Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church





Join us for Worship Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m. Journey & Fellowship 10:45



Christ's United Lutheran Church One God. One People. One Purpose. 437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org (570) 875-1591

Volume 4, Issue 4 April 2016

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The April Newsletter is sponsored in Celebration of Spring by Vivian Brown



Status of Accounts as of February 29

Benevolence Gifts.....\$2,977.00 (14% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2016)



Pastor Kim's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

April showers bring May flowers...

It's time. Spring is here. The weather is warming up, the days are longer, and the earth is calling: it's Garden Time. Wouldn't it be nice if we just took a pack of seeds, threw them down, and then had more tomatoes, squash, peppers, beans - and everything else – so much so that everyone we know has some?

But it doesn't work that way. What grows, is dependent on what happens before.

Putting in new beds, getting good soil, mixing in the food, checking the seed quality, planting, watering, weeding – it's more than dropping the seeds – it is a lot of work. It takes preparation to have a good garden. Truth is, even though it seems like a lot of work, once we're in it, we love it, don't we? That feel of doing, of turning the soil, of seeing the new life start, gives you a sense of glowing warmth inside.

It's not different with faith. What grows, is dependent on what happens before.

Just a few short days ago, we celebrated what has happened before: Jesus Christ, the son of God, was raised from the dead, forever. With shouts we came together on Easter morning to greet Jesus as He was raised from the dead, as new life emerged from the ground, life beyond our mortal years, life beyond what we imagine, life eternal, life God gives to us to grow.

— continued on page 4

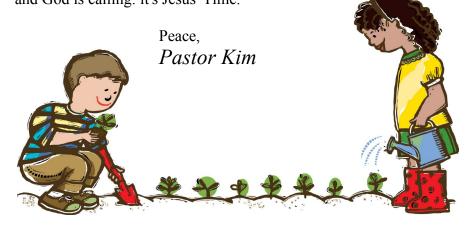


But this life will not grow if put to bed, to root deep within us. It needs light. It needs food. It needs water. It needs more than saying "Jesus is Lord" with our lips: it needs our hearts, minds, souls, and strength to *show* Jesus is our lord, so much so that there is enough to tell everyone we know.

Worship, daily Bible readings, group learning, in depth studies, service to others – faith is more than just standing in a church service – it can be a lot of work. It takes preparation to grow God's garden of faith. Truth is, even though it seems like a lot of work, once we're in it, we love it don't we? That feeling of being with God, seeing the new life emerge is us, gives us a sense of glowing love inside.

This month begins a new understanding of prayer, meeting on Tuesday nights at 7. The Journey continues as we grow together Sunday mornings at 11. Christ's Cupboard meets the second week of each month for hands on ministry. Daily Bible reading guides are printed each week in the bulletin, and more available on the information racks in the hallway. Each week at Christ's United is new opportunities, new nurture, new growing. Each week at Christ's United is worship, Saturdays at 5 and Sundays at 9.30. Each week is something your faith needs, to grow.

It's time. Spring is here. The weather is warming up, the night is over, and God is calling: it's Jesus' Time.





Church Council Highlights from February:

- Ann Marie reported that the income for February was \$16,999.53 with expenses being \$16,123.69, netting ordinary income of \$875.84.
- Committee Security: John Denchak proposed that we create a new committee on safety.
- Council Members: John
 Denchak had mentioned at the
 Council Retreat the idea of
 elders visiting the sick, pray ing for them and anointing
 them according to the writings
- in the book of James 5:13-16. Council represents the elders or leaders of the church. John felt that it would be a good idea if maybe once a month we could go, along with the pastor, and visit someone who is sick.
- Church Council made a motion to second Personnel's resolution to hire Bill Price as Outdoor Custodian.





- 2 Gail Lorady Arianna McAnnaney
- 3 Lewis Pennypacker Robert Rock
- 4 Heather Klinger Marisa Seritsky
- 5 Margaret Conner Bryce Hummel
- 6 Barbara Brown Darcie Gruber Courtney Krise
- 8 Marjorie Lally Ivan Sweinhart
- 9 Stephen Harhigh, Jr.
- 11 Kaitlin Neumeister
- Natalia Mulhall
- 14 Ryan Wolfe Dorothy Zangari
- 15 Jessica Wright
- 16 Jeremy Knorr
- 17 Aaron Pancher
- 18 Caleb Dietrick
- 19 Anthony Kodack

- 20 Russell Hummel Shale Waldick
- 21 David Pennypacker
- 23 Monica Klock
- 24 Amanda Dillman Chad Klock
- 25 Dianna Monaghan
- Azure Waldick
- 27 George Hepler
- 28 Samantha Brennan Jill McNeal Marcus Peel
- 30 Joseph Anczarski Dena Guenther



APRIL anniversaries

04/05/86 Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.

04/20/68 Ed & Judy Stepulitis

04/21/71 Daniel & Bonnie Sisko

04/23/60 Jim & Darcie Gruber

04/26/01 Mark & Cheryl Varndell

04/29/00 Stephen & Jennifer McGrath

American Red Cross



Community Blood Drive

Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road - Ashland

Thursday, April 7th 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Please see Mr. Erik Tice, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Open To The Public And Walk-Ins Welcome!





The following Memorials were given to Christ's United since the issue of the last Newsletter:

\$160.00 in Memory of Michael Zaharick by:

Anne Fecenko
Ann Marie Buzalko
Evelyn Dobrowski
Susan Zimmerman
Donald & Laray Klinger
Irene Morgan
Leo & Jo-Ann Young
Joseph & Madelyn Paulonis



Saturday, April 23rd

The first highway clean up of 2016. Meet at the church at 8am.

Gloves, an orange vest, and trash bags are provided. No one will be turned down. Youth under age 18 must be a accompanied by an adult and sign a waiver.

Hope to see you there!!!

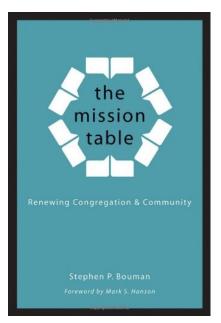
If anyone can be a driver that continuously checks on the pickers to see if anything is needed, see Tracy Berner.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!

LAST YEAR THE DEAN OF OUR MISSION DISTRICT LEAD A SIX PART CLASS ENTITLED "THE MISSION TABLE. RENEWING CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY" BY FORMER BISHOP OF THE ELCA METRO NEW YORK SYNOD, REV. STEPHEN BOUMAN

THE SCHUYKILL MISSION DISTRICT IS OFFERING THE COURSE AGAIN THIS SPRING AND SUMMER FOR SIX SESSIONS

THE CLASS WILL BE LEAD BY REV. WARREN EGEBO OF THE FRIEDEN - ST. JAMES LUTHERAN PARISH OF HEGINS AND PITMAN



Held at Trinity Lutheran, Pottsville

First Class—Wednesday, APRIL 13th 7 TO 8:30 P.M.

BOOKS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPANTS

Email Pastor Egebo at <u>KLON@EPIX.NET</u> if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions call 570-682-3447.



We Offer our Prayers to...

March 27 – Leona Sheipe (G. Marquardt), CJ & Sharyn Robichaux (G. Marquardt), Robyn Barrett (L. Sterling), Kim Brown (E. Tice), Michael Wolfgang (L. Sterling)

March 20 – Family of Father Bambrick, Family of Margie Zimmerman, Susan Grant, Mary Heverling, Sue (Kaufman) Jiannino (R. Hardnock), Jim Klemanski (G. Marquardt)

March 13 – Family of Dean Carpenter, Family of Gary Steinhart, Crystal Collette (D. Lassen), Pat Hepler, Jim Hepler, David Specht (L. Lute), Mark Brown (V. Brown), Robbie Myers (B. Liem), Ben Moyer, Helen Wolfgang, Leo Young, Ken Bennett (G. Marquardt)

March 6 – Family of Drew Ressler, David Schweinhart, Stu Anthony, Beryl Stitzer, Judy Stepulitis, Lou Fetterolf (T. Berner), Donna DiRenzo, Deb Price, Wendy Farnsworth, Barb Liem, Grantham Sterling

February 28 – Family of Paige Metzger Chivers, Family of Weston Rock, Dylan Barker (T. Wolfe), Dorothy Shadle, Evelyn Dobrowolski (D. Price), Faith Shepler, Judy Fritz, Reese Burdette (S. Peel), Bill Dando (H. Wolfgang), Karyssa Wenrich (J. Clark), Ken Penkavski (C. Varndell)

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for <u>one month</u> and then taken off. **Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.** If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.

Praying Through the Directory

Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:
The Beury Family—Howard
The Dengler Family—Robert & Sheila
The Harhigh Family—Stephen, Brittany & Trever



Sr. Youth

April 15th at 6:00 pm
Meet at the church for our
annual slumber party.
Bring your sleeping bag
and pillow,
as well as, your favorite

game, activity and snack.

Please sign up on the youth bulletin board!!!





If anyone has aluminum cans they want to dispose of, please put them in the bins behind the church by April 13th. The youth will be bagging the cans so they can be cashed in and used toward their summer Knoebel's trip. Please rinse

out cans before bringing them to cut down on the number of bees around our youth.

ALUMINUM CANS ONLY PLEASE!!!!





2nd Annual Joyce Meyer trip to Hershey Sat. August 27th, 2016

WHERE, WHEN, HOW, AND WHY

We meet at the church
deapart on the bus by 7:00 Am
enjoy the show and get filled with a renewed excitement
on the way home we usually stop for a bite to eat.
We are thinking about going to
Red Lion in Pine Grove this year.
Why you ask....because last year
we had some of the funniest, kindest, speed racer people
around and we had a BLAST!!

Serving Our Community of Faith in April:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
April 3	Angie Berger	Darlene Stank Mike Steinbauer Barb Stepanchick Richard Shoup	John Towey Maryann Wolfgang Dennis Wolfe	Zachary Hummel	Carey Wahalec	Deb Zaharick	Deb Berner
April 10	Vivian Brown			Ashley O'Connor & Brian O'Connor	Heather Klinger	Deb Berner	Kay Berner
April 17	Ryan Walter			Kylie Mallams & Dylan Buhay	Jacob Tice	Darcie Gruber	Deb Hall
April 24	Gail Marquardt			Nathan Berger & Deanna Lesher	Deidre Dengler	George Kosmisky	Jennie Kosmisky

		April 2016		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs
3 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9:30 Communion Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 <i>Journey</i> 2:00 Social Hall Reserved	4 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 6:30 Endowment Fund Meeting 7:00 Church Council	5 9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Bible Study	6 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 WELCA	7 1:00-6:00 F Cross Bloo
10 3 rd Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey 5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Meeting	11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 7:00 Social Ministry Team Meeting	9:00 Food Delivery 9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Bible Study	13 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Sr. youth pizza & food pantry set up	14 10:00-12:0 Christ's Cu 7:00 Christ Education
17 4 th Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey 10:45 Worship & Music Team Meeting	18 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge	19 9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Bible Study	20 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting	21
24 5 th Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey	9:30 Newsletter Assembly 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 6:00 Grief Support Group	6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Bible Study	27 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting	28 12:00-2:00 area food p Good Shep

Praying with Our Eyes – and Hearts – Open

We have learned to put our hands together and close our eyes when we pray, but what if that is *not* what God calls us to do? What if

prayer is not a thing, but an action? Come and explore God's call to see and feel prayer in your life Tuesdays at 7:00p.m.! Our journey begins on April 5th, no tickets necessary. See you there!



Stewardship

The Stewardship Team is at it again! Seeking to help the people of God find a balance in life by following our baptismal charge – let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven – there are several programs in the works:

It's back! Financial Peace University is coming to Christ's United once again! FPU helps us get out of debt and into a biblical model of controlling our money (instead of money controlling us!). The new class is forming, so sign up now. Cost will be \$90 for the class and all materials.

Youth need FPU too! Credit cards and college seem to go together, leaving our youth with a great education – and a great debt load. A special version of FPU designed specifically for youth is coming this Summer – but don't wait – reserve your spot now and reap the benefits for years to come!

The Stewardship Team designs programs for our congregation and community that teach us how to use the time, talents, and treasures we have been given to glorify God. If this ministry interests you, please talk with Jim Gruber or Richard Berner about using your gifts in this way!



Endowment Committee Meeting

All committee members are asked to attend a meeting on Monday, April 4th at 6:30pm to welcome new members and to nominate new leaders.



Give Electronically

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

At Christ's United it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.christsunited.org, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Or if it's easier, just scan this QR code to get started.



SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following item for April:

Canned Fruit

Please place your donations in the shopping cart. Thank You!

"Christ's Cupboard" Next Distribution Date

Thursday, April 14
10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

We need volunteers to help distribute food, come out & join us!



The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.

Committee Schedule

April—WELCA

May—Christian Education June—Worship & Music July—Evangelism & Outreach August—Youth Group September—Property October—Stewardship Team

May 1—15

SNDIES

Undie Collection for Schuylkill Women in Crisis (SWiC)

Please bring your donations of brand new/in the package under-

garments for women and children on these dates. We will have a collection bin in the hallway.



April Fools' Day isn't a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year's Day from April to January, and people who didn't believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to

medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our proclamation" to offer salvation to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 — and every day — we live as "fools for Christ," we're precisely what he calls us to be!

The Fire Alarm went off... and we sat there.

We all knew it wasn't an emergency: but what if it was? Where would you go, who would guide us? When a visitor comes into worship, how do they find what they need to know they are welcome? What happens when someone gets sick during worship? These are some of the guestions that will



be answered as we gather a new Safety Ministry Team together to talk, learn, and plan. Christ's United is committed to a ministry of welcome, and making sure that everyone is safe is a big part of that feeling. If you have a calling to welcome others, and for more information, please speak with John Denchak.





Cans for Kids Campaign!

The warmer weather means that we will be out and about, working in our gardens and walking our neighborhoods. Take a part in the Cans for Kids Campaign and help the environment and you at the same time. Just carry two grocery bags with you, picking up litter

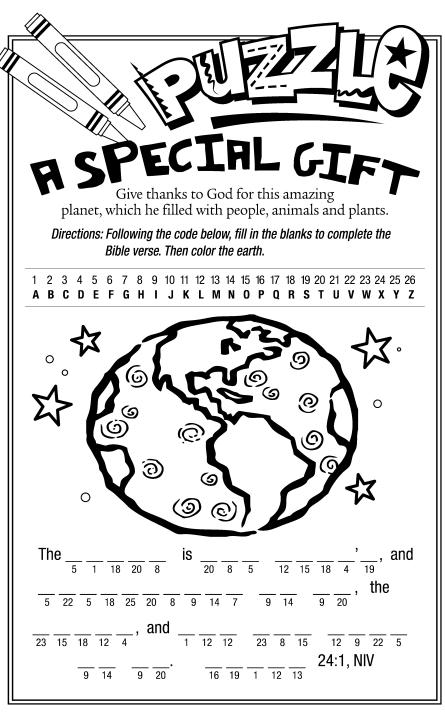
for one bag and aluminum cans for the other. Put the litter in your trash, and bring the cans to Christ's United, where they will be transformed into youth ministry events!

Spring training has begun!

And EVERYONE has made the team – ALL Acolytes and Crucifiers need to be at the big event on Saturday, April 16 beginning at

9:00 a.m.! We will learn what it means to be a LEADER of worship. We will learn about everything from how to tie the knot on your robe to how to help during Holy Communion. Sign up now – and reminder – EVERYONE NEEDS TO ATTEND!





Who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all





Attention Married Couples: Thousands of couples have learned that taking some time to "tune-up" their marriages pays huge dividends. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed to strengthen and revitalize marriages whether you have been married a year or 60 years. We're sorry that the April 8-10 Weekend in Lancaster is now full. (Feel free to contact us about the waiting list.) There is, however, currently still room for you at the April 22-24 Weekend at State College's premier conference center, the Penn Stater. If this date doesn't work for you, registrations are also being taken for the two fall Weekends at lovely, hotel-style retreat centers: September 16-18 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Poconos or October 21-23 at Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. All costs for 2 nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and supplies are covered by a \$100.00 per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish that you are given the opportunity to make toward the end of the weekend. To register online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, or for further information, contact Fred & Julie Schamber, PA Directors, at: fischamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.



YOUR CAR.....YOUR MARRIAGE BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!

WHO ARE

These People???



Each month we like to have a different picture from long ago. This months picture is of St. Peter's Chapel from 1944.

We are in need of more photographs. If you have any to share, please bring them into the church office for Erik to scan into the computer.

If you have any old pictures from Christ's United or any of the chapels that formed Christ's United, please provide pictures to the church office to be included in future "Life Together" Newsletters. Also provide the names of those that are pictured. I am also looking for pictures of the exterior of the Chapels: St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Zions. Thank you!

Faith and love

The two chief things are faith and love. Faith receives the good; love gives the good. Faith offers us God as our own; love gives us to our neighbor as his own.

-Martin Luther



WOMEN OF ELCA SCHUYLKILL CLUSTER SPRING 2016 EVENT

WHERE: Christ's United Lutheran Church

WHEN: Saturday, April 23, 2016 8:30 – 9:00 Registration 9:00 – 12:00 Program (Lunch optional following program)

PROGRAM TOPIC: Alzheimer Disease: The Basics PRESENTER: Olivia Maturano, M.S. Gerontology from

Alzheimer's Association

BIBLE STUDY: Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner,

St. Paul's, Auburn

BUSINESS: Election of Cluster Coordinator

and Cluster Recorder

OFFERING: Alzheimer's Association

IN-KIND GIFTS: Christ's Cupboard located at Christ's United provides monthly food distribution to Schuylkill County residents. Accepting non-perishable foods or monetary donations. Checks payable to: "Christ's United Lutheran Church"/Memo: "Christ's Cupboard"

Cost: \$8.00 (\$1.00 registration and \$7.00 lunch)

Note: Lunch is optional

Please make check payable to: Christ's United Women of ELCA

Mail to: Jo-Ann Young, P.O. Box 144, Gordon, PA 17936

Deadline for reservations is April 16th.

2016 Sponsorships



The 2016 sponsorship sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

We especially need sponsors for the May Newsletter, and bulletins on April 24, May 8 & 29

The Ladies are on the Road Again!

Nice weather means that the Ladies Nite Out is moving to wondrous places and new fun! On 1 May we will gather at Christ's United to carpool to Lewisburg where we will feast at Country Cupboard, browse the gift shop and who knows what else? The menu is everything and anything:



meats, salads, soups, and of course, laughter. Sign up on the bulletin board, and bring a friend!



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education education@christsunited.org

Evangelism/Outreach evangelism@christsunited.org

Lutheran Church Men (LCM) lcm@christsunited.org

Social Ministry socialministry@christsunited.org

Stewardship

WELCA welca@christsunited.org

music@christsunited.org
Christ's United Committees
Auditing & Finance Committees

Worship & Music

Auditing & Finance Committees finance@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund endowment@christsunited.org

Mutual Ministry

Nominating council@christsunited.org

Personnel personnel@christsunited.org

Property property@christsunited.org

Christ's United Lutheran Church Mission Statement

We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative reexamination of our worship life; a quality educational program for all ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will under gird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.



From a worship bulletin:

ULU TESCAMETTE REAULTING

But my moth would encourage you (Job 16:5).

Hymn of the Day

These are interesting words to come out of someone's mouth.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2016 council@christsunited.org

countries and constitution of				
	Phone	Term Expires		
Beth Andrews (Secretary)	570-874-2381	Feb. 2018		
Stewart Anthony	570-644-0373	Feb. 2018		
vicepresident@christ	sunited.org			
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2019		
Deb Berner	570-875-3209	Feb. 2017		
John Denchak	570-875-4970	Feb. 2017		
Deidre Dengler	Youth Rep.	Sept. 2016		
Gregg Sterling	570-449-6940	Feb. 2019		
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2018		
Mark Varndell	570-875-2545	Feb. 2019		
Deb Zaharick	570-875-2691	Feb. 2017		

PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert 570-336-3110 pastorkim@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947
lois@christsunited.or	g	
Parish Administrator	Erik Tice	570-875-1591
office@christsunited	.org	
Office Hours: Monda	ny-Friday 9:30-3:00	
Director of Music	Keith Morgan, ALCM	570-516-1725
music@christsunited	.org	
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422
treasurer@christsuni	ted.org	
Indoor Custodian	Cheryl Varndell	570-875-2545
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



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