



The Messenger

May 2024

West County United Methodist Parish

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Worship

9:30 a.m. (L) (W)
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (F)
10:30 a.m. Sunday School (W)
11:00 a.m. (G) (F)
11:15 a.m. Children's Church JUMP (F)

Pastor Wade
(724)777-4795

Pastor Ali
(814)241-2269

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Pastor Ali's Note

We look out and are starting to see the trees bloom, the flowers are coming alive with vibrant colors, and the grass is turning bright green once again. It's time to get outside and pick up those branches that fell, rake those stray leaves up, get the gravel out of the grass before we start to mow. And soon before we know it, the kids will be out of school and summer will be upon us.

But before we get caught up on planning holiday picnics, family reunions, and graduation parties let us take a breath and slow down a few paces to truly focus in on God's great creation. How many of us stopped for a half hour on April 8th to take in and witness the total solar eclipse? And wasn't it so remarkable – how can this phenomena really have happened – God's miracle unfolding before our eyes.

It's not a secret that I love to go beach glass hunting and listen to the waves coming in and going out in a nice rhythmic cadence. But more than that, when I go to the beach I stop and take that breath so to speak from life. I don't see or hear much going on around me, I just hear the cadence of the waves and I am looking for beach glass but at the same time I see the lines of how the waves come in and out, I see the mounds of sand and small rocks with foam peaks on top, and I also see the bigger rocks being pushed in by the water and wonder how these marvels take place.

While I'm there I tune out most of the world and really focus on God, God's creation mostly, however, sometimes I focus on scripture as well, more precisely – the scripture for the coming week's sermon. I take a super in-depth look at the text, what is potentially happening during the time "X" was happening, how might the different people feel while "X" is happening, and what is God trying to share with us through this story.

Why do I share this with you? Not so you can do the

same thing! I share it because we all need to find ways in our busy lives to take time for ourselves. Maybe for you it is not beach glass hunting but it is golfing or mowing or cooking or “X,Y, or Z”. Let us all find ways to stop, take a breath, and get rejuvenated because without doing this – people get very cranky, bitter, angry, short with others, and many times become part of the problems happening instead of helping to find solutions.

My hope is that all of us will be able to find time each day or at the minimum each week to slow down and see the beauty around us – the beauty of God’s creation – the beauty in the people we see each day. As beautiful as the eclipse was, we need to stop more often than once every 75 years to take in all that awe and beauty that surrounds us. Take time today to stop and breathe! Take time today to stop and see God surrounding you in creation, in people, and in your gifts! See the awe and wonder of God surrounding you right now and be blessed daily!

Until the world hears...

Pastor Ali



From Pastor Wade's Desk

Siblings in Christ!

Do you know the name of Dr. He Qi? This is the information that comes from his website –

Currently a California resident (USA), He Qi Studied at Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing Art Institute in China and Hamburg Art Institute in Germany. Now He is currently an Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA) and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Art Institute of RUC (Renmin University of China, Beijing).

He was the first among Mainland Chinese to earn a Ph.D. in Religious art after the Revolution (1992). He also received his Honorary Doctor Degree from Australia Catholic University in Melbourne (May 2011). He is also a member of the China Art Association and a former council member of the Asian Christian Art Association

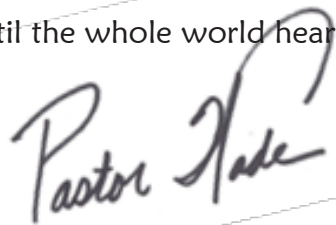
(1998-2006). He received 20th Century Award for Achievement in recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of Religious Art Theory and Christian Art Creation of IBC in Cambridge UK. His art works have been displayed in museums, galleries, universities and churches, in New York, San Francisco, Berkeley, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Birmingham, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Hartford, Elizabethton, Richmond, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hong Kong, Nanjing, London, Oxford, Geneva, Aachen, St. Petersburg, and many more.

The image on the right is a copy of one-piece of artwork produced by Dr. He Qi. It is HE Qi rendition of the Day of Pentecost!

While it might be a bit abstract and a bit unique, I believe that is how the Holy Spirit works in us! Sometimes abstract and always unique!

This month we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. While we celebrate this day once a year, please remember that the Holy Spirit of God is with us always. Let us try to recognize the movement and the work of the Spirit in our lives and in our Parish.

Until the whole world hears!



Pastor Wade



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Family Matters

Prayer Concerns

Fairview

Marilyn Pease
Theresa Gebhardt
Harriet Grace
Jean Pepicello
Melanie (Becky Morrison)
Kathy Rudd
Wilma Portzer
Marilyn Mehl
Kathy Pytlarz
Peace for Israel

Girard

Martin Duran-health
Iva Sue Tyson-stage 4 cancer
Cliff and Kathy Terib-
ery-health concerns

Ongoing health concerns:

Jacob Hickman
Rick Hossman
Lorraine Weaver
Samuel William (wife Peggy
as well)

Lake City

Pastor Wade and Pastor Ali-
son Berkey
Pastor Jack Tickle and family
Pastor Ronnie Cox and family
Pastor Brock Beveridge
Rev. Dennis Swineford
Lisa Clark
Marilyn Clark – Health
Tyler Copening
Lavina Fehr
Nancy Ward – Cancer
Marilyn Clark

Russians
Ukrainians
People of Gaza
Betty Reninger (Downey)

Weis Library

Parish Shut-ins
Shirley Hall (W)
Dan Honard (G)

Kim Jeffrey
Bob Fetterman
Fred & Annie Blarr
Bernadine Sensenich
Jim F. - serious health issues
Charlotte Widdowson
Shirley George and family
Larry Crum family
Joy Klemm and family
Bev Widdowson

Birthdays

Fairview

10-Kay Lynne Picheco
 12-Evelyn Hinkle
 14-Gwen Garbario
 20-Laura Farrell
 26-Howard Miller
 27-Becky Morrison
 27-Zachary Wilson

Girard

3-Andrea Fails
6-Laurel Dohanic
 9-Will Maloney
14-Joe Vojtko
 22-Lisa Wright
23-Paul Crosby
 27-Ryan Adamaszek
 29-McKensie Fails
29-Ted Sakuta
 30-Jacob Hickman
 Underlined indicates 70+

Weis Library

7-Lila Roney
 8-Brenda Scheuer
 12-Jim Garlick
 12-Kimberly Garlick
 14-Karen Bryant
 15-Jerry Fiesler, Jr.
 16-Barbara Beers
 18-Frances Wilson
 19-Shannon DeLong
 20-Byron Schuetz
 22-Johanna Waltz
 23 Sara O'Baker
 29-Linda Scholtz
 30-Kyle Nicolls

Lake City

1-Peggy Stossmeister (B)
 1-Glenn and Patti Campbell (A)
 12-Dave and Ellen Platz (A)
 20-Nadine Straw (B)
 25-Paul and Cheri Seyler (A)
 25 -Pastor Wade & Pastor Ali (A)

B-Birthday
 A-Aniversary

In Service to Our Country

Tia Nejman Jeffrey Pacansky
 Nathaniel Kibler Tony Gollmer
 Michael Campbell

To add to or change a prayer concern or birthday listing,
 please see the contact info on the front page for each

Fairview UMC Preschool

Wesley Station Preschool

We are currently enrolling for next year! If you know of any families looking to enroll in preschool, they can reach the director at (814)840-1559.

We are currently seeking donations of laminating pouches and sticky mailing labels. Both will be used for our art show in May and for other purposes throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support!

Education

JUMP/Education

JUMP Sunday School meets after the children message on Sundays. We will be learning a patriotic song for the children to sing at the June 20th service, we are also going to learn the Lord's Prayer.

JUMP meets in our upstairs classroom Sundays after the Children's Moment of the service.

Girard UMC

The children at Girard UMC continue to work on memorizing John 14:6 as part of the children's sermon. They are continuing a series on kindness and how we express kindness to those around us.

United Women in Faith

The Fairview UWF are collecting ingredients for Flood Buckets. You need not purchase all items for one bucket. A bucket for collected items will be in the Narthex coatroom. Lists of needed items will be available at each church. Though the EM District contest for flood buckets ended on Easter, we will be collecting until Annual Conference in June.

The Fairview UWF are working on their rummage sale for May 10 and 11.

Girard UWF (UMW) wish to express their gratitude to all who participated in the April rummage sale. It took many hands to haul, sort, price, arrange, and work the sale days. We appreciate the hard work, sense of humor, and treats shared by all. Special thanks to Heather Osterberg who works throughout the year as donations come in to keep the holding area clean, tidy, and sorted.

Worship

Girard

5/5

A-Hailey and Chloe Birkner

U-Pam and Dan Wilson

L-TBA

5/12

A-Nick Newell

U-Gail Teribery

L-Doug Wright

5/19

A-Hailey and Chloe Birkner

U-Bob Bensusan

L-Iva Housler

5/26

A-Nick Newell

U-Karen Platz

L-Gail Fees

Readings

May 5: Acts 10:44-48, John 15:9-17 Samie Ruiz-Bueno (F)

May 12: Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53 Cindy Carr (F)

May 19: Romans 8:22-27, Acts 2:1-21 Mel Sundin (F)

May 26: Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17 Howard Miller (F)

Lake City

Greeters

5/5-Rick Killian

5/12-Barry and Terri Harbaugh

5/19-Glenn Campbell

5/26-Gerald and Diane Harbaugh

Liturgist-Doris Schiller

The **Christian Cupboard** food ministry of Girard is asking for:

Girard UMC-Canned meals
Lake City UMC-Instant oatmeal

Each month the Christian Cupboard serves over **200 families**
and needs enough items to serve ALL the families in need.

****Distribution is the first and third Thursday of every month,
from 1:00-5:00 p.m.****

Looking Ahead....

Rummage Sale

Fairview UMC Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

May 10 & 11

Friday, May 10, 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

12:15 to 2:00 pm, \$2.00 a bag or 3 bags for \$5.00

Messy Church

Messy Church is scheduled for May 13. Enjoy a meal, bible lesson, songs and craft. Held at the Girard UMC, 5:00 p.m.

Pfeiffer Burleigh Reading Program

We will once again be doing a 6 week reading program with the students at Pfeiffer Burleigh. If anyone is interested in participating please see Pastor Wade or Pastor Ali ASAP to get your paperwork in before we start on April 10th. We meet with the students and read to them, share in reading games, and teach them about dog safety as they get to read to the dogs. Our time with them is on Wednesday afternoons from 2:15 to 3:45PM.

Fairview UMC Spring Clean-Up

May 14 and 21

5:50 p.m.

Join Us! Help to make the church yard ready for spring. Please bring your own weeding tools if you have them. Come for as long as you are able. All are welcome. (In case of rain, we will try for the following evenings.)

Spaghetti dinner

May 16

4:00-6:30 p.m.

Weis Library UMC: meals are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, dine in or carry out.

Parish Movie Night

May 18

11:30 a.m.

Ladies meeting at Lake City UMC to work on Pauline's Closet

6:00 p.m.

We will be showing a movie classic that is great for all ages starting at Weis Library. Come join us for some fun and fellowship! Kids can bring sleeping bags/blankets to lay on to watch the movie!

Swiss Steak Dinner

May 21

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Girard UMC is changing things up, our May "pasta dinner" will actually be a Swiss steak dinner. Menu to include Swiss steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, cole slaw, veg, bread/butter, dessert, and beverage. Cost is \$15, dine in or carry out.

Surprise Party

May 26

Shhhhh! It's a secret! Don't tell anyone....but there is a SURPRISE PARTY to honor Howard Miller's 90th birthday. Party will follow the service. BUT DON'T TELL HOWARD because IT'S A SECRET!

West County UM Parish May Events

May 1st – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

Pfeiffer Burleigh Reading Program – 2:15-3:45PM – PB

May 2nd – National Day of Prayer – Concert of Prayer- 6:30PM – Girard UMC

May 5th – Communion all churches

Trustees – noon- Girard UMC

May 7th – Council – 5:30PM – Lake City UMC

May 8th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

Pfeiffer Burleigh Reading Program – 2:15-3:45PM – PB

May 9th – Ascension Day

May 12th – Mother’s Day

May 13th – Messy Church – 5PM – Girard UMC

May 14th – Pauline’s Closet – 3-5PM – Lake City UMC

Council/Trustees -6:30PM – Weis Library UMC

May 15th – No Devotions

PB Reading Program – 2:15-3:45PM – PB

NEWS LETTER DEADLINE

May 16th – Spaghetti Dinner – 4-6:30PM – Weis Library UMC

May 17-May 28th – Pastors’ vacation

May 18th – Parish Movie Night – 6PM – Weis Library UMC

Ladies meeting-11:30 a.m. -Lake City, work on Pauline’s Closet

May 19th – District Conference – 3PM – Edinboro UMC, 70 Something celebration

Girard UMC

May 21st – Swiss Steak Dinner – 4:30-6:30PM – Girard UMC

May 27th – No Community Café – Memorial Day

May 28th – Pauline’s Closet – 6-8PM – Lake City UMC

Council – 6:30PM – Girard UMC

Newsletter folding at Girard UMC

Scheduled June Events

June 1st – Family Fun Night – 5:30PM – Weis Library UMC

Jun 2nd – Communion all churches

Trustees – Noon – Girard UMC

Jun 4th – Council – 5:30PM – Lake City UMC

Jun 5th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

Empowerment Group zoom – 6:30pm – Zoom

WPA Conference invited to Seawolves Game (Bishop Moore-Koikoi
throwing out first pitch – pre-registration necessary) – 5PM

Jun 6-8th – Annual Conference

Jun 7th – Art Walk – 5-9PM – throughout Girard (Girard UMC)

Jun 10th – Messy Church – 5PM – Girard UMC

Jun 11th – Pauline’s Closet – 3-5PM – Lake City UMC

Council/Trustees – 6:30PM – Weis Library UMC

Jun 12th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

Jun 15th – District Superintendent Retirement Party – 1-4PM – Bethel UMC (Titusville)

Strawberry Festival – 6:30-9PM – Girard UMC (Parish Event)

Jun 16th – Father’s Day
Jun 19th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live
Jun 20th Spaghetti Dinner – 4-6:30PM – Weis Library UMC
Jun 24th – Community Café – 11:30-1PM – Girard UMC
Jun 25th – Council – 6:30PM – Girard UMC
Jun 26th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live

Urgent Call for UMCOR Cleaning Kits

In light of the widespread flooding and extreme weather in Western Pennsylvania and beyond, UMCOR cleaning kits are desperately needed to restock the Mission Barn. The current stock of buckets is very low. Each church will have copies of cleaning kit lists available.

Digging Deeper Bible Study

Looking to dig deeper into God’s Word this summer? Look no further. We will be having a parish-wide Bible study beginning in June. Dates are still to be determined, but we are looking at a late morning study, and hoping to have childcare available. Look for further details in your bulletin. With any ideas or questions, please contact Sala Downey from FUMC at salagwen@gmail.com

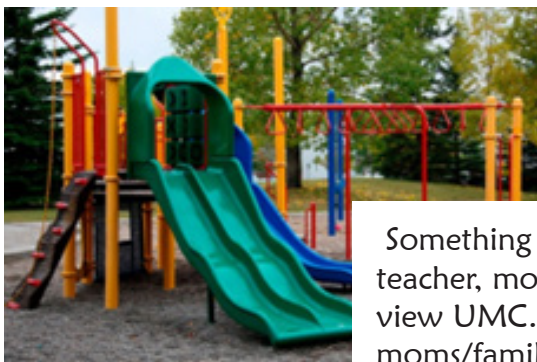


Spring Clothing Give-Away

May 3, 12-5

My 4, 9-1

Franklin Center UMC is hosting a spring clothing give-away. All clothing is gently used and free.



Something New – Hi, I’m Amanda Lasky, public school teacher, mom of 2 young daughters, and I attend Fair-view UMC. I’m looking to connect with other kids/moms/families and share the love of Jesus. I’m coordinating a West County UM Parish Summer Playgroup. We would travel around to the many playgrounds in our area throughout the summer. Interested parents/guardians/grandparents can call/text me @ 814.323.1734 or email me at mrslasky99@gmail.com. I would then send everyone info of when and where we will be going.

May 2024

West County United Methodist Parish Monthly Prayer Calendar
 Consider how God is asking you to pray through these concerns!



SUN **MON** **TUE** **WED** **THU** **FRI** **SAT**

				01	02	03	04
							Pray for everyone, by name, who has a May birthday or a May anniversary.
	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Read Psalm 98. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?	Pray for Pastor Ali and Pastor Wade.	Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Fairview UMC!	Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Girard UMC!	Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Lake City UMC!	Pray for the Church Staff and Volunteers at Weis Library UMC!	Pray for yourself!	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Read Psalm 1. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?	Pray for the churches of our Parish!	Pray through the prayer list from the church bulletin!	Pray for your neighbors!	Pray for peace! You decide what that means to you!	Tomorrow is Pentecost Sunday! May the Holy Spirit be with you!	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Read Psalm 104. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?	Pray for someone who is angry with you!	Pray for your family!	Pray for someone who needs Jesus!		Get ready for being outside! Don't forget sunscreen!	
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Read Psalm 29. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?		Pray for students to finish the school year well!	Pray for teachers and school staff members!	Pray and give thanks for our District Superintendent, Rev. Dennis Swineford.	Pray and give thanks for our Bishop, Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koi Koi.		

MISSIONS NEWS

Mission News from Weis Library

Missionary and veteran trick rider Chaplain Linda Scholtz has been serving God for decades in the rodeo and trick riding worlds. Today Linda is doing two special areas of work each born out of painful life circumstances.

Linda, who is certified in cowgirl equine therapy, offers help to girls rescued from sex trafficking who visit her ranch each month.

Having survived the trauma of being molested as a child, Linda is uniquely prepared to participate in their restoration. God uses Linda, her 10 trick-riding horses, ministry colleagues, and bible studies to work in the lives of these young ladies.

“We can literally see God’s healing power in their smiles. It just melts you,” says Linda.

Additionally, after losing her husband, Chaplain Paul Scholtz, to cancer in 2017, Linda’s heart was touched by the circumstances of widows. With support from fellow U.S. missionary and chaplain Marlene Craft (who serves widows), Linda began bible-based ministries and annual retreats for widows in nearby churches and in the rodeo world.

from Linda: “I cannot express enough how your faithfulness, your giving hearts, and your love for me continually strengthens and encourages me in the journey. My work for God would truly be impossible without you coming alongside me in what God has called me to do. Serving Jesus till He comes!” Linda Scholtz



On A Mission For Missions!

Girard United Methodist children are on a mission to collect eclipse glasses. All used glasses-in good condition!-will be collected and sent to South America. Later this summer, South America will experience a solar eclipse. The glasses the Girard children collect will enable children in the path of the eclipse to safely view this wonderful event. Please bring you glasses to donate; be sure they have no holes or tears and are intact. Receptacles to collect glasses will be available at each church. Thank you!

On Saturday, March 23, Fairview UMC held their annual community Easter egg hunt. Despite the snow, and chilly weather, we had 89 children and many more parents and friends come out for the party. We were able to share the message of Easter with the children, do an Easter craft, play some games, and of course, have our egg hunt. We ended our time with cookies and juice in the fellowship hall. It is an amazing opportunity each year, to bring the story of Christ's love for us to area children.

Thank you to all who were able to help in various ways such as donating money, candy, or cookies, helping to fill the nearly 4000 eggs, and to all who helped the day of the hunt.

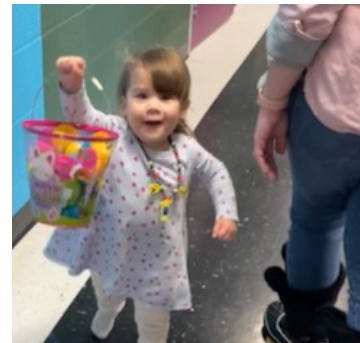


Face painting

Regular Easter Egg Hunt



Pastor Wade and his egg hunting "posse"



Sensory Egg Hunt

The children of Girard UMC started the celebration of Palm Sunday by marching around the sanctuary waving palms.





The Magic Show was a success! Even with the cold and blustery weather, we had a great turnout and everyone left smiling!



Are you, or do you know someone who is graduating this year? It can be from High School, Technical School, College, Graduate School, or something I may have missed! Let us know who is graduating so that we can celebrate their great achievements! Let Mary Beth know or Pastor Ali (alison.berkey@wpaumc.org) or Pastor Wade (wade.berkey@wpaumc.org) .

Family Fun Night - June 1st we will be having another Family Fun Night at Weis Library. There will be lots of fun things to do, food to eat, and crafts to create! We want our families as well as community families to just have an evening of fun with each other. Festivities start at 5:30PM. Come join us and bring a friend!



District Conference – May 19th 3PM @ Edinboro UMC. Everyone is welcome to attend District Conference. Here we hear the state of the District, what's coming up next, meet our new DS, and vote on next year's budget as well as those on District Committees. Hope to see you there!

Pauline's Closet

The Lake City UMC is experiencing great success with the endeavor of Pauline's Closet. Pauline's Closet is a free clothing give away offered twice monthly. Area residents may shop at the closet and each time the closet is open, there are customers. Many wonderful stories are being told because of the way this closet is touching lives. One mom shared that because of the free clothes, she had gifts for her children for Christmas. One local man was displaced from his home with few belongings. Pauline's Closet was able to provide the clothing he needed. Also given away were winter coats to help those in need stay warm this winter.



In keeping with the clothing idea, Lake City UMC also donates pants and underwear to Elk Valley Elementary School. The items are used for children in need during the school day. The members of the Lake City congregation are pleased to be able to ease the embarrassment for the children.

Welcome Baskets

The congregation of the Lake City UMC has been gifting welcome baskets to those newly moving to the area. In the last year and a half since the ministry began, over 100 baskets have been distributed.

Girard UMC
48 Main Street East
Girard, PA 16417



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National Day of Prayer Concert of Prayer



Thursday, May 2nd - 6:30pm

Girard United Methodist Church

48 Main Street, East – Route 20 – Girard, PA

Bethel Assembly of God – Girard Alliance – Girard Presbyterian

Girard Methodist – Grace Episcopal – Lake City Methodist

St. John's Lutheran – St. John the Evangelist Catholic

Free-Will Offering Benefits:

Love INC of West County

Ministerium Fund

