

9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Saxophones
 10:00 am Medley Ringers
 ☀ 10:15 am Worship Service
 Kid's Choir following Children's Message

☩ **Summer Schedule: 9:30 am Worship Service**



February 2020



February 2020

**Wentz's United
 Church of Christ**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2☀ Communion & Journey Service "Souper" Bowl Sunday Women's Guild Mtg after worship today	3 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	4 7:30pm AA	5 6pm Tai Chi 8pm AA	6 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	7 8pm AA (Men)	8
9☀ Baking Competition & Luncheon 	10 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	11 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	12 6pm Elders Mtg 6pm Tai Chi 7pm Consistory Mtg 8pm AA	13 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	14 8pm AA (Men)	15 Articles for March Newsletter are due today.
16☀	17 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	18 7:30pm AA	19 6pm Tai Chi 8pm AA	20 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	21 8pm AA (Men)	22
23☀ 8:30am Breakfast 9:30 am Congregational Meeting	24 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	25 6pm Annual Fastnacht Potluck Dinner 7:30pm AA	26 6pm Ash Wednesday Lenten Service Soup Supper- @ Trinity Christian UCC, Skippack followed by Ash Wed. Service @ 7:30pm 6pm Tai Chi 8pm AA	27 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	28 8pm AA (Men)	29

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" Jeremiah 29:11

Phyllis Tickle, founding editor of the Religion Department of *Publishers Weekly*, writes about how the Church appears to undergo an enormous shift about every five hundred years. The last perceptible shift was the "Protestant Reformation" during the 1500's. Before that it was the "Great Schism" of 1054 when Constantine's Roman Church excommunicated the Greek/Eastern Orthodoxy of Constantinople, who in turn excommunicated the Roman Church, both actions resulting in a severing of the Eastern and Western Church. Five hundred years before that "Gregory the Great" helped to guide Christianity toward organized monasticism aiding in the Church's preservation for the next five hundred years.

The decline of American churches, in particular mainline Protestant churches, has been well documented and experienced. We are once again in a new era. As theologian Douglas John Hall pointed out, "Our identity as Christians is no longer given us, or preserved for us, by external agencies....no state, legal machinery, nor even strong cultural conventions, that will step in and cause Christians to clarify, purify, and unify their faith."

Today we are once again facing a seismic shift within Christianity and the Church. Five hundred years is a long time; and so it's particularly difficult for us to know how to move forward when so much seemed so stable for so long.

We know from scripture that God is prone to do "a new thing." These words from the prophet Isaiah point to this aspect of God. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19) Sometimes the hard part is the perceiving!

Our focus for worship as we move closer to the season of Lent is based on the book *Weird Church* by Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon.

One of the incredibly tough things to do as church leaders is to help people absorb, understand, and navigate these changes without overwhelming them. At the same time we are called to share that, as I believe, God is "doing a new thing." We are likewise called to share that hope. Isaiah 43:19 goes on to say that God, "will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. This series is a focus on how we make a way forward in the current wilderness as God's people!

Douglas John Hall, *Confessing the Faith* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996) pp. 6-7

Our Gatherings in February & March

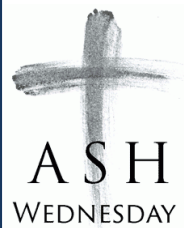
February 2	"The Beatitudes" Matthew 5:1-12
February 9	"From Fear to Freedom: For surely I know the plans I have for you" Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11
February 16	"From Settled Camp to Shalom on the Move: Where are we headed?" Deuteronomy 1:19-33
February 23	"From the Illusion of a Christian Society to Christian/ Subversion: For Such a Time as This" Esther 4:1-14
March 1	"From Insider to All: Who is my Neighbor?" Luke 10:25-37
March 8	"From Head Trip to Warmed Heart: Shine Like Stars in the World" Philippians 2:1-16
March 15	"From Broadcast Control to Social Collaboration: Do You See this Woman?" Luke 7:36-50
March 22	"From Corporate Officers to Incarnational Leaders: For I Have set you an Example" John 13:12-17
March 29	"From Professionals to Disciples-Ordinary People" Acts 4:13-22

Adult Faith Formation

Lessons from Elijah— 9:00 am

By John Grebe

John Grebe continues his adult Sunday School class on the life and legacy of Elijah. The class is based upon material prepared by John, with an emphasis upon not only learning about Elijah but how we can apply what we learn to the betterment of ourselves and others.



**Community Lenten Service
Ash Wednesday**
February 26
Trinity Christian UCC
2009 Church Road in Skippack
6 pm—Soup Supper
7:30 pm—Ash Wednesday Service



February 2 is Souper Bowl Sunday. The Youth will be collecting for Manna on Main Street, a local food pantry - helping our neighbors in the North Penn School District. Please give generously.

Women's Guild Meeting



Sunday, February 2—
following our Worship Service.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend our Women's Guild meeting in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 10:15 am worship service. We will gather feedback from the Christmas Bazaar and discuss the events planned for 2020. Ladies, please join us!

BAKING COMPETITION & LUNCH Sunday, February 9

\$5.00 per person
Children 2-5yrs pay only \$2.00
No charge for those under 2 yrs



INCLUDES:

Pork Barbecue Sandwich
Cole Slaw
Pickles, chips
Beverages
Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches
All the dessert you can eat!

Youth Group News

Wentz's Youth Group is fostering a commitment to community service for the 2020 year. We would like to broaden our involvement by inviting all members of the congregation to join us for intergenerational activities!

Upcoming events for 2020:

Souper Bowl Collection for Manna on Main Street—
Sunday, February 2
Baking Competition Fundraiser –
Sunday, February 9
Mary's Shelter Bowling Fundraiser –
Sunday, March 15 (tentative)
UCC National Youth Event 2020 – July 22-25,
Perdue University, Indiana
<http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>

Annual Beach retreat – date to be determined

Look for details in weekly bulletin announcements!
Ideas? Suggestions?
Share your thoughts with youth group coordinator:
Donna Broderick at dbroderick59@gmail.com or
610-584-8850

Congregational Meeting



**Please plan on attending
this important**

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 23

Sunday, February 23—Snow Date March 1

We gather for a pancake and sausage breakfast at 8:30 am. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am—followed by worship. We will nominate members on Consistory as well as have a discussion on our church continuing to move forward with what God has planned for us.

From Consistory President—Rick Wilkie:

The Consistory is moving forward with the information and direction received from our Five-Year Plan in addition to the recommendations of the Bridge Builders Action Planning Team. At this time, the new description of Consistory members, which now also has a focus on our church reaching outward instead of just inward, is not adequately reflected with our current Constitution and By-Laws. Therefore, Consistory is working on amending the Constitution to better reflect the updated Consistory positions. We hope to have the amendments available and ready for conversation at our Congregational Meeting on February 23. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any member on Consistory or to Pastor Dale. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting as Wentz's continues moving forward into an exciting future!

Annual Fastnacht Dinner Tuesday, February 25 at 6 pm



Please join us in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm on Tuesday, February 25th for our Annual Fastnacht Potluck Dinner! Invite your friends and family and bring a dish to share. Donuts and beverages will be provided! Please feel free to contact Donna Mower with questions.

Hope to see you there!