**February 11, 2024**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**PRETZEL SUNDAY**

**“Imagining God”**

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***Transfiguration Sunday PRETZEL SUNDAY* February 11, 2024**

**Welcome and Prayer**

**Announcements**

*Please stand*

**Chorus of Welcome** *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family, the family of God.

**Call to Worship** Genesis 1:25-26, 31

L: God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**P: Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.**”

L: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Opening Worship Song**  *“Lift Every Voice & Sing” # 519*

Lift ev­ery voice and sing, Till earth and Hea­ven ring, Ring with the har­mo­nies of li­ber­ty;

Let our re­joic­ing rise, High as the list­en­ing skies, Let it re­sound loud as the roll­ing sea.

Sing a song full of the faith That the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope

That the pre­sent has brought us; Facing the ris­ing sun Of our new day be­gun,

Let us march on till vic­to­ry is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast­en­ing rod, Felt in the days when hope un­born had died;

Yet with a stea­dy beat, Have not our wea­ry feet, Come to the place for which our fa­thers sighed?

We have come ov­er a way That with tears has been wa­tered,

We have come, tread­ing our path Through the blood of the slaugh­tered;

Out from the gloo­my past, Till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our wea­ry years, God of our si­lent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in­to the light, Keep us for­ev­er in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the plac­es, Our God, where we met Thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine

Of the world, we for­get Thee. Shadowed be­neath Thy hand, May we for­ev­er stand,True to our God,

true to our na­tive land

**Opening Prayer**

**Dear Lord, thank you for making us all in your image. Thank you that no matter who we are or what we look like, we look like you! We bear your image. God thank you for Jesus. Thank you for how he appeared to us and how he continues to appear to us. We love you Lord. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for choosing us as your own! In Jesus name, Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

**Youth Message**

**Joys & Concerns …………….*Gathered Prayer***

***Singing of THE LORD'S PRAYER–***

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,**on earth as it is in heaven.**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom,*

*and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

**Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory**  *“Transfigure Us O Lord” Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

**The Doxology** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**The Offertory Prayer**

Dismissal of the Youth

*Please be seated*

**Hymn**  *“O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair*” # 258

O wondrous sight! O vision fair of glory that the church shall share,

which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!

From age to age the tale declares how with the three disciples there

where Moses and Elijah meet, the Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place, two chosen witnesses of grace;

the Father's voice from out the cloud proclaims his only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest that day

what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision's mystery;

for which in joyful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

**Scripture Lesson Mark 9:2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**Sermon** *“Imagining God”*

*Please stand*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Closing Hymn** ***“****Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”* Vs 1,2,3 # 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

Hail To the Lord! Hail to the Lord!

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are

precious in His sight. Hail To the Lord! Hail to the Lord!

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His

path to birth. Before Him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains,

from hill to valley flow. Hail To the Lord! Hail to the Lord!

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction “***Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*” Vs 4 # 203

O’er every foe victorious He on His throne shall rest, from age to age more glorious, All-blessing and all-blest. The tide of time shall never His covenant remove; His Name shall stand forever, His changeless

Name of Love. Hail To the Lord! Hail to the Lord!

A purple heart with a purple and white hands holding each other

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**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.***

Praying for others gives us a chance to listen to God so we know how we can help.

Prayer is powerful and sometimes it’s the only thing we can do, but it’s also a chance to let God tell us how we can be His hands in the world.

**Prayer request from Feb 8th** .

Prayers for the family of Eric Bonner who died this week. He was an employee of Cocoa’s father’s business.

**Prayer Requests from February 4th**

Marina's friend, Abby, is celebrating a birthday today.

Prayers for the Caulker family - three members of their family died in one week.

Continuing prayers for the Keyser family as Dale is treated for a cancerous brain tumor.

Prayers for Eva Baumgartel's health and well being.

Prayers for Mary Meyers' daughter as she is ready to give birth soon.

Prayers for a neighbor, Charles that is not doing well.

Prayers for Sheryl Duke (Carol's sister) hope that medications work for her.

Pat Morrisey is in the hospital with back complications.

Mark Whited is doing better, infection and bruising are healing well. Continued prayers for healing in his shoulder.

Rhonda's brother Ed is also doing better, his infection is clearing up.

Prayers for Majennah & Jean as they visit Sierra Leone.

Meghan Riley is doing a little better. Prayers as she decides about having her arm amputated.

Prayers for Jason's friend who has a brain tumor. Prayers for Parris Boyette who is hospitalized and needs prayers for healing and recovery.

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Eva Baumgartel Dorothy Buzzard Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer

Cass Quigley Marva

**For families, especially:**

Betty Sauerwald & family The Stefanescu & Mc Manus Families Jiselle & Family

Zilpha and James Browne Jean Bernard and family The Spotts Family

Pastor Brendan Van Gorder & family

**For an end to violence, for peace** **and stability**

Philadelphia, especially our community - Sierra Leone, Africa

Haiti - Israel and Hamas - Ukraine and Russia

**Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our church!**

 **Each year on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday**

**we at Crescentville UMC celebrates Pretzel Sunday.**

**The "Little Arms" of prayer**

Pretzels are a Lenten tradition in Christianity dating back to the early 600s. The first pretzel was an invention of an Italian monk who was looking for a simple reminder to his brother monks that Lent is a time for prayer. So, fashioning a Lenten bread with only flour, water and salt (in those days people cooked without butter or oil during Lent), he rolled out the dough in strips. Then he gave the world the distinctive pretzel shape by folding the strip of dough over itself, just as one would cross one's arms over the heart in a gesture of prayer. The bread was then baked as a soft bread, just like the big soft pretzels we have today.

In the shape of crossed arms, these little breads were called bracellae, the Latin word for "little arms." From this word came the German word bretzel, the root of our familiar word pretzel.

Today, we have pretzels as a reminder of the importance of prayer, of daily turning to our Lord this Lent so that we better prepare for the great events of Holy Week and the Easter celebration. Each pretzel is a delicious Lenten treat to remind us to turn to the Lord often and "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).

Lord, may these pretzel snacks remind us to always turn to you in prayer.

A group of children holding a book

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Model spiritual disciplines to our children. Our children learn so much from how we live. If we say that we follow God, but don’t make the Bible a priority by reading it every day, our kids will realize it’s not really that important to us.

**First Sunday in Lent - February 18, 2024**

Mark 1:9-15 - Genesis 9:8-17 - Psalm 25:1-10 - 1 Peter 3:18-22

**As we journey together through the season of Lent, please prayerfully consider attending worship on Ash Wednesday, and participating in Bible Study, Vespers, and Women’s Fellowship.**

To begin the Lenten season, **Ash Wednesday, February 14th** is a time for reflecting on our humanity, sins and mortality. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins. Worship will begin at **7:00 PM**, and will included imposition of ashes and holy communion.

On **Tuesday evenings during lent** starting on **February 20th** please Join Crescentville United Methodist Church as we "Struggle to the Cross". We will be meeting every Tuesday night **on Zoom** from **7:30-8:30pm** to discuss a selection from the book by UMC Bishop Sharma Lewis *"Struggle to the Cross"*. You can show up on zoom without a book and we will read and discuss a passage together. If you'd prefer to purchase a book you can do so and follow along and make it a daily practice. This is going to be a journey where we really get to know each other, our inside selves, and God. All ages are welcome! The zoom link will be sent out by text and email, and the link is also available on our website. The study will be recorded and the video posted afterwards.



On **Wednesday Evenings** **starting on February** 21st you are invited to attend

**Lenten Vesper Services at The Philadelphia Protestant Home.**

(6401 Martins Mill Road) The service lasts about 45 minutes and includes songs, readings, prayer, and a brief meditation. The services will begin at 6:30 PM. Please enter through the chapel doors. Pastor Randy and Sue Creevey will be participating in these services. The services will be recorded and posted later.

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Our women’s fellowship is expanding to two meetings in the month of February. The meeting that was held after worship on Jan 21st had wonderful attendance from women who are not able to meet on a weekday afternoon.

As it is very important to include all, Sue Snyder will lead meetings on

**Wednesday Feb 21st at noon and on Sunday February 15th after worship**.

**All women are invited to attend one or both meetings.**

Our Women’s Fellowship is a strong group of wonderful women sharing ideas, planning events, and having fun together in fellowship.

If you have any questions, please talk with Sue Snyder.

**ALL DATES TO REMEMBER**

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| Wednesday, February 14th | **Ash Wednesday** Worship 7:00 PM  Holy Communion  Imposition of Ashes |
| Sunday, February 18th | **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SWIM PARTY**  at the Philadelphia Protestant Home  1:00 – 3:00 PM $ 5.00 per person.  All youth under the age of 12 must be  accompanied by an adult |
| Sundays February 18th thru March 17th | Sundays in Lent Worship - 10:30 AM |
| Tuesdays evenings during Lent  Feb 20th thru March 19th | Lenten Bible Study on Zoom  With Pastor Brendan 7:30 – 8:30 PM |
| Wednesday evenings during Lent  Feb 21st thru Mar 20th | Lenten Vesper Services at PPH  6:30 PM |
| Wednesday Feb 21st (noon)  and Sunday Feb 25th (after worship) | Women’s Fellowship Meetings |
| Sunday March 24th | Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 AM |
| Thursday, March 28th | Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM  Holy Communion |
| Friday, March 29th | Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM  Tenebrae Service |
| Sunday, March 31st | Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 AM |
| A close-up of a logo  Description automatically generatedSunday, April 7th | The Snyders’ invite you to join them  for a **bowling party celebration**  on Sunday, April 7th 1:30 – 4:30 PM  at Pike Lanes,121 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA 18966  Please let the Snyder’s know if you plan to attend. |
| Sunday, April 28th | “**Down The Aisle, Now & Then”**  1:30 – 3:30 PM Admission $ 10.00  **A wedding fashion show fundraiser**  All are welcome to attend.  Wedding fashion will include  styles from 1880 to 2024  Refreshments will be served  after the show. |