April 14th 2024 9:30 AM

Worship Service



CEDAR CHURCH

A Union Church since 1855 3419 Broadway Allentown, PA 18104 610-395-6332

Email: cedarchurch@ptd.net

Our Mission

Cedar Church extends a hand of welcome to all of God's children seeking a place of worship among persons dedicated to the love of Christ and his teachings.

Let us Laugh

-AI generated Poem

In the quiet hush of a sanctuary still, Where light filters through stained glass windows, Laughter can be heard, a joyful sound, Echoing off the walls like a symphony of praise.

In the presence of God, there is no room for sorrow, For His love fills every corner of the room, And like a child at play, we are free to laugh, To let our joy bubble up and spill over.

Laughter is a gift from the Creator, A reminder of His grace and mercy, A release from the burdens we carry, A balm for the weary soul.

In the midst of trials and tribulations,

When the weight of the world seems too

much to bear,

Laughter is our lifeline, our anchor,

A light in the darkness, guiding us home.

So let us laugh with abandon, Let our voices ring out with joy, For in laughter, we find healing, And in the midst of it all, we find God's love.



Bulletin, noun;

- 1. Something to read during the sermon;
- 2. a fan used in churches without air conditioning;
 - 3. your receipt for attending church.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Before The Service

A selection of traditional & contemporary sacred music arrangements played on the piano.

Prelude *Trumpet Tune (Epitaph for a Dead Reed).* Gordon Young

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

"Somebody has said that there are only two kinds of people in the world there are those who wake up in the morning and say,
"Good morning, Lord,"
and there are those who wake up in the morning and say,
"Good Lord, it's morning."

*Greeting and Declaration of Celebration

P: O God, your laughter makes the heavens ring. Your smile makes the sun shine. Help us to be full of joy and laughter as we join in the continued celebration of Easter.

C: We worship with joy and peals of laughter.

*Call to Worship

P: Sing a new song!

C: A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth;

P: Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God

C: Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday

P: For God has taken ordinary things.

C: And made them extraordinary! Sing a New Song! We worship in joy and laughter!

*Gathering Hymn IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

if you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

(Clap-clap)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

(Clap-clap)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

(Clap-clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet.

(Stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet.

(Stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet.

(Stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen!"

(Amen!)

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen!"

(Amen!)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen!"

(Amen!)

If you're happy and you know it, do all three

(clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen!)

If you're happy and you know it, do all three

(clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen!)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it, do all three.

(clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen!)



*Opening Prayer

LA: Holy God, as you have taken what we call an absurdity and turned it into possibility..... as you have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray dawn, as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit into an undreamed-of tomorrow, we praise you for this day!

C: Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day. Amen.

*Invitation to Confession

P: None of us likes to look foolish, but which is sillier? Chasing after the world and all its gaudy trinkets which flatter our souls, or being a 'fool for Christ', imitating him in service to others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day, as we pray, saying,



*Prayer of Confession

C: You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus ~ who can bring us home to your heart.

Silence is maintained.

P: Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, joyful, and upside-down, ways in which you work.

C: Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our brother and Savior.

Silence is kept for reflection.

*Assurance of Pardon

- P: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.
- C: Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.

 We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER

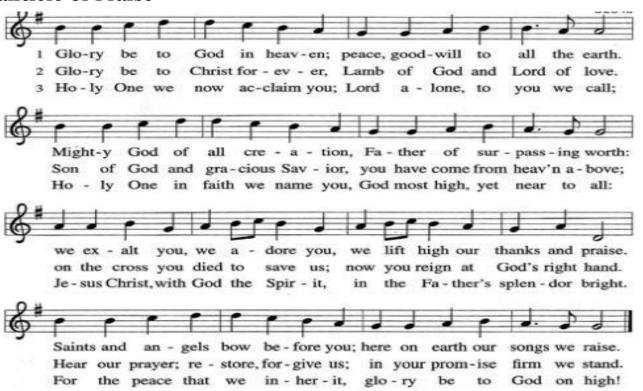
P: Some school children were discussing their parents' jobs in class. One new youngster announced that he was the son of a preacher. "What abomination do you belong to?" another youngster asked.

Friends, whether you are a part of an abomination or not, we welcome you all as sisters and brothers in Jesus the Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you!

C: And also with you.



*Canticle of Praise



Scriptures (Scripture Verses are NSRV unless otherwise stated)

The kingdom of God is like a nudist colony. In order to get in, you have to leave everything behind.

The Lesson from Acts

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."



The Reading of Psalm 23

Beloved by many Christians and Jews, and those who claim neither faith, Psalm 23 speaks of God as shepherd. These six short verses are an expression of the psalmist's confidence in God's protection. The words assure those who follow in God's way that God provides for every need, and that the paths of God are defined by steadfast love and faithfulness.

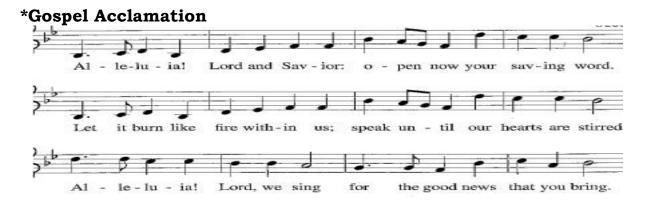
- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- ³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.



P: Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 11"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."



P: This is the good news.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Day

P: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts...

C: not be interrupted by ringing cell phones. Amen.

Sermon

"A good laugh is a sign of love.

It may be said to give us a glimpse of, or a first lesson in,
the love that God bears for every one of us."

Karl Rahner

Hymn of the Day God Bless You Merry Sinner

Tune: "God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen"

1. God bless you merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true; Remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you, and lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner, too.

Refrain:

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

2. In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn, amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born. It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn.

Refrain:

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

3. So sing an alleluia, for our Savior's victory, and shout to all "Hosanna!" that we have been set free from sin and death and devil's grip throughout eternity.

Refrain:

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.



Statement of Faith for Holy Humor
We believe in God, who made us in His image.
We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Brother and Savior.

He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Creator and the Son. Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – the Holy Spirit is our joy!

Prayers of Intercession

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

(Silence is kept)

LA: Imaginative God, you smiled and the sun burst through the Shadows of chaos; you chuckled, and the platypus splashed in creation's fountain; you laughed, and all that is good and beautiful was given shape by you.

C: Your mercy is great.

LA: Laughing Jesus: snickering at the feeble attempts of the evil one, you showed us how to resist temptation; giggling at sin's desperate desire to hold on to us, you released us by your love; howling with laughter at death's foolish belief that the tomb could hold you, you burst forth into the kingdom as the stars pealed with joy.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Spirit of Easter, as you fill us with new life, may we delight in sharing it with others; as you tell us the good news which can never be taken from us, may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely; especially... as you tickle us with grace, may we give it away with laughter on our lips and joy in our hearts,

C: Your mercy is great.

(Silence is kept)

P: God in Community, Holy in One, our hearts overflow with wonder as we lift the prayer of Jesus, reworded for this special day,

*The Prayer of Jesus (Holy Humor Sunday Version)

C: Our Father in Heaven, let your holy name be known, let your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today the bread that we need, and forgive us our wrongs, and okay, we'll forgive those who have done wrong to us too. Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil. For we want for you alone to rule in our hearts; you have power to transform, and in the light of your smile is your glory. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

P: There are moments in our lives when we are so happy, so elated, we have to laugh, a full, rich laugh! Easter teaches us that laughter and love are at the heart of God's work. Joyfully, we are able to give knowing that our gifts will help others to see the blessed miracle of God's creative joy.

A \$100 dollar bill, a \$20 dollar bill, and a \$1 dollar bill meet up at the shredder at the end of their lives.

The \$100 says, "I've seen the whole world during my lifetime. Why, I've been on cruises in Caribbean, safaris in Africa, and vacations in Europe." The \$20 says, "Well, I've not done quite as well, but I have been to Atlantic City, Disneyland, and Starbucks."

They both turn to the \$1 dollar bill and ask, "How about you?"

The \$1, not wanting to be outdone, says, "I've seen the whole country as well. I've been from church to church to church..."

Then the \$100 asked, "Wait what's a church?"

Offertory Anthem: Be Strong Trilby Jordan and Sandy Wilinson

*Doxology (Sung)

C: 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.

*Prayer of Dedication

- P: Pastor Candi: Loving God, can a laughing prayer be lifted up to you this Eastertide? Can these gifts, given with love, be further transformed like echoes of grace, delighting all who receive their blessings?
- C: May it be so, through the giddy power of your Holy Spirit, and may our lives speak of a Still Laughing God, full of Easter surprises.

 Amen.

* Blessing

P: God is good!

C: All the time! God is good.

P: Is life worth living in joy?

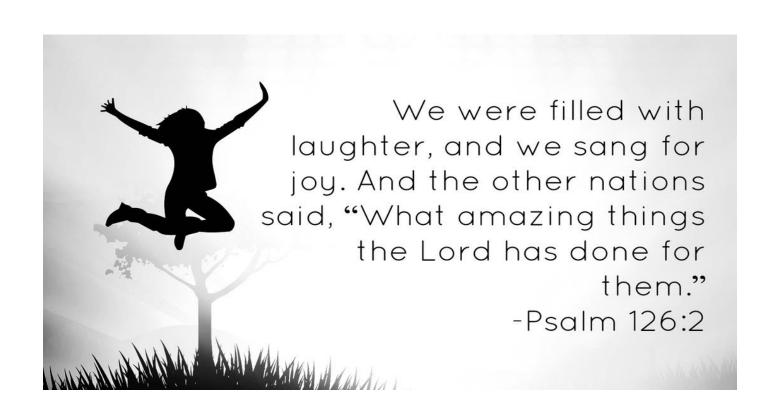
C: Life is worth living in joy.

P: Is the best yet to come?

C: Always, the best is yet to come.

P: Then go, as disciples of the laughing Jesus, and follow him forever.

C: May it be so!!!!



*Sending Hymn Always Look on The Bright Side of Life? Some things in life are bad
They can really make you mad
Other things just make you swear and curse
When you're chewing on life's gristle
Don't grumble, give a whistle
And this'll help things turn out for the best

And

Always look on the bright side of life (Come on) Always look on the right side of life

If life seems jolly rotten
There's something you've forgotten
And that's to laugh and smile and dance and sing
When you're feeling in the dumps
Don't be silly chumps
Just purse your lips and whistle, that's the thing

And

Always look on the bright side of life (Come on)
Always look on the right side of life

For life is quite absurd
And death's (not) the final word
You must always face the curtain with a bow
Forget about your sin
Give the audience a grin
Enjoy it, it's your last chance anyhow
So always look on the bright side of death
just before you draw your terminal breath

And

Always look on the bright side of life Always look on the right side of life Always look on the bright side of life Always look on the bright side of life

Lyrics by Eric Idle with one change by Pastor Candi

*Sung Benediction:

C: God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

*Dismissal

LA: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

LA: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude Glorificamus Gordon Young

The Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman (cell: 610-762-9391)

Music Director: David Beck Sexton: Don Hinderliter

Church Secretary: Jenny Simmons (Office Hrs. Tue-Wed-Thu 8am-4pm)

Videographer & Claxton: Phil Horlacher Worship Lay Assistant: Ellen Sherer Altar Guild: Sandra Diacogiannia

Usher: June Knecht

2024 Cedar Advisory Board (CAB)

President: Chris Ellis, Vice President: Tammy Boyer, Treasurer: Phil Horlacher, Assistant Treasurer: Sue Phillips, Secretary: Jeannine Leonard, Assistant Secretary: Janine Barnaby, Members: Ron Kozza, Cory Lentz, Zach Borger, Carol Haines and Pastor Candi Cain-Borgman.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Diane & Ed Weil in honor of our Grandaughter Camille E. Weil birthday.

Given by Mr. William Dorney in loving memory of departed loved ones.

BULLETIN:

Given by Dale Clauser in loving memory of his wife Nancy Clauser.

Given by Ken & Gail Ruth in memory of departed loved ones.

DEVOTIONALS:

Given by The Estate of Paul and Madlyn Haines in memory of departed loved ones.

YOUTH BULLETIN:

Given by Mrs. Gail Christman in honor of granddaughter Jaclyn & Kristen.

L.M.D Summer Ingathering:

Collecting Items for Lunch Program run by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Catasauqua. They are providing free lunches in a local park to feed and support children of their community. We been asked to collect the following items beginning April 14th thru May.

- 1. Individual salty snack bags
- 2. 16oz bottles of water
- 3. Walmart (Sam's Club) gift cards in \$10 increments for Trinity Lutheran to purchase needed supplies



If you would like to sponsor the church bulletin
@ \$5 per week, please contact Jenny
at the church office.
Some dates have come available.

We also have Altar Flowers Dates Available \$14.50 ea.



46 or 40 ounce cans needed for our altar flowers



PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Garnett, Kathy Ehrhardt, Marty and Roseanne Ritter, Traevis and Cassidy, Sydney and JJ, Connie D., Alicia Eggert, Greg and Heather Gravec, David Annoni, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Charles Schiffert, Margaret Boyle, Carnell and Abby, Christa, Eric Wakoli, Nancy Erdman, Barbara, Hailey, Patti, George Minnich, Gail and Ken Ruth, Tom Bartman, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Charles Haggerty, Denise, Sara Beth, Amanda and Jessie, Mary, Connor, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Gary Shellhammer, Susan Pursell, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Ron Zorn, Rod, Kathleen, Jean Robertson, Christine Wagner, Megan, Terry Mace, Dawn Fenstermacher, Kim Bastian, Linda Ellis, Scott, Debbie, Shirley McNabb, Pauline Gaal, Al and Joan Plarr, Haisley Grim, Gene and Joan, Howard and Nancy, Cassie Mace, Cindy Fenstermacher, Anna Mae Derhammer, Brooke Weber, Fritz and Ardella Ehrhardt, Members of our Recovery Groups, Lisa Stover Halley and Family and the Family of Ray Fenstermacher

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the church office.
(Hospitalization codes: 203 and 404)

Note: The Lehigh Valley and Saint Luke's Hospital Lists are not kept up to date and can be difficult to navigate. So, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Candi if you or a family member is hospitalized.

Church Calendar		
Sunday, April 21, 2024		
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY		
Monday, April 22, 2024		
Book Club	7:00pm	100
Wednesday, April 24, 2024		
Book Club	10:30am	Social Hall
Cemetery	7:00pm	103
Choir Practice	7:00pm	100
Sunday, April 28, 2024		
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Hymn Sing		
Wednesday, May 1, 2024		
Choir Practice	7:00pm	100
Sunday, May 5, 2024		
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Mother's Day Social	10:30am	Kitchen, Social Hall
Tuesday, May 7, 2024		
Worship and Music	7:00pm	100
Wednesday, May 8, 2024		
Choir Practice	7:00pm	100
Thursday, May 9, 2024		
Staff Support Meeting	7:00pm	103
Sunday, May 12, 2024		
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
(Happy Mother's Day)		

A Communion of Saints Affirmation of Humor

We believe with the Bible that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh."

We believe with Chrysostom that "laughter has been implanted in our souls."

We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for "playful deeds and jokes."

We believe with Luther that "You have as much laughter as you have faith."

We believe with Calvin that "we are nowhere forbidden to laugh."

We believe with Francis De Sales that "humor is a foundation for reconciliation."

We believe with Wesley that "A sour religion is the devil's religion."

We believe with Kierkegaard that "Humor is intrinsic to Christianity."

We believe with Dostoevsky that "If a person laughs well they are a good person."

We believe with Chesterton that "A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation."

We believe with Bonhoeffer that "Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor."

We believe with Fulton Sheen that "The only time laughter is wicked is when it is turned against he who gave it."

We believe with Flannery O'Conner that "Christianity is a strangely cheery religion."

We believe with Elton Trueblood, "Never trust a theologian without a sense of humor."

We believe with Charles Schultz that "Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless."

We believe with Krister Stendhal that "humor, along with irony, forms a safeguard against idolatry."

We believe with Eric Gritsch that "Humor is thus anchored in a self-knowledge that indicates one's limitations."

compiled by Rev. Chris Anderson with help from the Joyful Noiseletter

15 Bible Verses About Laughter and Joy

1. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

- Luke 1:14

2. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

- Matthew 2:10

3. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

- Luke 2:10

4. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."

- Luke 6:21

5. He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouting.

- Job 8:21

6. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance - *Ecclesiastes 3:4*

7. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

- Isaiah 55:12

8. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

- 1 Peter 4:13

9. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

- Philippians 4:4

10. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

- Zephaniah 3:17

11. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord.

And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

- Nehemiah 8:10

12. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

- Habakkuk 3:18

13. And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

- Ecclesiastes 8:15

14. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

- Jeremiah 31:13

15. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope..

- Romans 15:13

Pastor Prayer List

Garnett, Kathy Ehrhardt, Marty and Roseanne Ritter, Traevis and Cassidy, Sydney, Connie D., Alicia Eggert, Greg and Heather Gravec, David Annoni, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Charles Schiffert, Margaret Boyle, Carnell and Abby, Christa, Eric Wakoli, Nancy Erdman, Barbara, Hailey, Patti, George Minnich, Gail and Ken Ruth, Tom Bartman, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Charles Haggerty, Denise, Sara Beth, Amanda and Jessie, Mary, Connor, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Gary Shellhammer, Susan Pursell, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Ron Zorn, Rod, Kathleen, Jean Robertson, Christine Wagner, Megan, Dawn Fenstermacher, Kim Bastian, Linda Ellis, Scott, Debbie, Shirley McNabb, Pauline Gaal, Al and Joan Plarr, Haisley Grim, Gene and Joan, Howard and Nancy, Cassie Mace, Cindy Fenstermacher, Anna Mae Derhammer, Brooke Weber, Fritz and Ardella Ehrhardt, Members of our Recovery Groups, Lisa Stover Halley and Family and the Family of Ray Fenstermacher