldog Backpack Program

The **Bulldog Backpack Program** currently has seventy children at C-K Elementary registered to receive food packs each week. During the time school is in session, the school provides children with two meals a day, but on weekends many find themselves in the position of having little or no food. Through the Backpack Program, it is hoped that attendance, concentration, social skills, memory, and grades will improve. If nothing else, the children will be happier and more ready to learn when they come to school.

Though the program is intended to help children from low income families, all children who may be in need are eligible for this program. With God's help and the help of the congregations and individuals in the Claysburg-Kimmel School District, the seventy students are currently being provided with 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 fruits, and 2 snacks for the weekend. (They receive extra items for extended vacations.) The bags are packed after school on Thursday and delivered to homerooms. On Friday, teachers place the bags into the students' own backpacks while the class is at lunch or on the playground. This helps to keep students from knowing who is or isn't receiving food.

In order for this to be a self-sustaining program, your help is needed. If you or an organization to which you belong would like to donate food items, it is suggested that you collect approximately 75 of a single kind. That helps to insure that all students receive the same foods each week. (However lesser quantities are welcomed too!!) Some needed items are single-serve or canned soup with easily removed lids, cans of pasta in pop-top cans, single-serve oatmeal in kid-friendly flavors, Pop-Tarts, single-serve mac and cheese, granola bars, single-servings of fruits and vegetables, and pudding and jello (the non-refrigerated kind).

Monetary donations can be made payable to the *CKSD—Bulldog Backpack Program* and sent to C-K Elementary School, 240 CK Elementary Drive, Claysburg, PA 16625. For more information on the program or to volunteer, please email ckbackpack@gmail.com or call Matt Hall, Principal, at 239-5144.



CLAYSBURG FOOD BANK

faithfully serving southern Blair County since Feb 2, 1984

Greenfield, Freedom, Taylor Townships & Roaring Spring Borough

Open every Thursday morning 9:00 am to 11:30 am and every third Thursday of the month from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Due to the budget crisis in Harrisburg, we **are not** receiving food from the SNAP allocation program at this time, and have not received food from them since July 2015. Therefore, we are purchasing every food item that is not donated. God is blessing us and providing for the ministry. We ask that you open yourselves to God's leading if the Spirit places a desire to help upon your heart!

Items most needed are dry baking mixes, canned soup, instant potatoes, noodles, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit and vegetables, canned meats, canned pasta, etc.

Monetary donations should be made payable to the *Claysburg Food Bank* and mailed to Dolores Helsel, treas., 371 Cottontown Road, Claysburg, PA 16625.

January, February & March Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

3rd Roger Corle
9th Lisa Pejack
12th Barry Barnes
15th KyLeigh Alexander
15th Dolores Berkhimer
16th Rick Walter
26th Roger Knisely
30th Harold Lingenfelter

February Birthdays

2nd Jacob Ebersole
3rd Susie Bivens
8th Samuel Gordon
10th Megan Burket Weyandt
11th Mabel King
12th Aaron Hobaugh
14th David Burket, Jr.
18th Ronnette Kranik
21st Cathy Barnes
21st Rachel Pejack
24th Mark Zumbro

March Birthdays

1st Diana Berkhimer
1st Sarah Barnes
Ebersole
5th Zane Helsel
7th Karen Stombaugh
13th John Burket
14th Ted Reynolds
15th Erika Reynolds
15th Susan Tremmel
16th Tessa Knisely
17th Joel Claar
18th Aaron Reynolds
19th Anita Foy
20th Tammy Claycomb
21st Hayden Corrigan
24th Andrew Pejack
25th Wendy Farber
26th Zachary Claycomb
27th Dennis Cowher
28th Elizabeth Claar
Yoder

January Anniversaries

8th Pat & Bonnie Black
8th Alvin & Karen Stombaugh

February Anniversaries

6th Zane Helsel & Joni Elliott

March Anniversaries

14th Wyatt & Elizabeth Yoder
15th Dick & Donna Finnegan
29th Bob & Nancy Penner

If there are any additions or corrections to the birthday/anniversary lists, please contact Emily Corle. THANKS!