

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



New Cemetery Sign Dedicated



On Sunday, April 23, the new sign for the Muddy Creek Cemetery was dedicated. The sign was made by Jere Shimp from our congregation. Reusing the board from the original sign, Jere repaired holes in the top, and then carefully copied and reproduced the original antique-style lettering (centered - the original lettering was not centered). Jere then topped the board with tin and a new weatherproof poly top board, all mounted on two sturdy posts (which should last another 100 years!)

The ribbon of dedication was cut by two people: Jere Shimp and Judy Nichol, vice-president of the Cemetery Board. Our deepest appreciation goes to

Jere Shimp for creating the new sign, to his family for helping install the sign, to Judy Nichol for coordinating the event with the Cemetery Board, and to Nedra Beringer for her idea and initial organization of the project. Guests of honor at the Dedication were Jere's family: his wife Joan and his daughters Wendy, Yvonne and Jolene, whose families all helped with the installation of the sign (along with Jere's sister Gail Bare and her husband Ted). Also honored (pictured below) were the members of the Muddy Creek Cemetery Board, jointly operated by Peace United Church of Christ and Muddy Creek Lutheran Church. Left to right: (Pastor Peter – not on the Board), Roger Noll (Muddy Creek), Judy Nichol (Muddy Creek, Vice-President), (Jere Shimp – not on the Board), Mark Gallagher (Muddy Creek), Ray Sweigart (Muddy Creek), Clair Lausch (Peace), and Vicky Sweigart (Peace, Treasurer), Not pictured are Jim Anthony (Peace, President), and John Haldeman (Peace). Our thanks to them for all their hard work in managing the cemetery.





Mother's Day, May 14: Confirmation, Bells

Come out on Mother's Day, May 14th. At both services, we are privileged to have three youth share their Confirmation Faith Statements with us as the sermon. The three youth, Asia Breidenstein, Riley Beichner and Wyatt Hanney, will also be confirmed at the 10:15 a.m. service. We rejoice with them and their families as they affirm their faith in God on this day!

All women and children are also invited to come forward to play the colored bells during worship as part of our Mother's Day festivities. It's fun and easy – no experience necessary. Hope to see you on Mother's Day!

Report on the Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Houston

On April 16-23, Patti Weaver, Dan Chiffens and Pastor Peter from Muddy Creek, along with 25 other volunteers, went to Houston, Texas, for this year's Disaster Relief Mission Trip. The trip was sponsored by the North Lancaster County Conference of Lutheran Churches and was organized by Pastor Glenn Beard.

The group worked on two flood-damaged houses in northeast Houston, which is the lowest-income area of Houston, and where the residents can least likely afford the very steep price of flood insurance in Houston. We were graciously housed at Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston, and worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and, most closely, with The Restoration Team. The Restoration Team is an inter-faith Houston organization originally created by local Methodist churches in Houston after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017. Hurricane Harvey stalled for days directly over Houston and dumped 60 inches of rain there, flooding and damaging over 150,000 homes (half of which were owned by lower-income people). Recovery from Hurricane Harvey continues to this day. Since then, other hurricanes and tropical storms have also hit Houston, causing less severe flooding. For a week in February of 2021, an unusually cold winter storm hit Texas, sending temperatures plummeting as low as six degrees and causing the state's poorly-adapted power grid to fail. Pipes in countless homes froze and burst, causing severe damage. Besides exterior damage from Hurricane Harvey, interior damage from burst pipes from the 2021 freeze is what also caused the damage in the homes we were renovating.

Half the group worked repairing the home of Betty Seay, whose son, daughter and granddaughter all live with her. Betty is an older woman who has to go to dialysis three times a week. The other half of the group, including Muddy Creek's participants and members of the Carvell family who grew up in Muddy Creek, worked on the home of a 73 year-old woman by the name of Dorris Harris. We referred to her, in polite Southern tradition, as "Miss Harris". Miss Harris proudly bought her house at the age of 21. At the time, Miss Harris had completed a two-year nursing degree. She was a single mother raising three children – a daughter, Anjonette and two sons, Michael and Roderick. When her children got to be school age, Miss Harris would work the night shift from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. as a nurse, come home and get her kids ready to go to

school, and then stay up all day working as a hairdresser in a beauty shop she had set up as part of her house. In the evening, she would grab a few hours sleep, and then wake up to work the night shift again. She also worked as a notary public and did income taxes for people.

After her children grew up and graduated, two of them joined the military – Michael serving as a Marine in Kuwait during the Gulf War and Anjonette serving in the army in Colorado Springs, marrying another army service member. Tragedy struck the family in 1996 when Michael, having survived the Gulf War and receiving an honorable discharge from the Marines, was shot and killed by a neighbor trying to intervene to protect the neighbor's mother. At the time he was married and had a one year-old daughter. Devastated by the loss of her son, in 1998, Miss Harris moved to be with her daughter and son-in-law in Colorado Springs and rented out her Houston house. While there, she got a Bachelor Degree and began teaching 2nd grade at a school on the military base. Seven years later, her daughter and son-in-law were restationed to Fort Hood in Texas, about three hours from Houston. Miss Harris moved with them, and continued her teaching in elementary, middle school and high schools on the Fort Hood base until her retirement in 2017. She also got a Master's Degree in Community Counseling during this time, and still proudly wears on her finger a commemorative ring for her Master's Degree. In Fort Hood, she also taught Sunday School and was Sunday School superintendent at the local Missionary Baptist Church.

In 2020, she stopped renting her house, checking on it traveling back and forth from Fort Hood, and started looking for organizations to help her repair damage from the Hurricane Harvey flood. Then in February of 2021, her house flooded and her appliances were ruined when the pipes burst during the extreme freeze and power loss crisis. She moved back into the house and tried to repair as much damage as she could herself, all the while trying unsuccessfully to find some organization to help her (they all said they had run out of funds or could not fit her in their schedules). Undaunted and tenacious, she finally talked to an organization in Louisiana who referred her to The Restoration Team in Houston, who took her house on at the beginning of this year as a renovation project.

Miss Harris is now the proud mother of two surviving children – Anjonette (retired at Fort Hood) and Roderick, who moved in with her three months ago (and who, like his mother before him, works 15 hours days). She also proudly has 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

In the five days our group worked on her house, we installed and trimmed a new front window, installed new laminate flooring in her kitchen, framed and installed a new closet door and three windows in a bedroom, installed new ceiling fans in the bedroom, installed baseboard throughout the house, painted numerous interior walls and trim, replaced exterior wooden siding, caulked and sealed gaps, and primed and painted the entire exterior of the house. Noticing that her stove had only two operable burners and was in terrible shape, members of our group surprised her by buying her a brand new stove. She, in turn, was so grateful that she cooked a meal of jambalaya for us on her new stove and served it to us as lunch for our group on our last day with her.

Our group, as well as the group at Mrs. Seay's house, presented prayer shawls from our Muddy Creek Prayer Shawl to both home owners and had a blessing and prayer with them.

It was a wonderful, rewarding and tiring week. The team thanks Muddy Creek for all of your support and prayers, and also thanks our local cluster of Lutheran churches for the offering you gave during the Lenten Services which went to support this Mission Trip. If you are interested at all in participating in the next upcoming Mission Trip in April of 2024, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard at gbeard@luthercare.org.



(Pictured, left to right, Dorris Harris receiving a prayer shawl from Pastor Peter, Betty Seay holding a prayer shawl, along with her granddaughter and daughter, Dan Chiffens and Patti Weaver working on Miss Harris' house)



**Food
Collection**

Peter's Porch Collection

The next food collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, May 7, which is the first Sunday of the month. Food donations can be placed in the bins in the church entrances. (Peter's Porch distributes the food on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10 a.m. Contact Pastor Peter if you are interested in volunteering with the monthly distribution.)

Ascension Service at Swamp Lutheran on May 18

On Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m., all are invited to our cluster Ascension Day Service at Swamp Lutheran Church, 275 Swamp Church Road in Reinholds. Pastor Tim Craven of Mellingers Lutheran Church will be preaching.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 28

On Sunday, May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend), our summer worship schedule returns with services at spoken worship at 8:00 a.m. and a service with liturgy, hymns and music at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School Until May 21

Sunday School for all children is held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. downstairs in the Sunday School Room. The last day for Sunday School will be May 21.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

For all those interested in knitting shawls for our prayer shawl ministry, the Knitting Group meets at Yvonne Weaver's house, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Yvonne Weaver at 717-371-6453. All are invited! The next knitting meetings are May 9 and May 23.



Community Yard Sale in our Grove on Sat. June 10

On Saturday, June 10 from 7 a.m. to noon, Muddy Creek is sponsoring a Community Yard Sale in our church Grove. Each selling spot (12 foot frontage) costs only \$5, which goes entirely to our local food pantry, Peter's Porch. The Schoeneck Lions Club will be there with a food truck and our church will be selling baked goods and cookbooks. If you are interested in reserving a spot to sell your items, please contact Pat Brendle at 717-799-2591, pattigb@ptd.net. Rain date is Sat. June 17.

Please Return Easter Yard Signs

Thank you to all who put out yard signs to advertise our Easter services to your neighborhood! Signs can be returned to the church anytime and put by the mailboxes or put in the money counting room.

"Planning For The Future" Committee Continues Its Work

The Council's new "Planning for the Future Committee" is continuing its work, looking at long-range planning needs for Muddy Creek in the next few years and beyond. At the last meeting on March 30, the subcommittee analyzed attendance and membership data from the last 20 years, looked at current paid and volunteer staffing at Muddy Creek and future needs, and closely examined and discussed participation of children, youth and young families. The subcommittee meets next on May 2.

Card Showers for Betty Ramsey

On May 16th, Betty Ramsey will be turning 96. Her family also requests to have a card shower of birthday cards sent to her. Betty's new address is: Betty Ramsey, Pleasant View Retirement Communities, 124 Personal Care, 544 N. Penryn Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

Congratulations

*Michael and Jeanette Leid proudly welcomed a new grandchild, Emmilynn Fae Leid, on April 19th. Parents are Philip and Cora Leid.

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to:

* Lauren Gallagher and family at the death of her grandfather Harold Crum on April 18.

*Marian Weinhold at the death of another sister-in-law Bertha Adair on April 20.



Thank You's

Thank you for the “Goodie Box” I received. – Leroy Berger

Thank you to the congregation for the fantastic care package sent to me! I really appreciate it as I'm finishing up everything I need to do to graduate in May. I'll be moving to Tennessee in August for work and my master's degree. Thank you so much for thinking about me and I'll be back to visit as soon as I can. I am grateful to the Muddy Creek congregation and am thinking of you during this Easter season. - Will Meckley

Thank you to my Muddy Creek Family for the snack box I received. It is always nice to hear from you, and your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Thank you, Travis and Kirsten Gerhart
USCG - New York Harbor

Our thanks to Joe Becker for offering to trim up the two pin oak trees in the church front yard.

Worship Helpers

May 7 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Grace Youndt
10:15 am Lay Reader – Will Wood 10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
10:15 am Money Counters - Michelle Dimitris, Jim Weber, Jane Wenger

May 14 10:15 am Acolyte - 10:15 am Lay Reader - Brad Rauch
10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman

May 21 10:15 am Acolyte - 10:15 am Lay Reader - Doris Rauch
10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
10:15 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz

May 28 10:15 am Acolyte - Cole Aungst 10:15 am Lay Reader - Brenda Berger
10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter 10:15 am Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare

Attendance

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Online Views (Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube/Facebook)</u>
March 26, 8 a.m. – 24, 10:15 a.m. – 56	43
April 2 (Palm Sunday), 8 a.m. – 31, 10:15 a.m. – 83	181
April 6 (Maundy Thursday), - 26	47
April 7 (Good Friday), - 19	56
April 9 (Easter), Dawn – 23, 7:30 a.m. – 54, 10:15 a.m. – 87	62
April 16, 8 a.m. – 20, 10:15 a.m. – 43	30
April 23, 8 a.m. – 14, 10:15 a.m. – 58	n/a

(There are currently 84 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 200 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in March: \$11,977.03

Expenses to General Fund in March: \$14,894.39

Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of March: \$40,006.03

Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of March: \$50,194.40

Humor – More Church Bulletin Bloopers (Not Our Bulletins)

- *The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- *During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J. F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
- *Tuesday at 5 p.m. there will be an Ice Cream Social. All ladies giving milk please come early.
- *Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- *Next Saturday is the hayride and bonfire. Please bring your own hot dogs and guns.
- *Don't let worry kill you... let the church help.
- *Please help our young people with their Flea Market. They are starting from scratch.
- *Mrs. Lydia Webber will be at the organ and will play "Throw Out the Lifeline". Mrs. Jane Love will sink.
- *This Sunday our visiting preacher is Dr. Raymond Holder. If you would like to see the other pulpit candidates, you will find them hanging in the foyer.
- *The pastor would appreciate if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Saturday.
- *As far as Brother Brown's physical condition is concerned, the lab report indicates that he has abnormal lover function.

