



Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church
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Check us out on Facebook!

Return Service Requested

Join Us In Worship!
Sundays 8:30 & 11:00 AM

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST TO OUR MEMBERS, OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD OVER WITH CARE, COMPASSION AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO ALL WE

**WE ARE ON A MISSION TO FIGHT HUNGER AND POVERTY
YOU CAN HELP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH!**

Our youth will hold soup pots at church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting.



Last year more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$9.5 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities.

The money that is collected during the collection stays right here in our community benefiting the Washington City Mission.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this local mission and donating into the soup pots on February 5th.

www.souperbowl.org

THE SPIRE

2012—Issue # 1

A Publication of Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church

Inside this Issue

“Just Walk Across the Room” Bible Study	3
Elder/Deacon Visioning Meeting February 25th	4
Calendar and Upcoming Events	6-7
Free Wheelchair Mission	8
UP with Kids News and Updates	9
A Prayer: Revival	10
Canonsburg/Houston Ministerium Thanks YOU!	11

Season of Prayer and Discernment begins February 1st

Session has called our church into a “Season of Prayer and Discernment” from now through Pentecost Sunday (May 27). We enter this season seeking out His call for our church family. We encourage each family in the church to commit themselves to prayer and scripture to best be open to God’s call and leading.

Some ways you can participate during this season of prayer:

1. During your prayer time, we ask that you pray for the church. Ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit on us that we might be a humble and bold witness for Jesus Christ. Ask God to guide and direct our ministry and mission. Ask God to speak to our church family and leaders to understand His will for us.
2. Participate in the daily scripture readings from February 1st through October 17th (see calendar on page 2). You may already have devotions or a bible reading plan. We ask that you add this to your current plan. We believe there is strength and unity to be found in a church that prays and encounters God’s Word together.

As you prepare for the daily reading, ask God to quiet you to best hear His voice. Ask Him to give you understanding of the reading for your own life as well as for the church. Think about the passage throughout the day. Believe that God is genuinely speaking directly to you through scripture. It’s the living Word, not just a historical document.

Continued on page 2...



Lenten/Easter Schedule

See Page 6 for Full Details

"Season of Prayer and Discernment" continued....

We encourage you to get a study Bible to help give you some background on the readings. We will have some study bibles available if you or someone you know is in need of one but can't afford one. Don't let money stop you from participating. Please contact Rev. Tom or the church office.

3. Join us in worship weekly. The church is at its healthiest when we worship together weekly. Unless there is bad weather, you are out of town or ill, please make a commitment to worship weekly. The sermons for the coming months will focus on The Book of Acts of the Apostles to gain an understanding of God's design for His church.

We know many of you have busy schedules. Amidst the busyness of life, it is vital in each of our own lives to seek and be aware of God's presence. A daily time of prayer and scripture will bless you. We're excited to see how God will lead our church!

The reading plan is also available on our website (www.canonsburgup.org). There you will find a link to each of our daily readings as well as a daily reflection.

February 2012						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
Matthew 1 - 4						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Matthew 5 - 11						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Matthew 12 - 18						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Matthew 19 - 25						
26	27	28	29			
Matthew 26 - Mark 1						

March 2012						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				Mark 2 - 4		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mark 5 - 11						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mark 12 - Luke 2						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Luke 3 - 9						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Luke 10 - 16						

The Canonsburg/Houston Ministerial Association Says "Thanks"

The end of every calendar year is a very busy time for just about everyone. We celebrate and move quickly from Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Years with hardly a chance to catch our breath. And yet with all the chaos of the season, many of you find time to do a kind act for another person. From helping with Toy Chest registration in November, to participating in the ecumenical services, to assisting with food distribution at the Food Bank, to baking pies and cookies for the Thanksgiving Dinner, to volunteering on Thanksgiving Day to set up, serve, and clean up during our Thanksgiving Day dinner, to volunteering during the first week of December to help package toys for children at the Toy Chest and serving at the live Nativity, you somehow find time to 'make things happen' for the goodwill of your community. You are awesome and you know that these events **could never have happened without you!**

Your love and kindness you have shown (both financially and physically) through these programs is humbling. Thank you for your constant support and devotion that you have shown year after year to these programs. **What a great opportunity you provide for others to witness God's love and see the great work that happens through Him.**

The Apostle Paul said it best in Ephesians 1:15-19

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, ¹⁹ and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

In His Service Together,
The Ministerial Staff

New Position, Familiar Face!



Session has approved hiring our own Larry Stecki as our full-time Building and Maintenance Coordinator. The Trustees and Session believe there is a need for someone on a full-time basis to oversee maintenance and cleaning concerns now that the church is busy 7 days a week. Larry has been working as one of our part-time custodians for several years. We have greatly appreciated his ministry and rapport with the church family. We are pleased to announce Larry accepted this position and will begin his full-time responsibilities on February 1st. Keep Larry in prayer as he begins this new position. Welcome Larry!

A Prayer: Revival

Our lives can often become routine and complacent. Our church life can as well. Often times, we'll say we believe in God, but we secretly don't believe His power and grace are truly available. So our worship and faith are often half-hearted. *"We tried it but it didn't work so I'll try these other things too and see if they give me the fulfillment and joy and love that I have been yearning for..."*

Friends, as we begin this new year and this season of discernment, I believe first and foremost, we need to pray for revival. I know what some of you are thinking...*"The preacher's talking crazy talk..."*. When I say revival, here is what I mean:

Revivals in generations past often occurred in churches and communities in spiritually dead times. I believe you might agree with me that our culture definitely has no spiritual pulse now. They also help communities be prepared for difficult, adverse times in the future, sometimes as countries faced war or great hardship. Revivals bless the person or church but even more so are used by God to compel those individuals, churches and communities to go out into the community with the one true source of hope-Jesus Christ.

Revival is a gift of the Holy Spirit given by God. We don't program, buy, schedule or staff it...it's given to us if God so chooses. Revival means that a congregation is convicted to individually and corporately repent and seek God's blessing and asks for the Holy Spirit to be given. *"And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you...If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9,13).*

Revival means we admit we are dead in our sin and that we confess we have a Savior who can save and lead us. That is truly "Good News"! Revival means – just like at Pentecost – a filling of our community with a profound experience of the Holy Spirit. When God pours out His Holy Spirit amazing things do occur. Lives are changed and transformed. Love is experienced. Forgiveness and reconciliation occur. Hope is restored. Joy fills a person that previously was experiencing darkness. This "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is genuinely a gift. We are invited though to prepare ourselves for such a gift. Here's my prayer for us as a congregation:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you and CUPC. (See Ephesians 5:18; Luke 3:16,17 and Acts 1, 2)
- Repent. Acknowledge daily your sinfulness. Receive and believe in His forgiveness. (See Matthew 4:17; Acts 2 esp. verses 37-47; Colossians 3:1-17; I John 1:8)
- Worship weekly together. Our sermon series is looking at Acts to see how the church filled with the Holy Spirit truly operates in the world.
- Pray for the CUPC family – our ministry, mission, leaders. Pray for God to reveal His will to us.
- Read the Daily Reading Plan (a chapter a day of the New Testament) as part of a church-wide emphasis beginning February 1.
- Join a small group to truly experience community – a place of true friendship and faith. Contact the church office or Colleen Yarbrough if interested...we'll be starting new ones soon!

It continues to be a tremendous privilege to serve with you. I believe this is a healthy, strong church community. I also believe God would desire us to "take time to be holy" as the hymn says. We are called to deepen our walk with the Lord now.

Peace, Tom

Just Walk Across the Room

Believers universally affirm that evangelism is a vital part of what God calls them to do, but very few make a practice of doing it. They feel awkward and ill-equipped, either because they've never been trained, or because their lack of interaction with non-Christians prevents them from using and developing the skills they do have.

What if you knew that by simply crossing the room and saying hello to someone, you could change that person's forever? Just a few steps to make an eternal difference. It has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another human being.

All you need is a heart that's in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out of your "Circle of Comfort" and into another person's life.

"Just Walk Across the Room" brings personal evangelism into the twenty-first century. Bill Hybels shows how you can participate in the model first set by Jesus, who stepped down from heaven 2,000 years ago to bring hope and redemption to broken people living in a fallen world. Now it's your turn. Your journey may not be as dramatic, but it can have a life-changing impact for someone standing a few steps away from you—and for you as well, as you learn the power of extending care, compassion, and inclusiveness under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You may be only a conversation away from having an eternal impact on someone's life—if you will just walk across the room.

*Above is an excerpt from "Just Walk Across the Room"
Written by: Bill Hybels © 2006 Zondervan*

Led by Rev. Tom, join us for a bible study, "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels. The study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM (starting February 8th) and on Sundays at 9:45 AM (starting February 12th).





You may make a donation to the church in memory of a friend or loved one. Gifts may be designated for a current/on-going project. Undesignated gifts will be placed in the Memorial Fund to be appropriately used at the discretion of the Session. Thank-You!

This section is not published online to protect the privacy of our church members.

**Elder and Deacon Visioning Meeting on Saturday,
February 25th 9 AM—Noon**

As we continue through this “Season of Prayer and Discernment” as a congregation, the officers of the church will meet to pray and consider God’s call for us in the upcoming season of ministry. We’ll look at our church’s strengths, weaknesses and consider what priorities God may be placing on us for our church family and community to share the love of Jesus Christ. The congregation will have a similar opportunity to share their thoughts in the coming months as well. Please continue to keep our Elders and Deacons in your prayers as they lead in this time.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 2012
(Immediately following 11 AM service)

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- receive reports of the committees and organizations which meet in the church
- receive the Session-approved 2012 budget
- elect congregation members to the Nominating Committee
- vote on Rev. Hamilton’s terms of call
- seek approval to re-finance our mortgage loan to a lower interest rate (Session approved).

Copies of the 2011 Annual Report can be picked up in the upstairs lobby.

One report per family, please.



UP With Kids

UP to new things in the new year!

Since it’s been awhile since you’ve had an update, we thought you might like to know what is going on with us at UP with Kids. In late September we had our state inspection and did very well. We are now licensed with the state for another year. In early December, we had a visit from the Keystone Stars and we are now a STAR 2 facility. Our teachers just finished doing our first round of child assessments for 2012. We do these 3 times per year. Along with these, we will be offering parent teacher conferences for our enrolled children and parents.

Currently we have 56 children enrolled and have 12 teachers. We are currently using 5 rooms for the childcare with plans to open up 2 more rooms by the end of April. We are celebrating the “Week of the Young Child” in late April of this year. We always look forward to that week because we plan many special events as well as have Pastor Tom come and read to us.

We are also excited to celebrate “Teacher Appreciation Week” in early May. Our playground is coming along nicely and we look forward to using it when the weather gets nice. Many thanks to those of you who donated time and/or money to help us with the equipment for the playground. You may even see us out there playing the next time it snows. As always, we’d like to thank our Heavenly Father for His many wonderful blessings for our ministry. We’d also like to thank all of you who prayed and continue to pray for our success. It’s hard to believe we’re in our 3rd year.

Family Night In

Saturday, February 4th



A fun night for the whole family!
Snacks, desserts, games and a movie!

More details to come soon. Watch the bulletin and church website for more info!

**Kids 4 Camp
Baked Potato Bar**

*****Sunday, March 18th*****



Help the Kids 4 Camp group as they raise funds for the 2012 Summer Camp year.

Baked potatoes will be on sale with a large variety of toppings to choose from! A very tasty way to support kids wishing to go to summer camp. Stay tuned for more info!

10 Years of  Transformation
Free Wheelchair Mission

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) is a faith-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing wheelchairs free of charge to people with disabilities, living in poverty in developing nations. FWM has sent wheelchairs to hundreds of thousands of people around the world, delivering not only the gift of mobility, but those of dignity, independence, and hope.

It has been estimated that 100 million people living in the developing world suffer with walking disabilities yet have no access to wheelchairs due to poverty and economic isolation. Denied this most basic means of mobility, some crawl on the ground, subjecting themselves to dangerous, unsanitary conditions in order to maintain their independence. Others spend most of their lives in isolation, confined to a single room, and dependent upon family members' help to meet their most basic needs.

Free Wheelchair Mission partners with churches, small groups, and summer programs with the needs of the impoverished disabled in developing countries. This international ministry connects your congregation with God's family around the world, creating opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through the life-changing gift of a wheelchair.

As of September 2011, FWM has distributed over 590,000 wheelchairs to 81 countries. Each wheelchair costs approximately \$63.94 to make (see unique design below) and are distributed completely free of charge.

Linda Paterni, Pittsburgh Regional Representative of Free Wheelchair Mission, shares FWM's journey and mission during a special Moment for Mission and Sunday School Hour on Sunday, February 12th.

You can learn more about Free Wheelchair Mission by visiting their website at:
www.freewheelchairmission.org



Church Member News

This section is not published online to protect the privacy of our church members.

Active Christian Seniors cordially invite you to a:

Valentine Luncheon

Monday, February 13th
In Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Entertainment:

Rick Purcell and Shari Richards sing a variety of favorite songs.

12:00 Noon Lunch:

Creamed Chicken over Biscuits

Cost: \$6:00

2 Door prizes—free lunch coupons for future use.

Please call the Church office by February 9th for reservations at 724-745-0800.

Lenten/Easter Schedule



Ash Wednesday Communion Service:
February 22nd @ 7:30 PM

Lenten Potluck Dinner: March 11th @ 5:00 PM
(More Info to Come)

Maundy Thursday Communion Service:
April 5th @ 7:30 PM

Palm Sunday Worship: April 1st
Services @ 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday Worship: April 8th
Services @ 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

January 29-February 4	Family Promise Guests Stay at CUPC	
February 4	Family Night In— Games, Food and a Movie	
February 5	**Congregation Meeting—After 11AM Worship**	
February 5	“Souper” Bowl Sunday—After Both Services	
February 6	Active Christian Seniors Committee Meeting	11:00 AM
February 6	Deacons	6:00 PM
February 6	Trustees	6:30 PM
February 12	FINKS Theme Night	5:00-7:30 PM
February 13	Active Christian Seniors Valentine Luncheon	11:00 AM
February 13	Prayer Team	7:00 PM
February 18	Food Pantry Distribution	9:00 AM-Noon
February 18	Dominoes	6:00 PM
February 19	Workcamper Meeting	6:30-8:30 PM
February 20	Committee Meetings (As Scheduled)	
February 22	Ash Wednesday Communion Service	7:30 PM
February 25	Elder/Deacon Visioning Meeting	9:00 AM-Noon
February 26	FINKS Theme Night	5:00-7:30 PM
February 27	Session	6:30 PM
March 4	FINKS Theme Night	5:00-7:30 PM
March 4, 11, 18, 25	New Members Class	9:45 AM
March 5	Trustees	6:30 PM
March 5	Deacons	7:00 PM
March 11	Lenten Potluck Dinner	5:00 PM
March 12	Active Christian Seniors Luncheon	11:00 AM
March 12	Prayer Team	7:00 PM

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

Cherub Choir	Sunday	9:00 AM
Middle School Choir	Sunday	9:00 AM
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 AM
Children’s Church	Sunday	During 11:00 AM Service
Monday Crew	Monday	9:00 AM
Arts & Crafts	1st Tuesday & 3rd Thursday	9:30 AM
Small Group-Bowser	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Men’s Breakfast Group	Wednesday	6:30 AM
Pastor’s Bible Study	Wednesday	1:30 PM
Griefshare	Wednesday	6:30-8:30 PM
Bell Choir	Wednesday	6:30 PM
Chancel Choir	Wednesday	7:30 PM
Small Group-Lucas	Thursday	7:00 PM
Small Group-Kearns	Friday	7:30 PM

New Sunday School Opportunity Begins February 12th

Buddhists, Muslims and Christians all say they have the truth. Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons and yes, even Presbyterians all say they are Christians.
“So what’s the difference?”

Come find out as we start a study February 12 during the Sunday School Hour in Room 103.

Contact the church office with questions:
724-745-0800.



Interested in becoming a member of Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church?

Enrollment for New Member’s class is now open. Classes will be held March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th during the 9:45 AM Sunday School hour. Individuals are received into membership and recognized on Sunday, March 25th.



If you are interested in signing up, please contact the church office at 724-745-0800 or by e-mail at cupc@verizon.net.



SMALL GROUPS RETURN IN FEBRUARY

Small groups are beginning again in February! At the present time we are looking for people who are interested in leading or hosting a small group. Please contact the church office at 724-745-0800.

