

SQUARE TIMES

REFLECTIONS

By Pastor Vicky Allen

Pastor's message	1-2
March Easter Egg Hunt planning	2
Puzzle	3
Women, Shared Ministries	4
Birthdays, Ink Recycling	5
Ready to Volunteer?	6



Dear Family and Friends,

Ash Wednesday coincides with Valentines Day this year. We begin the Lenten season on February 14th. Taunted by the smell of chocolate everywhere, I wonder if we can successfully stick to a fast? Are we spiritual able to resist all temptations to indulge our inner cravings? What a soul-searching question to ask ourselves as we enter the season of Lent.

The Lenten season is traditionally observed with forty days of fasting and prayer. Fasting is a biblical way to truly humble yourself in the sight of God. King David said, "I humbled myself with fasting" (Psalm 35:13). In humble submission, we forgo our fleshly desires. Instead, we focus our attention on feeding our spirit, in order to discern whether we are aligning our lives in accord with God's purpose and call.

Every year, I fast from at least one thing that distracts my time away from God. Last year, I fasted from sugar. This year, I will again fast from sugar but also game apps on my

(Continued on page 2)



Save the Date:
Friday, March 22,
our next blood drive.

phone (it will be very hard!). I invite each of you to choose something to sacrifice and join in fasting and praying together as a whole church. Although fasting is paired together with prayer, please note fasting is not aimed at manipulating God to do as we desire. It does not serve as an attempt to get God to say yes to our petitions. Fasting is a spiritual discipline. It helps us draw near to God, and surrender ourselves to God, in order to more attentively seek and hear God's direction. We should never fast to pressure God into doing our will, but rather to ensure that we are doing God's will. May your fast be powerful and transformative. Happy Lent!

Easter follows Lent. MSQ will again host an Easter Egg Hunt for the community. Easter is early this year. We plan to stuff the plastic eggs on March 17th @ 6pm. The hunt will take place rain or shine on March 23rd. **We are now accepting donations of candy, prizes (baskets or stuffed animals), and larger plastic eggs.** Thank you in advance for helping to make this event a success!

Love Always,
Pastor Vicky



**CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!
PRIZE BASKETS DONATIONS NEEDED
EGG STUFFERS NEEDED MARCH 17, 6PM**

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual



1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That’s an apt visual for what it’s like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.” And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God’s Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full,” says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

UMW—Women of Faith

Meetings are every third Saturday. Bring a sandwich and your ideas to the next meeting on Saturday, February 17, 12:30 PM. All women are welcome!

Women
in Ministry

UMW continues to offer Giant gift cards. Wawa coupons are back! We ask you to support this Giant/Wawa program, as it helps fund our missions.



Montgomery Square continues to benefit from our shared ministries with Chalfont.

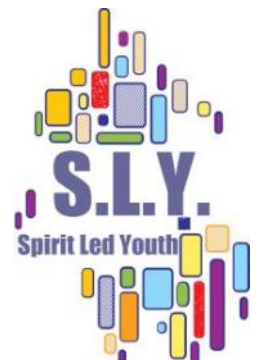
Two community outreach holiday events are hosted here, as we enjoy organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat. Volunteers from Chalfont help with donations and work.

Two weekly shared ministry events are hosted at Chalfont:

⇒ Thursday night's Bible Study averages 15 in attendance including three students from MSQ. The total group size is 19. We hope more of you will join us.



⇒ Sunday night youth group has 7 youth this year and includes two youth from MSQ, three from Chalfont and two from the community who have no current church affiliation. If you know of any youth, send them our way.





FEBRUARY Birthdays

- Feb 2 Jonathan Closs
- Feb 3 Matt Hallowell
- Feb 3 Jennifer Schindele
- Feb 13 Madelyn Frohlich
- Feb 16 Esme Stefanik
- Feb 20 Ann Wheitsel
- Feb 21 Amber Joyce
- Feb 22 Ian Ivory
- Feb 22 Joseph Scheetz
- Feb 24 Davia Alvarado
- Feb 26 Matt Craig

There are no February anniversaries.



ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY INFORMATION NEEDED.

IF YOU DON'T SEE YOUR NAME, WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION.

**EMAIL CHURCH OFFICE:
msqumc@verizon.net**

LOG - IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 AM



You are invited to the Montgomery Square United Methodist Church Sunday Morning Worship live streaming on YouTube. The instructions for joining us online have changed. Please click the link or copy and paste the link to join the service from the Montgomery Square UMC website

<http://www.montgomerysquareumc.org/>



INK RECYCLING

Bring your used ink and toner cartridges to church and place them in the green topped recycling bin in the Great Room. We are able to return them to Staples, up to 10 per month and receive \$2 for each. That's up to \$20 per month that we can use for supplies. Spread the word!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2024

Volume 45, Issue 2

**Montgomery Square United
Methodist Church**

1900 County Line Road

North Wales, PA 19454

Church Phone: 215-996-0640

Email: msqumc@verizon.net

Website:

montgomerysquareumc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Fridays, 9:30–3:30 PM

PASTOR: Vicky Allen

SECRETARY: Ginny Craig

Deadlines:

—Bulletin announcements, by
Thursdays, 12:00 PM

—Square Times submissions
for next issue due 15th of month

Praising God, Making
Disciples, Caring For All



Areas of ministry in need of
volunteers include:



praise band, technology, finance,
trustees, kitchen committee, coffee fellowship, liturgy rotation, and
more. New ideas always welcome. Thanks.



For those interested in on-
line giving, you can go to
our website for a direct
link.

