



The Vine



February 2018

The Vine

is published monthly September through June, with a July/August Summer issue and a combined December/January issue by

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**Saturday
Worship 5:30 pm**

**Sunday
Worship 9:30 am**

FEBRUARY 2018 WORSHIP

Saturday 5:30 PM Sunday 9:30 AM
Sunday School for All Ages at 10:45 AM

February 10 and 11: Making Room for Life: Dollars and Sense
Matthew 6: 19-24

“You cannot serve both God and money.” What did he mean? Do we need breathing room in our finances, too and how will financial breathing room effect our faith, our families and our future?



Wednesday, February 14 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
Noon to 1:00 PM Quiet Reflection, Communion, Ashes
A personal time of worship, reflection and contemplation – the church will be open – come and stay for as little or as long as **you’d like** – prayer and reflection guides will be provided
7:00 PM Worship with Communion and Ashes



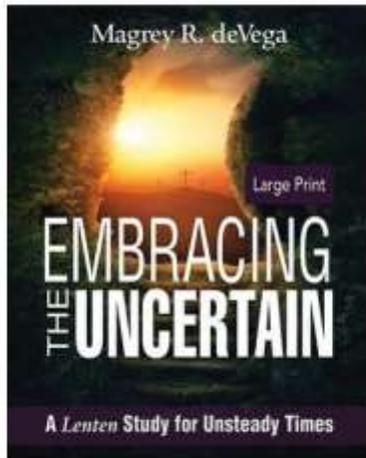
LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES: FINAL WORDS FROM THE CROSS



While Jesus was on the cross, He made seven unique statements. **Over the six weeks of Lent, we’ll look at each of these statements, examine their significance and explore what these statements mean for us today.**

February 17 and 18 – 1st Weekend in Lent: Father Forgive Them

February 24 and 25 – 2nd Weekend in Lent:
Today You Will be With Me in Paradise



MONDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

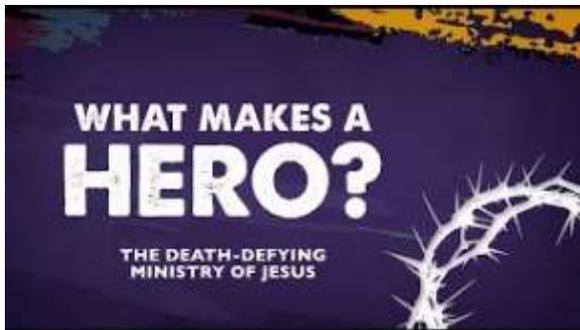
The Monday Bible Study group began the study for Lent, **“Embracing the Uncertain”** by Magrey R. deVega on Monday, February 5. They will meet each Monday at 1:00 PM. All are welcome. Study books are available in the church Narthex/Lobby or by calling the Church office at 570-675-3616.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Bible studies continue on Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. They are held in the Church lounge. For more information, contact Deb Kelleher.

LENTEN STUDY

SUNDAY MORNING (10:45) AND
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (6:30 PM)



“What Makes a Hero? The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus” by Matt Rawle. Sunday morning study will begin on February 18; and Wednesday evening study will begin on February 21. Book are available in the Narthex/Lobby of the Church or by calling the Church office at 570-675-3616.

BACK MOUNTAIN MINISTERIUM LENTEN SOUP AND SCRIPTURE 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

- February 19 Hosted at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church
- February 26 Hosted at Lehman-Idetown UMC March 5th Hosted at Maple Grove UMC
- March 12 Hosted at Loyalville UMC
- March 19 Hosted at Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC Church



SUPPORT GROUP



GriefShare is a support group for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. GriefShare continues on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the church lounge through December 28th. A new cycle of sessions will begin on Thursday, February 8th.



Persons can become part of these support groups at any time. Each session stands on its own with a different topic each week. For more information or to register contact the church office at 675-3616 or visit griefshare.org.



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Join Pastor Judy and others for a time of conversation around the table at McDonald's in Shavertown each Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. It's your time, so it's your topic! It's a great way to get to know one another! All are welcomed!

CONFIRMATION 2018

Confirmation for young people entering 8th grade continues. Our next confirmation meeting will be Sunday, February 25th from 4-6:30 PM. Be sure to encourage them their confirmation journey as they serve in worship and participate in other ministries. Confirmands will also be attending the Susquehanna Conference Youth Rally hosted at Shavertown UMC on Sunday, February 11 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. 75 youth from across the District are registered to attend. Snow date for the Youth Rally is February 18. Youth do not have to be in Confirmation to attend. More information can be found on the Susquehanna Conference website.



2018 COMMUNITY DINNERS



CommunityDinner

Mark your calendars now to attend the Community Dinners scheduled for the following dates in 2018. Serving is buffet style from 4 PM to 6 PM Sunday evenings. Help setting up, serving and cleaning up is always appreciated! The meals are open to anyone in our church family and our community – **it's a great opportunity to share good food and fellowship!** Join us! Donations are accepted, but not expected, to help continue this ministry.

February 18 March 18 May 20 June 17 August 12

RAISING FUNDS FOR ALIMAS

Please submit all donations by February 18 with checks made payable to Shavertown UMC! Thank you!



Dear Alima supporters,

Alima was 6 years old when SUMC started supporting her education at a school for deaf children in Dakar, West Africa. From this picture taken at a recent Christmas event at the school, we can see that she is turning into a lovely young teen. If you look closely, you can see where a tooth is missing in her smile. She lost her tooth in a playground accident several years ago. It is my hope

that I can begin the process of her dental repair while I am in Dakar in March.

You may remember that Alima was held back to repeat a grade last year. She received special tutoring from a volunteer and made great progress. She is now on level with her classmates.

This year the students have a new dormitory with a volleyball/basketball court. This has made Alima very happy.

ALIMA'S SCHOOL FEES
TUITION \$25/month
DORMITORY \$108/month

Thank you to all who have **contributed to Alima's education.**
Susan Roese

Alima and E'cole Renaissance des Sourds

Dear friends at SUMC,
Michael Hiscox, a local artist and art teacher, traveled to Dakar in May and took gifts that I purchased for Alima, the child SUMC supports. In the photo she is wearing her new dress and jewelry, and holding her new Lamily doll. In the background you see her bunk bed with mosquito netting. I needed to forego my work at the school in 2017 due to health issues, and was thrilled that Mike could go and let Alima know that we were still thinking of her.

At present we are asking for donations to pay her tuition, room and board. There are two ways to help with her expenses. You can place your gift in an envelope with Alima's name and place it in the offering plate at a service. You can

write a check to Dakar Mission and give it to me.

I will be working at the school in Senegal for the month of March. I ask for prayers for my safety and for the health and happiness of the students.



Thank you for your continued interest in Alima.

Susan Roesse

Back Mountain Men's Ecumenical Group

Royal Sutton

Every Tuesday morning at 8:00, like minded men find their way to Irem for breakfast, fellowship and wisdom doled out to them by a variety of speakers. They are often not fully certain what the speaker may discuss. Sometimes it may happen that the speaker is not fully sure until he or she begins. However over the past dozen or so years, there have certainly been a tremendous variety of topics from a great variety of personalities. The final presenter for 2017 was retired Prison Chaplain and current Pastor at Maple Grove UMC, Jim Pall. Jim played the role of "Jesse" the Innkeeper in Bethlehem at the time

of the birth of Jesus as he chatted with Luke who stopped as he was traveling through the countryside. Dressed in authentic garb that had been produced for the Drive Thru Nativity, Jim certainly looked the part of an Innkeeper from Bethlehem. His story had been written by a Professor from the Theological Seminary that Jim had attended. Since Jim is also a Thespian, the gestures, pauses, arm & hand gestures were dramatically fitting.

Men, do come join in! The food is very good, the price is right, the view looking over the hills of the Back Mountain is spectacular the fellowship warms your heart, and some wisdom is often shared.

Congregational Care Team News

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus Philippians 2:4-5 (NRSV)

In February, the focus of the secular world is on love – mostly romantic love, but also friendship and family relationships. In the church, we tend to emphasize the love of God for the world and the love we have for each other as members of the body of Christ.

One labor of love that is being carried on here at Shavertown UMC is the transportation ministry, which is headed by Bryant and Nancy Mesick. They are often called upon to provide or arrange rides to medical appointments. This is a

valuable and vital ministry to members who are unable to drive and often struggling with serious medical conditions.

If you would be willing to serve in this way, please call the Mesicks or Glenda Shepherd.

Peace and love to all!



Director of Discipleship Ministry

Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR A DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY at SUMC. The part-time Director of Discipleship Ministry is responsible for developing and implementing a

comprehensive plan of Christian faith formation and discipleship for all ages for our growing and generationally diverse church. For a full job description with qualifications, responsibilities, salary and application requirements, e-mail Pastor Judy at jwalker@susumc.org.

Join our team. Make a difference.

<< Passion required. We help with the rest! >>



YEAR ROUND MISSION COLLECTION PROJECTS ARE ON THE MISSION TABLE IN THE NARTHEX

* BACK MOUNTAIN **FOOD PANTRY** ... NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

* **RUTH'S PLACE** (Women's Shelter in Wilkes-Barre) ... SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, DEODORANT, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, PAPER TOWELS, FEMININE HYGEINE PRODUCTS, TOILET PAPER, CLEANING SUPPLIES

* **BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION** SUPPORTS OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

* **SODA POP TOPS** SUPPORTS RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

FAITHFULNESS IN STEWARDSHIP

"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:18

2017 Year End:

Faithfulness in Attendance for 2017: 223

Weekly Financial Goal for 2017: \$6,207.00

Average Weekly Giving for 2017: \$6,648.15

January 7 through February 4, 2018

Faithfulness in Attendance to Date: 183

Weekly Financial Goal for 2018: \$6,596.50

Average Weekly Giving to Date: \$7,191.00

Donations to Alima Mission to Date: \$1,476.00

If you would like to have your weekly commitment automatically deducted from your checking account, please contact the church office at 675-3616 for an EFT Authorization Form.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Shavertown United Methodist Church and our mission together of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! If you have not yet sent in your stewardship commitment for 2018, please do so as soon as conveniently possible! Thank you!

THANK YOU to the congregation of Shavertown UMC for your generous Christmas gift. We will certainly put the Fire & Ice gift card to good use over the coming months; and the monetary gift will be used toward a trip to the Holy Land that I am planning sometime within the next two years. Thank you again for your generosity. I am blessed and honored to serve among you.

Pastor Judy



Musical Notes:

Special thanks to all SUMC choirs for your beautiful music during our Advent and Christmas season. You are gratefully appreciated for your many hours of preparations to bring honor and glory to our awesome God.

From I Corinthians:

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three and the greatest of these is love. Happy VALENTINE'S DAY (which is also Ash Wednesday).



As we begin Lent this month, let us follow the journey of Christ from his ministry to his entry into Jerusalem, to His death on the cross and then His Glorious Resurrection through our many ways of worshipping in word, song and deed. May we be drawn closer to Christ and to each other during this special season.



Rebecca Oley and I would like to thank the Children's Christmas musical cast and parents for the beautiful flowers we were given. We really enjoyed preparing Jingle Bell Beach with all of the children and adults, and hopefully the children will remember its message and fun music for years to come. Many thanks to all who helped in any way and to our children. SUMC is indeed blessed with our children!!

Blessings, Rebecca and Deb

SUMC FINE ARTS SERIES

Celebrating our 15th Season

Join us for our spring and summer concerts

Sunday, April 22, 2018

7:00 PM

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH IN SONG



Come share with us as our children, youth, adult and bell choirs offer their gifts of music. This concert includes our favorite anthems!

Free will offering.

Ice Cream Social to follow.

Come and bring a friend or two!

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

7:00 PM

Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass

Reserve that date for us!! Free will offering.

Join us for this group of amazing Christian musicians.



SUMC FINE ARTS Bus Trip to Sight and Sound, Lancaster

Wednesday, July 11

11:00 AM show



JESUS

(brand new show)

Meal to follow show at Shady Maple

Call Gene Kelleher : for reservations

Reservations will only remain open through March 14.

Non-Profit Organization
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THE SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
163 N. Pioneer Ave.
Shavertown, PA 18708

Return Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly

Sent with prayer to:

Dates to Note

Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday (see front cover)

Sunday, February 18—Community Dinner (see page 4)

See front cover for Worship schedule

See page 2 for Educational Opportunities

See page 3 for Confirmation information

See page 3 for Support Group information

Back Mountain Men's Ecumenical Group meets every Tuesday morning, 8AM, at Irem

Back Mountain Ugly Quilters meet most Wednesday mornings at Dallas UMC

Step By Step Praise Band performs the second Monday of each month at 7pm.

Coffee & Conversation w/ Pastor Judy every Tuesday @ Shavertown McDonalds 10am

Worship at 5:30 pm Saturday 9:30 am Sunday