The Simeon Spirit

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH 173 North Center Street, Gratz, PA March 2025

Welcome Home

Just little more than a month ago came the announcement of the death of Jimmy Carter. Carter was the 39th president of the United States and was one of those men who did much more good and had a greater impact on the world after he was president. I have always thought of Jimmy Carter as a kind man with a big heart. After losing the 1980 election to Ronald Reagan, Carter dedicated his life to humanitarian work through the Carter Center, focusing on global health, democracy, and human rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his efforts in diplomacy and advocacy. He will be missed.

This reminded me of a story I read in Newsweek magazine from number of years ago. It pertained to the memorial service held for Hubert Humphrey, former vice-president of the United States. Hundreds of people came from all over the world to say good-bye to their old friend and colleague. But one person who came was shunned and ignored by virtually everyone there. Nobody would look at him much less speak to him. That person was former president Richard Nixon. Not long before, he had gone through the shame and infamy of Watergate. He was back in Washington for the first time since his resignation from the presidency.

Then a very special thing happened. Perhaps the only thing that could have made a difference and broken the ice. President Jimmy Carter, who was in the White House at that time, came into the room. Before he was seated, he saw Nixon over against the wall, all by himself. He went over to him as though he were greeting a family member, stuck out his hand to the former president, and smiled broadly. To the surprise of everyone there, the two of them embraced each other, and Carter said, "Welcome home, Mr. President! Welcome home!" One president to another, from different parties, they understood what they had in common, what burdens they had born in common; they were elected presidents.

Commenting on that, Newsweek magazine observed, "If there was a turning point in Nixon's long ordeal in the wilderness, it was that moment and that gesture of love and compassion."

When I read this account, I thought of the Apostle Peter. Peter hailed as the rock upon which Jesus would built his church. Peter who was bold enough to walk to Jesus upon the water. Peter the confessor, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Peter, who vowed that he would die before he would desert Jesus. But when the time came to prove his loyalty to Jesus, all he could do was swear a curse that he didn't even knew the man.

But Peter's betrayal was never mentioned again. Jesus upon finding Peter after the resurrection simply said, "Peace be with you." All of the disciples had deserted Jesus. Yet none of that mattered anymore. The cross had changed everything. It was the turning point that lifts those burdens of life which weigh us down.

We all have times when our failures and betrayals weigh heavy on our souls. 'Peace be with you', Jesus says to us. "Welcome home."

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, FEBRUARY 2025

Council meeting was canceled for February because of weather.

<u>2025 GIVING</u>

2025 EXPENSES

\$11,636.79 \$13,886.25 Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-2,249.46 {For General Operating Fund}

<u>"VOICE OF SIMEON" RADIO MINISTRY</u> 2025 SPONSORS

March 2 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

March 9 – Willing Workers

March 16 – The Bucher Family

March 23 – The Krause Family

March 30 –

We thank our local businesses and individuals that sponsor our "Voice of Simeon" Radio Ministry. It can be heard each Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. on WQLV-98.9 FM. SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH 173 NORTH CENTER STREET PO BOX 478 GRATZ, PA 17030 <u>Rev. Gregory B. Lindsey, Pastor</u> Church Phone: (717)365-3139 Pastor Cell: (717)521-9402 Secretary Email: sulc.angel80@gmail.com Church Website: <u>www.simeonchurch.org</u> YouTube channel: Simeon Church, Gratz PA ELCA Website: www.elca.org

Lower Susquehanna Synod:www.lss-elca.org

BIBLE STUDY

We will again be having Bible Study during Lent in place of a Wednesday night service. Pastor Greg is working on picking a topic (possibly something from Genesis). Please join us at 7 pm beginning on March 12th.

THE 2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

The new charts are in the narthex. Please help by sponsoring them. If no one sponsors them the money comes out of the general fund which is not budgeted. If you would like to sponsor them and can't, make it to church please call the church office and leave a message at (717)-365-3139 or Email Tim at sulc.angel80@gmail.com. The price to sponsor the flowers is \$41 for both vases and \$21 for one. The bulletins are \$18 for all or \$9 for half.

SERVING IN MARCH & APRIL

March 2, 2025 Greeter: Brooklynne Dively **Transfiguration** Reader: Keith Klinger Altar: Lynn Schadle Of our Lord w/ Usher: Dave Strohecker Glasses: Doris Flynn **Holy Communion** Greeter: Barbara & Keith Klinger March 5, 2025 Ash Wednesday Reader: Tracy Bixler Altar: Susan Krause w/ Holy Usher: Matt Ferster Communion Glasses: Linda Koppenhaver March 9, 2025 Greeter: Becky, Max, & Lincoln Hoover 1st Sunday In Lent **Reader: Nathan Steinbach** March 16, 2025 Greeter: Deb Trautman 2nd Sunday In Lent Reader: Mike Hartman March 23, 2025 Greeter: Mike Hartman 3rd Sunday In Lent Reader: Sharon Erdman March 30, 2025 Greeter: Doris Flynn 4th Sunday In Lent Reader: Jason Dively

<u>April 6, 2025</u> 5th Sunday In Lent w/ Holy Communion April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

<u>April 17, 2025</u> Maundy Thursday w/ Holy Communion

<u>April 18, 2025</u> Good Friday

<u>April 20, 2025</u> Easter Sunday w/ Holy Communion

April 27, 2025 2nd Sunday of Easter Greeter: Matt Ferster Altar: John Novinger Reader: Doris Flynn Usher: Mike Hartman **Glasses: Becky Hoover** Greeter: John Novinger Reader: Becky Hoover Greeter: Virginia Moore Reader: Mike Hartman Altar: Dennis Barge Usher: Lynn Schadle Glasses: Tracy Bixler Greeter: Susan Krause Reader: Nathen Steinbach & Pastor Greg Greeter: Anna Coleman Reader: Dennis Barge Altar: Doris Flynn & Usher: Matt Ferster Lynn Schadle Glasses: Susan Krause Greeter: Lisa Perkins Reader: Barbara Klinger

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sunday, March 2 -Worship Service w/Holy Comm. 10:15a.m. /Food Collect 10:15a.m.
Wednesday, March 5- Ash Wednesday Service w/ Holy Communion 7p.m.
Saturday, March 8 - Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.
Sunday, March 9 - Worship Service 10:15a.m.
Wednesday, March 12 - Bible Study 7pm
Sunday, March 16 - Worship Service 10:15a.m
Monday, March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!!
Wednesday, March 19 - Bible Study 7pm
Thursday, March 20 - Council Meeting 7 p.m. /1st Day of Spring
Friday, March 21 - Deadline for April Newsletter!!!!!!
Sunday, March 23 - Worship Service 10:15a.m
Wednesday, March 26 - Bible Study 7pm
Saturday, March 29 - Murder Mystery-Play and Dinner,5 p.m.
Sunday, March 30 - Worship Service 10:15a.m



 Tuesday, April 1 – Happy April Fool's Day!!

 Wednesday, April 2 – Bible Study 7pm

 Sunday, April 6 – Worship Service w/Holy Communion10:15a.m. /Food Collection 10:15a.m.

 Wednesday, April 9 – Bible Study 7pm

 Saturday, April 12 – Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

 Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m

 ** Little Hands Easter parties Mon. & Tue. April 14 & 15

 Thursday, April 10 or 24?? – Council Meeting 7 p.m.

 Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service w/Holy Communion 7 p.m.

 Friday, April 18 – Color Easter Eggs 9 a.m. /Deadline For May Newsletter /Good Friday

 Saturday, April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. at the Gratz Park

Saturday, April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. at the Gratz Park Sunday, April 20 – EASTER Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. <u>Tuesday, April 22 – Earth Day</u> <u>Wednesday, April 23 - Administration Professionals Day!!</u> <u>Saturday, April 26 – Happy Arbor Day!!</u> Sunday, April 27 –Worship Service 10:15a.m

FOOD COLLECTION is the first Sunday of every month. The Food Bank is open on the second Saturday of every month, from 9 to 11a.m.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK are instant mashed potatoes, cereal, canned fruit, ketchup, & soup. Thanks for your continued support.



March 3- Peggy Hartman March 14- Steve Welker March 24- Ashley Welker March 29- Bill Hepler March 31- David Ferster March 10- Kierra Roe March 15- Max Hoover March 25- Paula Davis March 30- Glenn Klinger March 10- Elaine Lane March 18- Caitlyn Reed March 26- Mark Coleman March 30- Jane Shade

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this service of repentance and imposition of ashes. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible. The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

FELLOWSHIP ON MARCH 29

Please join us on March 29, 2025, for a lighthearted evening of murder, mayhem, mystery, and of course great food. The menu will consist of grilled chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, green beans, fruit cup, drinks and of course PIE!!! For tickets, please see Susan Krause, they are \$20 each. Tickets will be available to church members first so get them early. Dinner will be served at 5pm.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

are available in the narthex, regular and large print. Please pick up a copy for yourself, neighbors, friends, or anyone else.

RADIO SPONSORS ARE STILL NEEDED for the following dates in 2025. <u>March</u> 30, <u>May 25, June 22, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 21, September 28, October 19, November 30, & December 21.</u> If you sponsored a Sunday in the past, we did not carry individuals over, only Business's. If you would like to sponsor any of these dates, please contact Tracy Bixler at 1-570-449-3532 or email at bix@epix.net. Cost is \$50.00 a Sunday.



<u>Members</u> – Linda Koppenhaver, Rosalie Fetterolf, Julie Ferster, Janet Rumfelt, Barbara Klinger, Marie Lahr, Clair & Vivian Engle

Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. - Kenneth Mace

Polk Apartments - Martha Koppenhaver, Charles Schoffstall

<u>Friends & Family</u> – Dean Harner, Ester Stoltzfus, Jon Bower, Sherry Johns, Jeff Latsha, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebuck, Dorothy Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Jim Troutman



One-Pot Creamy Beef and Garlic Butter Pasta

lb. ground beef
 cloves garlic, minced
 tsp. Italian seasoning
 tsp. black pepper
 cup heavy cream
 oz. penne

2 Tbsp. butter
1 cup chopped onion
½ tsp. salt
½ cup beef broth
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
Fresh chopped parsley

In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the ground beef, breaking it up with a spatula. Cook until browned, for about 5-7 minutes. Add the garlic and onion, and cook for another 2 minutes, until fragrant and



softened. Stir in the Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper. Pour in the beef broth and bring it to a simmer. Let it cook for about 5 minutes to reduce slightly. Add the heavy cream and Parmesan cheese. Stir to combine until the sauce thickens and becomes creamy, about 3-4 minutes. Add the uncooked pasta to the pot, ensuring it's covered by the sauce. Add a little extra water or broth if needed. Cover the pot and cook the pasta according to the package instructions (usually about 8-10 minutes), stirring occasionally. Once the pasta is tender and the sauce is creamy, remove the pot from the heat. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley and serve hot.

Triple Reese's Peanut Butter Cookies

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsalted butter, softened	¹ / ₂ cup creamy peanut butter
¹ / ₂ cup granulated sugar	¹ / ₂ cup packed brown sugar
1 large egg	1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 ¹ / ₄ cups all-purpose flour	¹ / ₂ tsp. baking soda
¹ / ₄ tsp. salt	¹ / ₂ cup Reese's Pieces
$1/$ D_{1} D_{2}	-1 -1 D -2 -2 D -2 -2 D -2 -2 D -2 -2 -2 D -2 -2 -2 -2 -2 -2 -2 -2

1/2 cup Reese's Peanut Butter Chips 1/2 cup chopped Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Preheat your oven to 350* and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, cream together the softened butter, peanut butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla extract, mixing until well combined. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, stirring until just combined. Fold in the Reese's Pieces, Reese's Peanut Butter Chips, and chopped Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Scoop tablespoonsized portions of dough, roll into balls, and place on the prepared baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Flatten slightly with your hand or the back of a spoon. Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until the edges are lightly golden. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Slow Cooker Cracker Barrel Fried Apples

4 lbs. apples, peeled & cut	2 Tbsp. cornstarch
¹ / ₄ cup brown sugar	¹ / ₄ cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon	¹ / ₄ cup butter, melted
2 tsp. lemon juice	1 tsp. vanilla extract

Peel, core, and slice the apples into wedges. Pour apples into the slow cooker and toss with cornstarch to coat evenly. Pour in the brown sugar, granulated sugar, and cinnamon, stirring well to mix. Add the melted butter, lemon juice, and vanilla extract, stirring again to combine. Cover and cook on high for about 2 hours or until apples are tender but not mushy. Stir well before serving.



I Must Tell Jesus



I Must Tell Jesus 1894

Many New Testament promises have corresponding verses in the Old Testament that reinforce their power. When Peter, for example, said, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7), he was but restarting David's words in Psalm 55:22; "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

Elisha A. Hoffman loved those verses. He was born May 7, 1839, in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. His father was a minister, and Lisha followed Christ at a young age. He attended Philadelphia public schools, studied science, then pursued the classics at Union Seminary of the Evangelical Association. He worked for eleven years with the association's publishing house in Cleveland, Ohio. Then, following the death of his young wife, he returned to Pennsylvania and devoted 33 years to pastoring Benton Harbor Presbyterian Church.

Hoffman's pastime was writing hymns, many of which were inspired by pastoral incidents. One day, for example, while calling on the destitute of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, he met a woman whose depression seemed beyond cure. She opened her heart and poured on him her pent-up sorrows.

Wringing her hands, she cried, "What shall I do? Oh, what shall I do?" Hoffman knew what she should do, for he had himself learned the deeper the lessons of God's comfort. He said to the woman, "You cannot do better than to take all your sorrows to Jesus. You must tell Jesus."

Suddenly the lady's face lit up. "Yes!" she cried, "That's it! I must tell Jesus." Her words echoed in Hoffman's ears, and he mulled them over as he returned home. He drew out his pen and started writing

I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! I cannot bear my burdens alone; I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.

Hoffman lived to be 90, telling Jesus his burdens and giving the church such hymns as "What A Wonderful Savior," "Down at the Cross," "Are You Washed in the Blood?" "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and a thousand more.

Taken from the book "Then Sings My Soul" By Robert J. Morgan



ORGAN RENOVATION has begun *THANK YOU* for supporting this project and this priceless 97-year-old magnificent musical masterpiece.

Projected finish date is April 18, 2025.



















