

# April Newsletter

*Digital Edition*

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## **Worship**

Saturday at 5:00 PM & Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM  
*Live streamed at 9:00 on [pendletonchurch.org](https://pendletonchurch.org)*  
*Jr. Church (3 years - 6th grade) offered at 9:00 AM*



**Website**  
[pendletonchurch.org](https://pendletonchurch.org)



**Phone**  
716-625-8306



**Facebook**  
[pendletoncenterumc](https://www.facebook.com/pendletoncenterumc)



**Email**

**Pastoral Emergencies**  
*After office hours*  
716-291-7529



**Instagram**  
[@pendletoncenterumc](https://www.instagram.com/pendletoncenterumc)



## April Newsletter

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***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?***

***Isaiah 43:19***

We always look forward to spring in this part of the world. After experiencing a hard Western New York winter, we're all so happy to see the arrival of warmer temperatures, green grass, and more daylight. Spring brings a unique sense of newness and freshness, unlike other seasons.

This time of year also fills us with joy because it is the Easter season. In the church, Easter begins with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and goes until Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit comes into the world in a new way. Both of these concepts also show us ideas of new life. The season of Lent prepares us for the death and resurrection of Jesus through a time of reflection and discipline. We appreciate the celebration of life renewed at Easter more because of the journey, similar to the feelings we experience at the first signs of spring after winter.

We've all heard the old saying April showers bring May flowers.

Although most of us would prefer to skip the showers, we know they are necessary for the flowers to bloom. Similarly, the sacrifices we endure to help us develop a deeper appreciation of Jesus' holiness and discipline develop our Christlike character. Now that Lent is over, it's important to remember that it was always a means to a greater end. We shouldn't lose sight of the reason for our sacrifices. God was doing a new thing in us, and we should cherish God and God's work in our lives.

The verse from Isaiah is part of a passage where God is helping the nation of Israel understand that God is about to do something that the world hasn't seen. God will move in their lives in ways they can't imagine yet. It parallels the miraculous way God works in Christ. Most of us would never perceive that God would save us by breaking the power of sin and death through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

As we recognize the love of Christ and seek to love Him in return, our hope becomes to love others like He does. Changing to be more like Jesus is always difficult. Although the change may have been tough at the start, hopefully, it's easier now. You've come through the rain. Even if the flowers aren't in full bloom, you can probably see spouts.

Even if it wasn't an intentional time of growth like Lent, our spiritual winters lead to spring in our souls just like the natural seasons do. Death becomes resurrection. If you're in a difficult season, remember that seasons change. God continues to do new things. They will spring forth in your life even if you can't perceive them yet. Spring is a time when we see so much new life. Having come through Lent into this Easter season, celebrate the new thing that God is doing in you.

Remember that He is Risen! He is risen indeed! It changes everything!

*Pastor Scott*

Dear church family,

Over the last 18 years, I've come to cherish the Genesis Ministries programs here at PCUMC. Both of my children began their educational journeys here, and I've come to know many families through the program. After much prayer and consideration, the time has come for me to retire at the conclusion of the school year. My passion for the church and the Genesis Programs runs deeply, and they will forever have a place in my heart.

The SPRC has begun looking for a new Genesis Ministries Director. If you feel a calling to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please contact the office for more information.

Yours in Christ, *Heather Miner*



**Beginner Pickleball***Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM, Gym*

Join in for recreational pickleball! Learn the basic rules, such as how to serve and keep score, in a fun, relaxed environment. For more information, contact [Pam Tavenier](#).

**United Women in Faith***Thursday, April 4, 12:30 PM*

This month's hostesses will be Sherry Waid and Dora Kubiak. We will focus on our Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 27, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Money raised from this sale will go toward missions.



Also, we plan on making cards to be used for birthdays, get well, etc., that we, as a group, send out monthly.

So bring a sandwich and join the fun! May God lead you to join this group of faithful women.

*Connie Clifford***GriefShare***Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Connection Room 2*

GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability - and gain solid support each step of the way.

Please join us on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Feel free to contact [Pastor Jennifer](#) at or [Sue Hiltz](#) at or visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org), if you have questions or would like more information.

**Women's Book Club***Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 PM, at the Country Cottage at Beach Ridge & Townline Rd*

Join us for dinner and a discussion about this month's book, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby VanPelt. If you want to join the book club or have any questions, let [Yvonne Bova](#) know. All women are welcome!

*United Women in Faith*  
**Rummage & Bake Sale**  
 Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**You never know what treasure you might find, be sure to stop by!**  
**Baked goods and a lite luncheon menu will also be available.**  
**Proceeds from the sale help support local and worldwide mission projects.**

**\$3 bag sale starts at 1:00 PM****Have items you would like to donate to the Rummage Sale?**

You can drop off items in the Fellowship Hall coat room on Sunday, April 21, during worship or between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday, April 22 - Friday, April 26.

*We will not accept drop-offs on Saturday, the day of the sale.*

Please remember to bring clean, gently used items only.

**Please do not bring...** clothing, shoes, bed frames, TVs, broken electronics, vehicle tires, large house rugs, or soiled items. Unfortunately, we cannot help unload some of these items and they do not sell.

**Our Rummage Sales are always a great success because of those who help out.** Help is needed... setting up tables and sorting donations, selling during the sale, and after the sale to get the church looking great for worship!

If you have any questions on what you can drop off or how to volunteer, please call the church office (716-625-8306) or contact [Connie Clifford](#).

## GENESIS MINISTRIES

**Mom's Morning Out**

This program is designed to enhance social and emotional growth. Little ones have fun playing with others, growing social skills, and strengthening their large motor skills in our spacious gym. Trained and nurturing adults supervise and care for your child while you get some time to yourself or run errands!

Registration will open in May for fall 2024. Please call our office (716-625-8306) or visit [pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org) for registration materials or more information.

**Preschool**

Our children are learning about kindness, God's love for us, and the season of spring. We hope to see flowers blooming in the near future!

We still have some openings in our fall 2024-25 classes in our 4-year-old 5-day class, our 4-year-old MWF class, and our 3-year-old afternoon class. We have a great staff and curriculum that includes kindergarten readiness skills, basic Christian concepts, music, arts and crafts, field trips, and much more.

For more detailed information, go to our website or contact our office at 625-8306.



## Thursday Night Dinner Update!

*Thursdays, 5:00-6:00 PM, First UMC*

It is so hard to believe that we're speeding through 2024 so fast! At the time that I am writing this article, we're looking forward to carving hams for our beautiful Easter dinner. I would like to thank everyone who supported this ministry with your donations of ham, scalloped potatoes, and other items to complete our holiday meal. *We have, on average, been serving 275-300 dinners on an average week, and our numbers are not in yet for how many guests came for our Easter celebration, but I'm sure we'll be seeing large numbers!*



We also want to thank everyone for supporting this wonderful mission in any and every way possible - helping shop for needed items and coming in to prepare, serve, and clean up afterward - is just a true blessing to me! Those who support us with financial donations are also greatly appreciated! I shop around and buy items in bulk, and when something might be on sale, it has stretched every dollar to provide all these people with good, home-cooked meals every week. It is so rewarding when you're able to meet someone's needs, provide a prayer, make a connection, give out some inspirational messages, share a smile, and create a positive impact in the name of Jesus!

If you would like to help, **we will be looking for some of our regular items, such as boneless chicken breast or thighs, brownie mix, yellow and chocolate cake mix, cooking spray, elbow macaroni, mayonnaise, butter, and eggs.** And, of course, any financial assistance you can provide, we thank you in advance! Lastly, if you are interested in **helping us any Thursday**, just let me know, and I'll be glad to have you come out!

Contact [DJ Mahar](#) for more details!



## Inside-Out Ministry

Our Inside-Out project is one of the special ministry endeavors we have had here at PCUMC. For those who may not be familiar with it, we collect used furniture in good condition and try to distribute it to individuals or families in need. We use the garage in the back parking lot to store some items until we find those who could use them. It has been a great resource for folks who might be getting into a place, but who don't have some of those basic things such as a kitchen table set, a dresser, or even a changing table. People are very grateful for this resource!

If this sounds like something that you would be interested in working with, we are currently looking for someone to lead this ministry and for others who might be interested in joining a small team to assist with moving items. If anyone has a truck and/or trailer, we would need for deliveries, that would also be great!

Anyone interested in helping or finding out more information, please contact [DJ Mahar](#).

## Feeding Hope

*Wednesday, April 3*

Serving a warm meal to those in need is always a blessing. One man said, "I am so hungry. I'm going to eat this right now." Feeding Hope.

This month, we are serving tuna casserole. **We are looking for donations of bags of noodles, cans of cream of chicken soup, canned or frozen peas and canned or frozen carrots, boxed brownie mix, and eggs.** If you'd like to help prepare the meal, come to the church kitchen after 3:00 PM. If you'd like to hand out the meals downtown Buffalo, plan on leaving the church at 6:30. If you or someone you know needs a meal, please let me know.

*[Sandy Houck](#)*



## Intergenerational Angel Wings

*Saturday, April 13, 12:00-3:00 PM, Fellowship Hall*

**Have you ever wondered what living with different abilities might be like? Come find out your skill with different ability games!** Our mission focus will be on living with different abilities and Mason's Mission - an organization dedicated to building an all-inclusive, ADA approved special needs playground in WNY - will have a speaker here with us.

Please join us! We ask for a suggested donation of \$6 per family or \$3 per person. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to [Ms. Becky](#).



**PCUMC Operating Budget Update**February 2024 Projected YTD Income: \$97,030February 2024 Actual YTD Income: \$93,994February 2024 Budgeted YTD Expenses: \$115,949February 2024 Actual YTD Expenses: \$121,14**Financial Highlights**

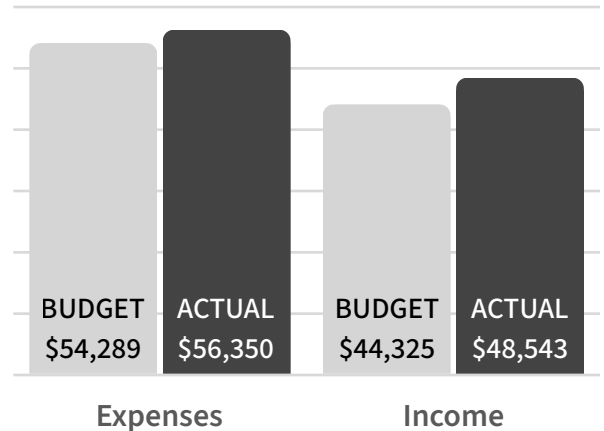
- February income was \$48,543 (\$4,128 higher than the February budgeted income of \$44,325)
- February actual YTD income is \$7,111 higher than the comparable income for February 2023
- February expenses were \$56,350 (\$2,061 higher than the budgeted expenses of \$54,289)
- February actual expenses were \$7,808 more than the actual income.
- Over the past few months, Pastor Jennifer and volunteers have worked in the cold tirelessly at the concession stands for some of the Buffalo Bills games. Their hard work and dedication to raising funds for our Church has generated an additional \$9,527 income!!! Way to go!! (This amount was not considered in the 2024 budget; therefore is in addition to the February income listed above of \$48,543)

Our expenses are much higher in the first few months of each year, so this is nothing new. Like many of you, we are feeling the strain of inflation. However, we do need to generate consistent income every month to ensure it allows us to support and fund all of our ministries. We will continue to keep a close watch on our spending and income.

Our faith in God reminds us that He is with us and will continue to guide us. As Christians, we consider it part of our discipleship to give an offering to God through the church. We know that we can't be the strong church we have been without your help, and we depend upon your generosity!

Your continued support is sincerely appreciated during these challenging times as we proceed with the ministry ahead of us, continuing to reach out to people everywhere in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Thank you** for all the support you give to God's work at Pendleton Center Church. We need to work hard to provide all the support our dynamic ministries need, and your continued help will make our ministry a powerful witness to Christ.

**FEBRUARY BUDGET VS ACTUAL****RaiseRight Gift Cards**

**Raise funds for the church by buying gift cards** to pay for your everyday shopping and spending year-round. The church earns 2%-15% of each card you purchase. These gift cards are issued by national and local retailers where you already shop. Purchase everyday essentials like groceries, clothing, gas, and special items such as toys and gifts.

Simply fill out the order form included with this newsletter and drop it off at the church office or in a "Drop Box" with payment in cash or check made payable to PCUMC. The order form enclosed with this newsletter includes the list of participating retailers.

**RaiseRight Order Details:**

- Our May order will be placed on Tuesday, April 30.**
- Gift card orders are **usually available within one week**, depending on the shipping schedule.
- Order forms** are available in this newsletter and at [pendletonchurch.org/forms](http://pendletonchurch.org/forms).
- Merchant additions?** If you don't see what you're looking for, you can check for additional merchants and [raiseright.com/brands](http://raiseright.com/brands) or let us know and we will check to see if they participate in the program.

Please contact **Tracy Masse-Wells** at the church office with any questions you may have about this program. Thank you for supporting Pendleton Center Church!

**Lenten Fish Fry Update:**

While the Lenten 2024 fish fry season ended on March 29, only four dinners occurred before the April newsletter deadline. We had an excellent start to the season, serving an average of 579 meals/week for weeks 1-4! We will have more information, including our profit projection, in the May newsletter.

Our fish fry dinners not only serve as a fundraiser; they also show our community the loving Spirit of God is alive in our church. None of this would be possible without all the support from our fantastic volunteers. *Many, many thanks to all who helped out or bought some dinners!*





The Children and Youth Ministries are having a wonderful time together in programs as we learn about God, grow in our faith, and spend time in fellowship with one another.

Many wonderful things are planned for our children and youth as we get ready for springtime, and we hope you join us on this exciting journey!

God bless,  
Adrienne Demmin

## Youth Group

*Sundays, April 14 & 28 from 6:00-8:30 PM.*

Youth Group is a great place for teenagers in 7th-12th grade to join together in fellowship, worship, small groups, discussions, lessons, games, activities, and a whole lot of fun!

## Jr. Church

We are having so much fun together each week down in Jr. Church, learning about God, growing in our faith, building friendships, and spending time together as a group!

We started a new series for Easter called: "Easter Party: Celebrating that Jesus is Alive." This Easter series walked the children through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, focusing on not only the events of Holy Week, but on the real reason we celebrate with such Joy.

Jr. Church (9 AM service only) is a fun, interactive, and safe place where kids (3 years - 6th grade) can worship God and engage in their very own relationship with Him. Children can be dropped off in the Ark before worship and will return to service after communion.



## Hot Chocolate with God & S'mores

*Friday, 4/5, 6:00-9:00 PM - 4-7th grade*

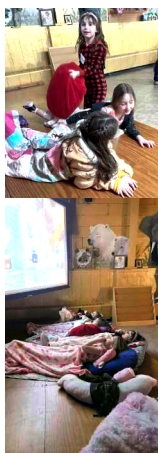
*Friday, 4/12, 6:00-8:30 PM - PS-3rd grade*

*Friday, 4/19, 6:00-9:00 PM - 4-7th grade*

Hot Chocolate with God and S'mores is the place to be on Friday nights! The doors are open, and you can see the colorful lights glowing through the windows. Children and youth work together, learn about God, worship Him, build relationships, and have fun.

We have been so blessed to share God's word and make an impact not only on our church congregation but throughout the community as well.

This program is an opportunity for all children to gather with friends and build relationships with other Christian kids as they grow in their relationship with God in their very own way.



## YOUTH RETREAT

## THE CALLING FOR OUR LIVES



We had a wonderful time at Camp Findley for our annual Youth Retreat this year! This trip allowed us to spend a lot of time in fellowship with one another - playing games, competing in some challenges, going snow tubing, and growing deeper in our relationships with God through our sessions and small group time.

Our theme for the weekend was "The Calling for Our Lives." Throughout our five sessions, we talked about the different steps we can take to follow the call Jesus has for us: *Believe Who He Is, Love Who He Loves, Share What He Did, Go Where He Leads, and Do What He Says.*

In each session, we heard personal stories from our session leaders, how they have answered the call on their lives, looked at Scriptures and Bible stories, and discussed how we can answer the call for our lives. After our sessions, we had amazing conversations in our cabin talks. The youth and adults were able to come together and listen to songs, journal, and have deep meaningful conversations about all that was talked about in the sessions.

We also spent some personal and quiet time with God in prayer as we rotated through different prayer stations Saturday night. It was truly inspirational and a blessing to see so many take time and humble themselves before God and just be still.

"The Calling for Our Lives" 2024 Youth Retreat was an amazing time with tons of laughs, lots of smiles, many memories made, and people who grew closer to God and each other during their time away.

**On the next few pages you can read the Thankful Moments from some of those who attended this year's retreat. Please take the time to read through them to see the way God is moving through this ministry!**

This year's Youth Retreat was absolutely amazing. But if you're unsure of what a "youth retreat" is, let me tell you. So, every year, our church's youth goes on a trip to Camp Findley for a weekend, usually around January. It is a time where we all grow closer to God together through many things, such as prayer stations, communion, devotions, "God Moments," and games.

But now on to my experience. To start, I never was bored on the Youth Retreat as we were always busy. I also got to spend time with the people I usually don't talk to as much at church, which was nice. But most importantly, I grew closer to God and that wasn't just temporary. After the Youth Retreat, I have been reading my bible and praying a lot more than I usually do.

Finally, some of my God Moments. A "God Moment" is any time you feel like God is with you. The first one is when I feel like God led me and a couple friends to a storage room that nobody knew about, filled with so much stuff that made the weekend a lot more entertaining. The second one was when a friend was still asleep when we were supposed to be just about ready for breakfast and downstairs. But everyone was just going to let him sleep through it. Including me, but when I walked past his door, I felt like God had me turn around and wake him up so he wouldn't miss anything. The final one I will share is during my prayer stations. I was getting answers to my prayers right away, and it just felt like He was right in front of me and we were just having a conversation.

If you asked me to pick my favorite part of the youth retreat I would not be able to pick one thing. But the most memorable parts would be playing our own version of baseball downstairs, snow tubing, the prayer stations, and everyone's devotions. That was my experience at the 2024 Youth Retreat, and I am looking forward to next year's Youth Retreat.

Julian



After going on my second youth retreat with this group of people, I realized something. Without one person being there, everything changes. Everyone who told a story, helped each other have fun, or even planned the trip had a special part that only they could play. Everyone made a difference. I would really encourage anyone to join the group and be part of a youth retreat. Otherwise, we may never know what other parts were missing and what parts you could miss playing.

Carter

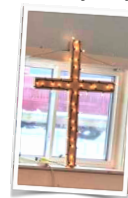


As I am sure that you know, every year we have a youth retreat at Camp Findley for the youth and young adults of the church. But what you might not know is what we are doing on this trip. So let me explain so that you can see how incredible this opportunity is for everyone attending.

We, of course, have sessions where we learn about applying God's love and forgiveness in our lives. This year, they were led by Pastor Mike, Pastor Scott, Joe Bull, Cory Margarucci, and myself (Madison Bull). These were all incredible, and I definitely learned a lot. After each session, we go into cabin talks. These are broken up by gender where we go into deeper talks about what we just learned and how those lessons play into our lives. This is the moment that I really saw God on this trip. At one point my group and I all sang the song "Build My Life," and I had chills because God was so evident in that room at that moment. It was amazing.

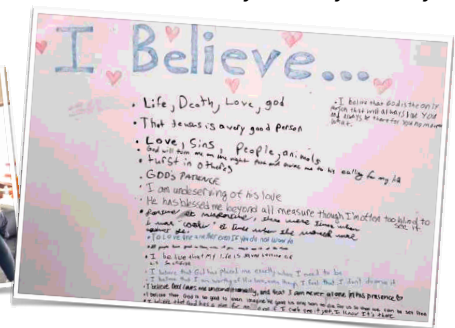
On top of all of the fun we have, like snow tubing, game shows, and all around just hanging out with our friends, God being right in front of our faces is the best part of the trip in my experience. I love God, and I want Him with me every day.

Madison



I really enjoyed the whole weekend. I felt very connected not just with God but with the people around me. The cabin talks were really amazing. We had so much fun, but we were all really connected with God as well. I thought it was really cool when we all sang our worship song together. And after that, we had really amazing prayer stations. I had spent 2+ hours in the prayer stations without even knowing cause I was so focused on spending time with God. It's always a really fun way to spend the weekend. :)

Rachel



This youth retreat was a blast. My God moment would have to be during the prayer stations and having that time with God at each station doing different activities. Also, my favorite part of the youth retreat were the cabin talks, getting together as a group and talking after each session. Overall this youth retreat strengthens my relationship with God and my church family.

Madison





I am so thankful for this year's annual youth retreat that I shared with so many wonderful people. Jesus was present in the youth retreat every step of the way. As a young adult, I know that he was there from the very beginning of the planning stage all the way to the end of cleanup. I was given the opportunity to teach about how to go where God Leads. I feel so blessed to have been able to share the love of God with younger minds and speak the words he put on my heart about his leadership. I was able to grow very close to God with all the spiritual conversations that we had this year between sessions, cabin talks, and especially prayer stations. The prayer stations made me feel God on a new level. Before I even could begin looking for an answer to my prayers, he had already put the answer in front of me that night.

The youth retreat is an amazing way to help recenter God into your life, and I know that it has made a difference for many of your people in our community. I am very thankful for all the blessings that God poured out at this year's youth retreat.

*Joe*



Youth retreats used to seem like an additional 2 days of school to me, except it was just English and Christianity. There were no engaging tales of legends of heroes or tragic tales of failure, it was always from a story I forgot, but I knew it. Like a parable or a moment within the Bible.

However, this year's youth retreat was different. Not different with the programs, oh no, but different, as it seems that our heavenly Lord enrolled me in a supplemental faith class. I knew this, as during the prayer station, where there were bottles of fruit juice, and you drank them, as if you were having coffee with God. As I was having a drink (apple juice) with God, out of patience, I took longer than most until I felt that God was through with speaking to me. I knew the Lord had spoken to me in the past, but my brain wasn't ready and always gave in to its own desire. The Lord wanted to reach out to me, no doubt. So I believe that he tried a new way of speaking to me through this prayer station of drinks of apple juice and reflections. As I was drinking apple juice, I reflected on all the wrongs of my life. I wanted to be better than the best, but I pieced together that the Lord told me, "You want to be better than my angels, but you are still sinful. I need you to repent."

This year, God was with me, and he had me in his arms.

*Aedon*

During the youth retreat, I was always trying to kind of look for a God moment, and I was looking really hard, but I feel like it was getting to see my friends and just get closer to God. I don't know if that counts, but I feel like sometimes a God moment isn't always a big thing like my pals had. *Richard*



I have been on 9 youth retreats, and each one is memorable for their own reasons. My first one was in 2015, and it was during my confirmation year. It was special because it was the first time I had spent time with the youth who were older than me, and it was my first real retreat away from my parents. I remembered how special being able to be in cabin talks with the youth who were older than me and getting to know them. Each year has had something special that has made it memorable. This year was especially memorable. Getting to spend the weekend with your best friends and getting to grow your relationships with God together is so unbelievably special.

I had so many God moments throughout the entire weekend. One God moment was that it was a smaller than normal group and I was able to interact with the youth more than I would be able to in a larger group. I have been a leader to most of these youth since they were in kindergarten. If not in kindergarten, a few years later. I have watched these youth grow up and become the leaders that they are today, but this weekend is the first time I have gotten to hang out with them as friends rather than as leader and youth. It was after we had all done prayer stations, which in itself was a whole God moment on its own. Abby, one of the other leaders, and I just spent time with the boys in the common area. We talked and just hung out and I got to see a side of them I have never seen before. It made me realize how proud of them I am for the people they have grown up to be. Every single one of them has grown up to be Godly men. Another God moment I had was when we were tubing on Saturday. I was going up the mountain and I was looking around and saw all of us having fun together. I realized that even though we were all running around and having fun, we were all still. I realized that we all have chaos in our individual lives, and this weekend gave us a chance to leave our chaos and focus on him and each other.

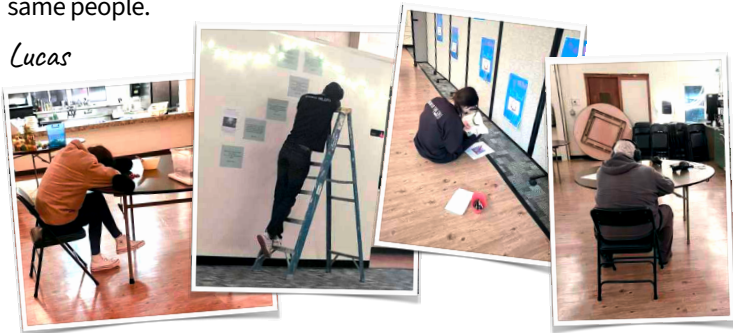
The most important God moment was the prayer stations. We have done prayer stations the last few years, and it is always a special moment. Prayer stations are always a special moment where you can feel God, and it feels like he is sitting right next to you. They really allow you to open up and just focus on what he is trying to tell you. It felt like God was right there speaking to me during the stations and helping me through the tough times that I was talking to him about. I was having a lot of doubts about my future and what he wanted from me. That night and even more now, he is showing me what he wants from me and that I am on the right track. The retreat weekend made me realize how important the relationships he gives you are and how special the retreat is.

*Sara*



I really felt like I connected to him through the prayer stations and got closer to him with my friends. I hope to do the same again with the same people.

Lucas



The youth retreat is something that I look forward to every year. This year's youth retreat was probably my favorite one yet. I really felt God moving through me and all of the other people on the trip. I made new friendships and talked to new people. We played lots of games and had a ton of fun, but more importantly, we got closer to God. We listened to great sermons and had lots of good discussions with smaller groups. On Saturday night, we got the opportunity to do prayer stations and just spend a few hours with God. While I was at one of the stations, I asked God if he was there to just send me a sign to know for sure. A couple minutes go by, and I went to a few more stations and I looked up and saw the door to the outside open and close with nobody around the door. I believe that that was his way of telling me that he was with me and his arms are open to me. I felt him throughout the whole trip, but it was that moment where I realized that I want to live every day for him and be a better Christian. I think that was a pretty cool God moment, and I have grown spiritually and as a person through this trip.

Paige

As I reflect on the decade of church youth retreats that shaped my adolescence, I write this thankful moment with a heart full of gratitude. Being my last retreat, this year marked the end of an era and a pivotal moment in my faith journey.

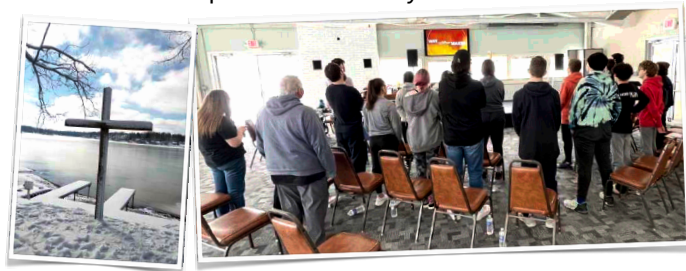
Over these 10 years, I've been blessed with countless memories, friendships that feel more like family, and lessons that have sculpted my heart and spirit. But this year was different. This year, I did something I've never done. I shared a story that I've held close to my chest and kept a secret from others. It was a story of my struggles, doubts, and, ultimately, my growth.

What I am most thankful for this year is the growth journey. It's been a path marked by laughter, tears, victories, and lessons. Each retreat, each conversation, and each prayer has been a step towards becoming the person I am today: a person grounded in faith, driven by love, and committed to living a life with God at the center.

As I carry the memories and lessons of these retreats into adulthood, I am deeply thankful for the safe space that allowed me to question, learn, and grow. I am grateful for the leaders who guided me, the peers who walked beside me, and God who never left my side.

This journey has taught me that growth is not just about reaching a destination but about cherishing each step, struggle, and triumph. And as I step into the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the memories of what has been but the promise of what is yet to come.

Cory



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### April Birthdays

- |                      |                       |                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Loren Earle      | 9 - Nate Morris       | 22 - Emma Terry     |
| Stacy Joseph         | Gretchen Pusck        | Brandon Walter      |
| Joshua Lee           | Heather Topolski      | 23 - Debbie Parise  |
| Brett Lemma          | 10 - Sam Folby        | 24 - Ally Clark     |
| Sam Seegar           | 11 - Evan Dick        | Jessy Weber         |
| 2 - Scott Johnson    | Theresa Korzak        | 25 - Chelsea Aleong |
| Frank Remillard      | 12 - Jacob Kim-Kubiak | Peyton Gregory      |
| 4 - Mark Ash         | 13 - Ryan Varney      | Dave Pasisz         |
| LouAnn Banas         | 14 - Joe Bull         | Kayla Varney        |
| Cheryl Borner        | Spencer Dick          | 26 - April Adamo    |
| Kaylee Grimmer       | Heather Geary         | Brenda Forrest      |
| Pat Hahn             | 15 - Emma Brittain    | Marilyn Varney      |
| Joe Naylor           | Jason Phillips        | 27 - Becky Heideman |
| Bella Pfohl          | 16 - Karen Jaynes     | 28 - Aaron Preisch  |
| 5 - Sherrie Peterson | 19 - Michelle Hocking | 29 - Ollie Burbidge |
| JoAnn Pfohl          | 20 - Leah Clapsadle   | Shanelle DiGesare   |
| 6 - Paul Brown       | Richard Finiki        | Norman Haniszewski  |
| Heather Johnson      | Amy Folby             | Dorothy Thuman      |
| 7 - George Peterson  | Cindy Neese           | Holly Varney        |
| 8 - Sally Henderson  | 21 - Blake Cavers     | 30 - Teaghan Fowler |
| Laura Piazza         | Ava Jones             | Alannah Smith       |
|                      | Lynne Terry           | Eliora Smith        |

### April Anniversaries

- 3 - John & Eileen Chatley - '93
- 4 - Loren & Lorraine Earle - '92
- 5 - Scot & Karen Jaynes - '86
- 8 - Harvey & Gloria Joseph - '81
- Rick & Diane Strusienksi
- 9 - Thomas & Lynn Valentine - '11
- 14 - Dan & Fawn Jones - '84
- John & Dale McLean - '78
- 16 - Samuel & Amy Folby - '88
- 18 - Mark & Teri Hersee - '98
- 21 - John & Sally Santor - '01

### Condolences

We offer prayers for the friends and families who have lost loved ones over the past month:

**Mary Licata** Wife of Tony Licata

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>3p - Feeding Hope</i>	<b>4</b> <i>12:30p - United Women in Faith</i>	<b>5</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (4-7th grade)</i>	<b>6</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores Leaders</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>7p - Trustee Meeting</i>	<b>9</b> <i>7p - Leadership Team Meeting</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (PS-3rd grade)</i>	<b>13</b> <i>12p - Intergenerational Angel Wings</i>
<b>14</b> <i>6p - Youth Group</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>May Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>7p - Finance Team Meeting</i>	<b>17</b> <i>6p - Women's Book Club</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (4-7th grade)</i>	<b>20</b> <i>9a - Men's Breakfast</i>
<b>21</b> <i>Mission Moment: World Malaria Day</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>10a - Newsletter Assembly</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>10a-2p - Rummage &amp; Bake Sale</i>
<b>28</b> <i>6p - Youth Group</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>RaiseRight Gift Card Orders Due</i>	<b>APRIL 2024</b>			

## Weekly Schedule

For detailed info, check out the rest of the newsletter, visit [pendletonchurch.org/calendar](http://pendletonchurch.org/calendar), or call the office at 716-625-8306.

### Sundays

9:00 AM - Worship  
 - Jr. Church - 3 yrs.-6th grade  
 - Nursery Care - 0-2 yrs.  
 10:30 AM - Sunday Morning Bible Study  
 11:00 AM - Worship

### Mondays

10:00 AM - Niagara County Senior Lunch  
 5:30 PM - Girl Scouts  
 7:00 PM - Monday Night Small Group

### Tuesdays

1:00 PM - Watercolor Class

### Wednesdays

6:00 PM - Pendletones  
 6:30 PM - Beginner Pickleball  
 7:00 PM - Men of Hymn

### Thursdays

1:00 PM - Loyal Ladies Bible Study  
*On Wed. when UWF meets.*  
 5:00 PM - Community Dinner at First UMC  
 6:30 PM - GriefShare  
 7:00 PM - Boy Scouts

### Saturdays

10:00 AM - Watercolor Class  
 5:00 PM - Worship



**PCUMC RaiseRight ORDER FORM****( payment due with order )****Cards Available in OPEN boxes only**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor (% church profit)	Gift Card Amount					\$ Total
	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100	
EXAMPLE: MYSTORE			2		1	\$ 150.00
Ace Hardware (4%)						
Amazon.com (1.7%)						
AMC Theatres (8%)						
American Eagle (10%)						
Applebee's (8%)						
Barnes and Noble (8%)						
Bath & Body Works (12%)						
* Bed Bath & Beyond (12%) (digital only)						
Best Buy (4%)						
Big Lots! (4%)						
Bob Evans (10%)						
Bonefish Grill (10%)						
Cabela's (10%)						
Carrabba's Italian Grill (10%)						
Cheesecake Factory (5%)						
Chewy (5%)						
Children's Place (12%)						
Chili's Grill & Bar (11%)						
Chipotle Mexican Grill (9%)						
Chuck E. Cheese (8%)						
Columbia Sportswear (12%)						
CVS/Pharmacy (6%)						
Denny's (7%)						
Dick's Sporting Goods (8%)						
Domino's Pizza (8%)						
DQ - Dairy Queen (6.5%)						
Five Below (2.5%)						
Game Stop (5%)						
Gap (18%)						
Google Play Store (3%)						
Home Depot (4%)						
IHOP Restaurant (8%)						
InstaCart (4%)						
JCPenney (5%)						
Kohl's (7%)						
JCrew (13%)						
LL Bean (16%)						
Lands' End (15%)						
Lane Bryant (8%)						
Lowe's Home Imprvmnt. (4%)						
			Total for Page 1			

**Orders Placed on Tuesday, April 30th**

**PCUMC RaiseRight ORDER FORM****( payment due with order )****Cards Available in OPEN boxes only**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor (% church profit)	Gift Card Amount					\$ Total
	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100	
Macy's (10%)						
Michaels (6%)						
Moe's Southwestern Grill (6%)						
Nordstrom Rack (4%)						
Office Depot/Office Max (5%)						
Old Navy (14%)						
Olive Garden (8%)						
Outback Steakhouse (10%)						
Overstock.com (8%)						
Panera Bread (8%)						
Papa John's Pizza (8%)						
Petco (9%)						
PetSmart (5%)						
Pottery Barn (8%)						
Red Lobster (8%)						
Red Robin (8%)						
Regal Entertainment (8%)						
Rite Aid (4%)						
Sally Beauty Supply (12%)						
Sam's Club (2.5%)						
Sephora (5%)						
Shutterfly (9%)						
Starbucks (4.5%)						
Subway (4.5%)						
TJMaxx/Marshalls/HomeGoods(7%)						
Talbots (13%)						
Target (2.5%)						
Texas Roadhouse (8%)						
TGI Friday's (9%)						
Tim Hortons (5%)						
Tops Supermarket (4%)						
* Uber (2.5%) (digital only)						
* Uber Eats (2.5%) (digital only)						
ULTA (6%)						
Walgreens (5%)						
Wal-Mart/Sam's Club (2.5%)						
Wayfair (6%)						
other*:						
Total from Page 1						

**GRAND TOTAL DUE:**

\* Provide email address for digital gift cards: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is due when order is placed (cash, or check to PCUMC) Cards will arrive in one week.

**Orders Placed on Tuesday, April 30th**