

APRIL SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH'S SILO

Because Easter falls on the first Sunday in April, the 1st, it was thought best to have the Silo out early to remind everyone about what was happening at our church on Easter Sunday. So with luck everyone will have their copy electronically by Palm Sunday and in print form soon after that.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Don't forget that at our church we have a service on Maundy Thursday and for the past several years we have been holding it jointly with the Washington Presbyterian Church. This year is our turn for the service which will begin at 7:00 p.m. The service will contain the twelve Stations of the Cross along with the sharing of communion. Please try to join us that evening as it helps us to understand the beauty and joy we feel on Easter Sunday.



EASTER MORNING

Easter at our church will begin with a breakfast prepared by our members. The menu for that morning is:

Sausage Egg Casserole
Biscuits and Gravy
Fruit Cup
Assorted Pastries
Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice

Please take the time to sign up by Palm Sunday or call Claudia at 636-1150 by Wednesday, March 27th, so we can have enough food for everyone.

There is also a sign-up sheet for help and items needed for the breakfast. Please take the time to check that out also.

Breakfast is being served at 8:30 a.m. Please be on time as we would like to get everything cleaned up before we go upstairs for the service.

HELP NEEDED

As mentioned previously, help will be needed for the Easter breakfast. On Saturday, March 31st, we are meeting at the church at 10:00 a.m. to set the room up for the next day's breakfast and to prepare as much as we can of the breakfast. If we have enough help, things will go faster and we can all be on our way to do whatever we need to do for ourselves. ☺ Items are also needed for the breakfast—9X13X2-inch glass casserole dishes and pastries for the meal which can be dropped off on Saturday between 10 a.m. and noon, or by 8:15 Sunday morning. (The dishes needed by 10 a.m. Saturday.) The pastries can be cinnamon rolls (Lori ☺), doughnuts, muffins, etc.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Following the service on Easter we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Weather permitting (hopefully) we will hunt outside. Don't forget to sign up if you are bringing your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, neighbors, etc. that day. We want to make certain we have plenty of eggs for the hunt. If you forget, don't worry there are usually more than enough eggs to search for. Oh yes, buckets to use while hunting will be provided. ☺



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Fish banks were given out during church services for young and old to put contributions big and small in them to help support One Great Hour of Sharing. This money will then be sent to the Presbytery to be added to the hundreds of other churches. The money collected will then be used to support programs and needs in our country and throughout the world. So don't forget to bring your bank to church on Easter Sunday. If you do forget, don't worry, they'll still take them, but don't wait too long! All forms of money will be accepted and appreciated...coins, bills and checks (made out to our church with "One Great Hour" written in the memo part). Thank you in advance.

A RECIPE TO TRY!

On a recent Sunday during fellowship time we got to enjoy a treat that had people asking for the recipe. Nancy Campbell make a special item called "Pecan Pie Bars." So that all can make and try these little goodies, the recipe is included with this Silo. Enjoy! ☺



PIZZA PIE AND GAME NIGHT

Come join us for a fun way to enjoy a Saturday night. At 5:00 p.m. we'll gather in the fellowship room for an evening of food and fun games. The main entrée will be pizza and along with that will be whatever everyone brings to enjoy. (And if it is like all the other times—there will be plenty to eat!)

We'll continue to eat while we breakout and play the games people bring that evening. I know for certain that Trivial Pursuit will be one to enjoy. ☺ So look for the sign-up sheet and put your "John Hancock" on it as we'd like to know how many to expect. Oh, and don't forget, guests are welcome.



FIFTH SUNDAY AND POTLUCK

In 2017 we started holding joint services with the Washington Presbyterian Church on the months with five Sundays. So on those Fifth Sundays we would either worship at our church with a potluck following or worship at Washington's church and enjoy a potluck with them; alternating on those Sundays. We'll be doing this again in 2018 starting in April on the 29th. The service and potluck will be held at the Washington church starting at 10:00 a.m. Joining us this time will be the members from the Denver's Presbyterian Church making for a nice gathering that day!

We hope you will be part of this Fifth Sunday. If you'd like to attend, but need a ride, then just contact one of the Session members to arrange a lift. Oh, and don't forget a dish to share if you are planning to stay for the potluck!

THAT'S OUR MARY JANE!

Not too long ago the Morton Chamber of Commerce honored our Mary Jane Johnson with the Distinguished Service Award!! At our church we all know what a selfless, hard working person Mary Jane is. It is so nice that now others from the Morton Chamber and town people know that too!

Congratulations Mary Jane—we couldn't be prouder!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

April 2—Sue Troxell
Mary Bart

April 6—Jim Berry

April 19—Elaine Daniels

April 20—Lois Mort

April 23—Jamie (Berry) Acosta

April 26—Will Wiker



KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Helen & Mike Claver—as they recover from their car accident.

Lois & Gary Mort—for better health for both of them.

Linda Harbaugh—to get healthy again.

John Harbaugh—continued recovering from successful shoulder surgery.

Edna Johnson—for her strength to return now that chemo is behind her.

Dorothy & Pete Vallosio—for continued good health with more energy and strength.

Barb Necessary—for pain free health.



She Sells Sea Shells by the Seashore

I enjoy a good "tongue twister" about as much as I enjoy solving an algebraic equation. Oh, I've tried both: toy boat...toy boat...toy boat..., black bugs blood, rubber baby buggy bumper, how much wood could a woodchuck chuck, $(2y) \times (3z) = 164$. But the nemesis of all tongue twisters for me is the above title. I've never been able to get past the first couple recitations before my tongue and lips revolt and my brain freezes up. But let's look at the topic of sea shells.

Sea shells have always been fascinating to me. Each one seems to be unique in size, shape, color, and its one time occupant. They give evidence of something that was alive, but is now gone having left only a "shell". The shell protected its occupant as best it could, but sometimes in the undersea environment there are things stronger than the shell.

Let's take a clam. The clam is a bivalve mollusk, that is, it has a shell in two parts and uses a foot to move and burrow to feed. It lives under the sand, but gets exposed by wave action or tidal flows. Once it's exposed, it becomes the favorite delicacy of the starfish. We don't think of a starfish as a nasty predator, but to an exposed clam, it's a hunter and the clam is its prey.

The starfish encircles the clam with its five rasp like legs. It holds the clam tightly while it begins to pry the shell open. No matter how tight the clam tries, it eventually can't withstand the pressure of the starfish. The shell is pried open, and the starfish dines on a fresh clam. After it eats its dinner, all that remains are the two half shells that will wash ashore and be picked up by a little girl walking the seashore looking for shells to collect and sell.

I think the lowly clam is a great metaphor for our lives. We spend our lives roaming about our own little ecosystems, minding our own business. Then the tide comes in washing over us, and exposes our vulnerabilities and weaknesses. The challenges of life wrap their raspy arms around us and begin to pry looking for a weak spot in our shell, and once that's found, our foe exploits that weakness. Our weaknesses can slowly lead to our demise, or in some cases, destroy us instantly. Life is full of distractions and pitfalls. In reality, maybe those things are merely tests or obstacles placed in our way to see how we handle challenges. In life, we will pass many such tests, and truth be known, fail many others.

Think of your life as that of the beach shell. You may leave behind a shell torn apart by life, or one whose edges are chipped and cracked in the battle to remain intact. Either way, God has placed us here not to bury ourselves in the protective solitude of sand, but to travel on the surface with other creatures facing our challenges and meeting them head-on.

So, what kind of shell will you leave behind?

Shalom, Mike

Nancy's Pecan Pie Bars

Heat oven to 350. If using a glass pan bake at 325 degrees (which I did)

2 cups flour
1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup butter, softened
1 can sweetened condensed milk
8 ounce package toffee baking bits
1 cup pecans (chopped)
1 egg

Mix flour, sugar and butter. Press into bottom of 9x13 pan and bake for 15 minutes.

Stir together the milk, toffee bits, pecans and egg. Pour over the hot crust and bake for another 25 minutes.

Cool before cutting.