



March 22 through March 28, 2026

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7).

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I visit someone before a surgical procedure, I always offer this reading. Scripture tells us not to be anxious! Whatever we need, we are to make our requests known to God, and God's peace will be present.

Would you say there is peace in your life? Are you at peace? This is a difficult thing to consider, given the world we live in today!

- Global wars and conflicts
- High gas and utility prices
- Things more expensive every day

Speaking personally, there are days when I am (almost!) ready to give up. So what to do? To whom can we turn?

Finding peace has been a life-long journey and challenge for me. As I have written before, we are in a battle against evil in the world, and our opponent, Satan, wants us to be *not at peace!* At every turn, he wants us to worry and be anxious about everything. No wonder we are so tired all the time. Fighting takes energy we don't always have.

For me, I am fortunate to be your pastor, and be surrounded by men, women, and children who are at peace. Because of Christ, you know God is in control, and is watching over you. As we meet on Sunday or during the week, I see the light of Christ shining through.

So how to receive this peace? Do you know Christ as Savior and Lord? Have you taken the time to receive and understand why it was necessary for Jesus to die on the cross? Do you accept his grace and love? Have you made a commitment to follow him?

We all slip back to our normal responses to life around us, and we sometimes have no peace. We get angry, frustrated, anxious, depressed, you name it. But with prayer, and with the gift of Christian fellowship and witness, we regain our footing and God's peace is again lavished upon us.

The peace of Christ is freely available. If you are searching for peace, real peace, please talk to me or someone who has been a light to you. It's a free choice you make to receive the free gift of God's grace! I pray that the peace of God through Christ will come to you all.

In Christ, **Pastor Jim**

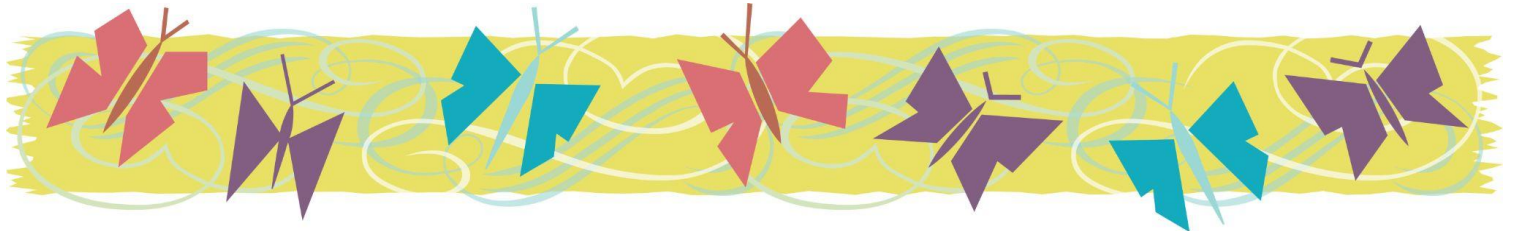
Highlights from the March Session Meeting

- The death of member Sarah Jane Shaffer (93 yrs) occurred on February 16th 2026. The death of member Trudy Boggs occurred on March 8th 2026.
- Karen A. Bauder was received into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith on February 22nd, 2026.
- Joint Holy Week Services
 - Maundy Thursday April 2nd, 7pm @ One In Christ Church, Ambridge.
 - Good Friday April 3rd, 7pm @ Ohio U. P. Church, Hopewell.
- A joint meeting with Elders and Deacons occurred on Saturday, March 7th. This also included officer training. Out of this meeting came the scheduling of two Listening Post dates.
 1. Sunday, March 22nd after worship.
 2. (Rescheduled) to Thursday, March 26th at 7pm.
- A lease agreement has been signed and March rent received from the Rev. Kalyn Stevwing for use of the Manse.

Actions by Session

1. The Session has given authority to the Personnel Committee to interview and hire a Choir Director.
2. By consensus the Session agreed to offer the Lutheran House of Prayer use of the Manse garden to grow vegetables to assist them in their local mission such as Manna.
3. The Session has given the Finance Committee the authority to decide whether or not to switch to a new finance software after evaluation.

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session



BABYSHOWER

The Women's Association is collecting donations for Adoption Connection, located in Beaver, PA. Donations can be placed in the marked box in the Cry Room every Sunday in March. The items most needed are:

- Gently used baby items
- Diapers-size newborn to 6, and wipes
- Shampoo, conditioner and body wash
- Baby wash and lotion
- New hairbrushes, combs
- New underwear and socks (all sizes)
- Gently used clothing of all sizes

Thank you for your donations!!

Questions? Contact Eleanor Pike
at 724-601-4007



Worship
• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat • Adult Sunday School is at 9am • 81 in church on March 15, 2026
Congregational Care
• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am • A Listening Session is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, following worship • A Listening Session is also scheduled for Thursday, March 26 at 7PM
Mission
• The Lenten Mission project has raised \$1572 out of \$3000, which will go to building two water wells. Offering designated as “Lenten Mission Project” will go towards this goal. If your child needs a coin container, talk to Simon Hunsberger. The next congregation collection will be on Palm Sunday.
Operations

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Prayers for the Martin family as Bonnie passed Sunday night
- Wendi Rybicki—A joy that Sherri and Doug have recovered from their car accident and are doing well
- Christina Palmer—A joy that the Paint Party went well on Saturday. It raised some funds for the church
- Dick Klein—Prayers for his brother Craig who has been diagnosed with a neurological condition and will have a MRI
- Diane Gennaro—Prayers of healing for Donna Olexick . She is home from the hospital but she has pneumonia. She is very weak.



Anniversary	Birthdays	Birthdays
Jason & Liz Cagnon 03/05	Mark Muslin 03/01	Daniel Fox Sr. 03/21
	Tracy Simmons 03/08	Casey Honess 03/23
	Savannah McLynden 03/09	Leonard Laird Sr. 03/23
	Michael Duganich 03/11	Betty Solinski 03/25
	Logan Gregory 03/14	Evelyn Cagnon 03/27
	Rich Palmer 03/16	Kasey Hoth 03/27
	Joshua Kocher 03/20	Debbie Ceccarelli 03/29

Highlights From the Deacon's 3/10/2026 Meeting

Investigate the Needy – We are always looking into our community to see if we can assist with anyone that may need help.

Correspondence/Cards – We sent out 22 cards in February.

Extra Care List – We are updating contact information for church members that cannot attend services. We are delivering Easter fruit baskets and chocolates for these members.

Fellowship – We had a terrific Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 17th.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

- **March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday (donuts, coffee, milk, and hard-boiled eggs).**
- **August 23, 2026 – We secured the Hopewell Township Park pavilion for our annual outside service.**

Food Programs: We have been blessed with a successful food drive for the Little Free Pantry!

Blessing Bags – We currently deliver 10 bags to Hopewell Jr. High; 10 bags to Hopewell Elementary; and 8 bags to Margaret Ross Elementary. Delivery to the schools must be before noon on Thursdays unless there is a short week or early Friday dismissal then Wednesday is the delivery day.

Next Meeting – April 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

