



In The Vine

From the Pastor	2
Acolyte Schedule	3
Sunday School	3
Confirmation	5
Youth Group	5
Mission & Outreach	5
Music Notes	6
Church Family	7
Team Meetings	7
Weekly Activities	7

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February 2026
ISSUE #0226

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Singing Valentines

Let your loved ones know you're thinking of them by sending them a Singing Valentine this Valentine's Day!

More information on page 6!



\$6 per Singing Valentine



**shavertown umc
FUNDRAISING**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." - 1 John 4: 7-8

 **SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST**

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February 18, 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Contemplative Worship & Receiving of Ashes
Noon - 1PM at Shavertown UMC**

**Back Mountain Community Service
Receiving of Ashes & Communion
7PM at Dallas UMC**

From the Pastor

February 2026

LENTEN SERIES INTRODUCTION

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

One of Jesus' great teaching parables involves a sower who cast seed along the ground. The sower hoped the seeds would sprout, grow, and bear good fruit. Some seeds did just that, producing a great harvest. But others, Jesus said, fell among thorns and, though they began to grow, these good plants were quickly choked out. Jesus said the thorns were "the cares of the world and the lure of wealth" (Matthew 13:22).

In a culture where having "enough" seems to have become a never-ending pursuit, Jesus' parable remains incredibly relevant. Many of us are chasing the American dream in ways that lead to stress, anxiety, and fear—thorns that can rob us of the ability to enjoy the abundant lives of purpose that God intended for us.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, during Lent this year, we will be having a churchwide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During these weeks of prayer and introspection, we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and small group study. (Visit <https://www.shavertownumc.com/> for details about small group study opportunities.) We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical

foundation, all focused on our relationship with our money and how that affects, for good or ill, our relationship with God.

As a part of this Lent, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments during worship, offering them as prayers. As with all things financial, it will be powerfully personal. We will also have a time of celebration following Easter.

I hope you will join us this Lent as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Grace to you and Peace,
Pastor Jim

Schedule of Lenten Events

February 18, 2026 - Ash Wednesday Contemplative Worship (Noon)

February 18, 2026 - Ash Wednesday Worship at Dallas UMC, 7pm

February 21-22, 2026 - "When Dreams Become Nightmares"

February 29-March 1, 2026 - "Wisdom and Finance"

March 7-8, 2026 - "Cultivating Contentment"

March 14-15, 2026 - "Defined by Generosity"

March 21-22, 2026 - "Called by a Generous God"

March 28-29, 2026 - Palm/Passion Sunday

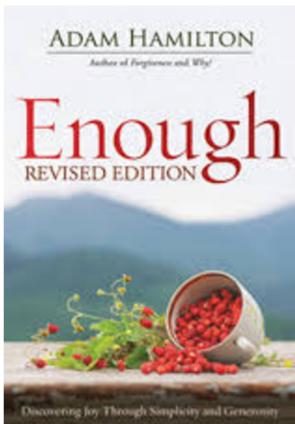
April 4-5, 2026 - Easter Sunday (Sunrise Worship @ SUMC, 6:30am)

Sunday School

Adult Classes & Groups

Please plan to join one of our Bible studies that will follow along with the message Pastor Jim gives each week during Lent, or you can pick up a book in the narthex and follow along on your own!

- Adult Sunday School - Sundays, 10:30am in the Lounge
- Women's Bible Study - Mondays, 1:00pm in the Lounge
- Thursday Bible Study - Thursdays, 7:00pm in the HS Sunday School Room



Money has great power in our lives. Used wisely, it is one key to accomplishing our goals, providing for our needs, and fulfilling our life purpose. In recent years, many of us ignored the wisdom of the past when it came to managing and spending our money. Credit

card debt soared, savings rates plummeted, and our home equity became something to be tapped into and spent rather than a source of security in retirement. We felt an insatiable desire for more. And we found ourselves spending tomorrow's money today in order to have what we hoped would satisfy. The result of all of this was not greater happiness and satisfaction, but greater stress and anxiety.

Enough is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This book could change your life, by changing your relationship with money.



Children's Sunday School, Preschool - 12th Grade

The Simply Loved curriculum engages a natural sense of curiosity to help understand God's love. It creates a safe environment for children to ask questions — helping them explore the Bible in ways that feed their imagination and encourages creativity. Through carefully selected Bible stories and hands-on activities, it gives children the tools to explore their faith while incorporating it into their daily lives.



Since Valentine's Day is in February, it is only fitting that our Bible Buddy for this month is Miley, a roadrunner, who has a message of LOVE!

“Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.”

Psalm 33:22

Acolyte Schedule

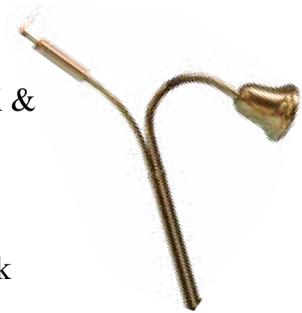
February 1 - Olivia Ostrowski & Ethan Trevaskis

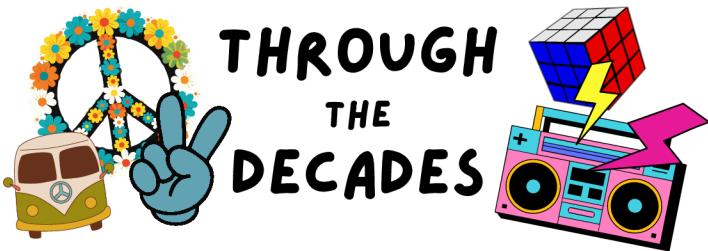
February 8 - Madisen Brown

February 15 - Sophia Kaschak

February 22 - Uri Daniels

March 1 - Jackson & Owen Ostrowski





Sunday School Food Drive

Now Through February 15th

Our "Through the Decades" Food Drive continues until February 15th for the Back Mountain Food Pantry. We would like to thank those who have already participated in the food drive and hope you will continue to help us to reach our goal of 300 nonperishable food items. We hope you are enjoying the skits each week from different decades with suggestions of items to donate!



As part of our food drive we will also do a collection for World Hunger the first weekend in February. You can find envelopes in the narthex.

- **100% of the Offering Goes to Hunger Projects**
- **80% will go to hunger projects and agencies within the Susquehanna Conference**
- **10% will go to a national UMCOR hunger project**
- **10% will go to an international UMCOR hunger project**

Through your generosity, numerous projects and agencies within the Susquehanna conference boundaries receive grants to continue their ministry to the hungry.



The children will be learning about Lent during February and March. We will discuss the importance of prayer during this time. We will discuss fasting in terms of giving something up for lent or giving up doing something to have more time to do things for others. We will discuss giving by encouraging donations to the community care cabinet throughout lent.

Mark Your Calendar

- Education Committee Meeting Sunday, February 1st at 11:30am in the MS Sunday School Room
- Easter Eggstravaganza Planning Meeting Sunday, February 22nd at 11:30am in the MS Sunday School Room



Donations of small wrapped candy and plastic Easter eggs can be dropped off in the Narthex in the bin labeled Easter candy/eggs. We are also in need of many volunteers to make this event possible. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex to volunteer for this fun and meaningful community event. If you have questions, please contact Brenda Kopalek.



Bring a Friend!

Shavertown UMC

Grades 6 - 12

YOUTH GROUP

Mark
Your
Calendar

Youth Group Meeting
February 15th, 4PM-6PM
In The Social Hall

Youth Group Coffee Corner

The Youth Group will be offering coffee on a regular basis after worship in the narthex. Stop by and enjoy some fellowship and a great cup of coffee!



Mission and Outreach

reaching out to our community



DRIVE THRU Community Meal Giveaway

February 28, 2026 at Noon

SUMC Parking Lot

The February meal is pulled pork, mac & cheese, vegetable, roll, and pink or white cake. Meals will be delivered to cars in the parking lot starting at noon on February 28th.



We would like to reach out to our church members who are in college with a reminder that we are thinking of them and supporting them while they are away at college. If you would like us to send a gift package to a loved one in college, please call or e-mail the church office with their name and address.



February 1st: Confirmation Meeting 4PM-6PM
in the Social Hall



The collection for this Lent Season will be for the Community Care Cabinet and Nurses Cabinet at local school districts.

We are asking for the following items to be donated: Toilet Paper, Tissues, Dish Soap, Cleaning wipes, and Paper towels for the Care Cabinet. For the Nurses Cabinet we are asking for new travel size deodorant, kid friendly toothpaste and toothbrushes, bar soap, travel size shampoo and conditioner, and socks and underwear of all sizes for a boy or girl.



Music Notes

The
Catholic Choral Society
of Scranton

Presents

A Lenten Concert

Sunday March 1, 2026 at 3PM

Snow Date: Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 7PM

Shavertown United Methodist Church
163 N Pioneer Ave, Shavertown, PA 18708

A Free Will Offering
Will Be Taken



Starting February 5, 2026

Thursdays 6:30-8:30PM

In the Lounge

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. You'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability and gain solid support each step of the way. Register at www.griefshare.org.

Singing Valentines



It's that time of year - for the next few weeks our choirs will be selling Singing Valentines! Choose a song from our song list & fill out a delivery form. Your valentine will be delivered via phone on February 14th and will be sung by the amazing singers in our choirs! There are song selections for the kids in your life, your friends, your family, and your sweetheart.

Delivery forms and song lists are available in the Narthex or from any member of our choirs. All forms and payments are due to Nancy Evans by February 14th. The cost is \$6 per valentine and Venmo is available! All proceeds help our music program here at SUMC! Thank you in advance for your support!



The Prayer Shawl yarners will meet on Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00pm in the lounge. Thanks to everyone who supported our sale in December. We have more dishcloths if anyone wants them. Contact Cathy Berkey for more information.

CHURCH is not something you go to. It's a FAMILY you belong to!

Happy Anniversary

Alice & Richard Newell 02/01/1975 51 years
MaryLou & William Grant 02/06/1982 44 years

Cathy Kosenak 02/12/1991 35 years

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to those celebrating in February!

02/01 Wendy Novicki	02/05 Brenda Laity	02/13 Ally Rome	02/20 Alice Colatosi
02/01 John McCabe	02/05 Hudson Storm	02/13 Nancy Tkatch	02/20 Bryan Biesecker
02/01 Diane Kelly	02/07 Betsy Fitch	02/14 Caleb Waslick	02/20 Amanda Eschbach
02/01 Mary Zobel	02/07 Mackenzie Hogue	02/14 Valerie Huntzinger	02/20 John Dent
02/01 Dominic Angelicola	02/08 Andrew Chapple	02/14 Nancy Burkel	02/21 Patrick Kirk
02/02 Ruth Visintainer	02/08 Monica Esopi	02/15 Sophia Kaschak	02/22 Dan Morgan
02/02 Lauryn Lombardo	02/08 Theodore Rebennack	02/17 Patrick Frame	02/24 Jessica Bolton
02/02 Becky Gilbert	02/09 George Parrs	02/17 Jack Stout	02/24 Sloane Williams
02/02 AJ Nudo	02/10 Jackson Rimmey	02/17 Gary Young	02/25 Amelia Adams
02/03 William Camp	02/11 Wendy Trusa	02/18 Lindsay Keitzer	02/27 Christine Snedeker
02/03 Kaitlyn McCabe	02/12 Todd Hrvnak	02/18 Aleigha Ladamus	02/27 Brenda Kopalek
02/04 Gayle Yanora	02/12 Paige Navestad	02/18 Graham Sordoni	02/28 Kimberly Gruver
02/05 John Nicks	02/12 Beverly Shannon	02/18 Kyla Thomas	02/28 Bryant Mesick
02/05 Cathy Linker	02/13 Madge Rogers	02/19 Diana Olsen	02/28 Jared Hoats
02/05 Denise Biggs	02/13 Bill Meyers	02/19 Donna Church	

Did we miss yours? Please email umcvine@gmail.com with your birth date or anniversary, including the year so our information is correct.

Shavertown UMC Upcoming Activities & Meetings

Weekly Events:

- Worship** Saturdays @ 5:30pm & Sundays @ 9:30am
- Women's Bible Study** Mondays @ 1pm
- Men's Breakfast** Tuesdays @ 8am
- Coffee & Conversation** Tuesdays @ 10am, Shavertown McDonalds
- Prayer Group** via zoom Wednesdays @ 9am
- Grief Share** Thursdays @ 6:30pm
- All Ages Bible Study** Thursdays @ 7pm

Upcoming Team & Committee Meetings:

- Education Committee** Sunday, February 1st @ 11:30am
- Church Council** Tuesday, February 3rd @ 7:00pm
- Mission & Outreach** Wednesday, February 4th @ 6:30pm
- Grief Share Starts** Thursday, February 5th @ 6:30pm
- Prayer Shawl** Thursday, February 10th @ 7:00pm
- Finance** Tuesday, February 17th @ 4:45pm
- Worship Team** Tuesday, February 17th @ 7:00pm

THE SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
163 N. Pioneer Ave.
Shavertown PA 18708
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Sent with prayer to:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 18th @ Noon

Ash Wednesday Service at SUMC

Wednesday, February 18th @ 7pm

Ash Wednesday Service at Dallas UMC

Sunday, February 22nd @ 11:30am

Easter Eggstravaganza Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 28th @ Noon

Community Meal Giveaway

Sunday, March 1st @ 3pm

Catholic Choral Society Lenten Concert

**Points of
Interest!**

Check it out...



Acolyte Schedule	pg 3
Sunday School	pg 3
Confirmation	pg 5
Youth Group	pg 5
Mission & Outreach	pg 5
Music Notes	pg 6
Church Family	pg 7



Join us for worship services in person Saturdays at 5:30pm, Sundays at 9:30am or online at shavertownumc.com, on our YouTube channel and follow us on Facebook @sumc163.

