

# May News

Pendleton Center United Methodist Church

## Christmas in May?

If April showers bring May flowers, what does April snow bring? I have been in Western New York for a long time, and I've seen it happen in May. It still isn't a part of our spring plan to be outside and put the jackets/coats and sweaters away. There's snow on my hydrangea.

It's often hard and risky to predict what is going to happen. We've learned that over and over this past year. If I wrote all the dates I imagined COVID would be gone... well, never mind that. We are in a season of transition – and have been since the beginning of 2020 when Pastor Tom announced his retirement plans. There have been transitions inside the transitions, tough for those who like predictability. As we now make plans to say goodbye to Pastor Sherry at the end of June and Gidget at the end of August, it feels like a lot. And it is.

Having said that, let me say that just about the time I have felt that a loss of a volunteer or staff person would have catastrophic consequences – God provided. There was still the missing of the person or gifts, but God provided through God's Holy Spirit a fresh wind of hope and anticipation. A brilliant Russian electric violin player was not replaced with another person with those same gifts; another gifted person or persons were revealed. I will still not forget the sound of the electric violin playing with the band because I had never heard that soaring combination before. Maybe I'll get that chance again – or it might be something completely different.

There is hope in transition when God does a new thing – the challenge is whether we recognize it or not. God's word is timeless:

- Jeremiah 29:11 - I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
- Isaiah 43:19 - See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
- Finally – Philippians 4:6-8, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things."

So join me in gratitude – sending off our gifted ones with love and thanksgiving, and being a part of another new chapter. This season is like Christmas. Gifts will be unfolding before us – and we are so very blessed to see what God has in mind.

With love and grace,

*Pastor Cathy*

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## Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

On Sunday, June 27, we will be saying goodbye to Pastor Sherry Mahar as one of our pastors. She will always be connected because this is where it all began more than 20 years ago. We will be sharing more about the actual celebration that will take place soon.

For now, please note the envelope enclosed in the newsletter if you would like to donate to a love gift for Sherry. Thank you so much for loving her into the call of God upon her life.

*Pastor Cathy*



Facebook

PendletonCenterUMC



Instagram

@PendletonChurch



Website

pendletonchurch.org

## Pendleton Food Pantry “Thank You”

We want to thank the members of your congregation for the generous donation of \$570 from the "Souper Bowl Sunday" collection for the food pantry on February 7. We would also like to express our gratitude to you all for the food items that your congregation sends to the pantry on a regular basis. Thank you again for your generosity, continued support, and for "partnering" with the Food Pantry.

Sincerely,  
*Secretary of Pendleton Food Pantry*

## Feeding the Homeless

*Summer is just around the corner! Right? Let's give it a jumpstart!*

We will be serving hot dogs, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and of course, our famous brownies. **We will be serving on Saturday, May 15.** We are looking for the following supplies: hot dog rolls, boxes of mac and cheese, jelly, sandwich size Ziploc baggies, oil, and eggs. Thank you for shining the light on those in need! Donations need to be in by Sunday, May 9.

Sign up to donate: [pendletonchurch.org/fth](https://pendletonchurch.org/fth)

If you would like to help out and prepare the meal in the church kitchen or help hand out meals, please let us know; call Sandy Houck (903-5183), Cindy Smist (628-9195), or call the church office (625-8306). There can only be a limited number of people in the kitchen for COVID safety, so we will need to know if you're coming.

**We are looking to collect new plastic travel mugs and cups with lids for the next few months.** It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Any purchases from the dollar stores are fine. We want to hand these out to the homeless on the street.

*Why, you ask?* The homeless don't get a chance to run through the drive-thru to pick up a cold drink, they can't go to the fridge and grab a bottle of water, and they can't run to the corner store to pick up a cold drink.

If they have a cup with them, they can get water while in a bathroom or maybe a corner store or restaurant will fill it for them. But without this cup, how can they even think of getting water to drink? Something we take for granted for sure!

Please help us help our friends throughout the summer and spread hope!

## Christ's Healing Hands

The group's members continue to pray for our church and the health of all in our church, neighborhood, community, and world. Please remain safe, following guidelines for COVID

In Christ's love and peace,  
*Christ's Healing Hands Ministry members*

## FUMC Thursday Night Dinner

The Thursday night dinner in Niagara Falls is continuing to reach the hearts and souls of individuals in and around First UMC on Buffalo Ave! Not only do folks get a great meal, but they have the opportunity to talk to a pastor, offer up prayers, receive communion, and visit our clothes closet by appointment! God is really blessing the community through this ministry!

We are often asked how others might help with these efforts. **If anyone is able, we are looking for donations of Sahlen's hot dogs for our May 27 dinner as we celebrate Memorial Day and enter the summer months.** Just leave them in the fridge in the mission collection area at PCUMC by Wednesday, May 26. *General items such as brownie mixes, chocolate and yellow cake mixes, and cooking spray are always welcome as well.*

We are also accepting financial donations to help with the cost of creating and distributing our meals which average 150 per week! Prayerfully consider how you could be a part of this wonderful ministry!

"Feed My sheep."

*A special thanks to all who helped with the donation of hams for our special Easter dinner on April 4! **We were able to send out 175 dinners** and bring some to the folks at Community Missions because of your generosity!*

## Thrivent Choice Deposit

We are pleased to let everyone know that Pendleton Center UMC is enrolled in Thrivent Choice, and we recently received our **second** 2021 charitable outreach grant! Thrivent Choice is a member-advised program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach funds each year. **A Thrivent Financial family nominated our church to receive grant funds; we were approved and already received our grant in the amount of \$428!** These funds were applied to the **Hot Chocolate with God and S'mores program**, a ministry that carries out the religious and charitable purposes of PCUMC.

Hot Chocolate with God and S'mores is a children's and youth ministry program here at church that is for kids in K-7th grade and teenagers involved in our leadership program. This ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for children to gather together with a community of other kids and teenagers who love Jesus and gives them an opportunity to grow in their faith and their relationship with God and build friendships with other Christians. We help to equip them with Biblical teachings that they can relate to their lives no matter what age they are, plant seeds, bring kids and youth together to build relationships that will last a lifetime, and let them know just how much God loves them.

This is just one example of how PCUMC strives to reach the least, the lost, and the little ones!

*"You will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* -Acts 1:8

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

We continue to have a great year in children and youth ministries! We are actively growing in our relationship with God together as we connect, grow, learn, and serve. There are opportunities each month to be together in person and virtually, and we hope that you will join us!

For more information or to join one of our children & youth ministries programs, contact [AdrienneDemmin@pcumc.org](mailto:AdrienneDemmin@pcumc.org), [GidgetMeland@pcumc.org](mailto:GidgetMeland@pcumc.org), 716-625-8306, or the contact person listed for the program.

### Angel Wings

We have survived through COVID and continue to thrive! Your children continue focusing on the needs of others and trying to support those needs through personal care packages, notes, and prayers.

Angel Wings' last day will be May 19, with fun, food, and laughter.

Thank you all for supporting this ministry, and we are praying we are all back together again in September.

### Hot Chocolate With God and S'mores

This program is a fantastic opportunity for your children to gather together with a community of other kids and teenagers who love Jesus!

*We will have some end-of-the-year events in June. More details to follow.*

#### In-person Meetings

*Fridays, 6:00-9:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, K-6th grade  
5/7 - Grades 3-4 | 5/14 - Grades 5-8 | 5/21- Grades K-2  
Saturday, May 1, 6:00-10:00 PM - Leaders Grade 8+*

#### Virtual Meetings

*Fridays, 6:00-9:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, K-6th grade  
5/7 - Grades 5-6 | 5/14 - Grades K-2 | 5/21- Grades 3-4*

### Youth Group

**Sundays, 6:00-8:30 in the Fellowship Hall, 7th-12th grade**  
*May meeting dates: 2 & 16*

Youth Group is a great place for teenagers to join together in fellowship, worship, small groups, discussions, lessons, games, activities, mission projects, and a crazy amount of fun and bonding time with other Christian teens!

We will have an end-of-the-year celebration in June. More details to follow.

### Jr. Church

**Sundays during worship, 3 years - 3rd grade**

Jr. Church is a fun, interactive, and safe place where kids can worship God and engage in their very own relationship with Him. This is a perfect opportunity for your children to learn and start building their lives on Jesus and learning more about Him.

Throughout our morning, we worship God through songs and music, we read the Bible story and hear the lesson together, and we make a craft that connects with the theme of the day.

Children will be staying in Jr. Church throughout the entire service and will not be returning for communion like in the past. Upon arrival and receiving your health check, walk up the Fellowship Hall ramp to the sanctuary. Someone will be outside the sanctuary to greet your family and take your child downstairs to the Ark.

## GENESIS MINISTRIES

### Preschool

It's time to sign up for fall 2021-22 preschool classes! Registration is open for our fall 2021-2022 classes, but are filling fast! Classes available are:

- Four year olds - Afternoon class open (Morning is full)
- Three/Four year olds combo afternoon class

Be sure to sign your child up now for the class of your choice. We have a great staff and curriculum that includes kindergarten readiness skills, basic Christian concepts, music, arts and crafts, field trips, and much more.

If you would like information about our Genesis programs, visit [pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org) or call the office at 716-625-8306.

### Mom's Morning Out

The toddlers at Mom's Morning Out are enjoying our wonderful program. If you are looking for some time to shop, run errands or just relax while your child is having fun, making new friends, singing songs, running off energy in our huge gym area, all while under the watchful eye of loving & nurturing trained adults, open enrollment for fall program 2021-2022 is now open.

### Employment Opportunities for the 2021-22 Fall Programs

#### Preschool Teachers [Part-time positions]:

- Three-Year-Old teacher - Tuesday & Thursday
- Four-Year-Old teacher- Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

Responsibilities include planning and implementing age appropriate development for children three, four, and five years of age, following New York State standards.

A Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education preferred or an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education with teaching experience.

We are seeking a dedicated, Christian, qualified teacher, who will create and maintain an educational, loving, and nurturing environment for children and families. The successful candidate must be able to establish effective relationships with staff, parents, and children.

Interested persons may contact Gidget Meland at [gidgetmeland@pcumc.org](mailto:gidgetmeland@pcumc.org) or call our office at 716-625-8306 for an application.

**PCUMC MARCH 2021 BUDGET INCOME:**

	<b>BUDGET YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>DEFICIT</b>
CURRENT	149,162	123,189	-25,972
MISSIONS	6,237	8,825	2,588
BUILDING	5,040	4,600	-440
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED</b>	<b>160,439</b>	<b>136,615</b>	<b>-23,824</b>

**How are we doing?**

The above report shows our current budget income is falling short of the Finance Team's 2021 projections. Since our offerings continue to be lower than expected, we need your help to proceed with the ministry ahead of us. It's very difficult to keep ahead of expenses in the winter months when we incur significant seasonal expenses [e.g., higher heating costs, snow plowing, parking lot salting, etc.]. We will continue to keep a close watch on our spending and income. April results should provide a clearer picture since they will include both Easter income and fish fry dinner profit. In addition, April expenses should be somewhat lower since the snow plowing/parking lot salting season is over and utilities are less costly.

We are one of many churches experiencing financial struggles during COVID-19, but our faith in God reminds us that He is with us and will continue to guide us. It's very encouraging to see more of our church families returning to in-person worship each week! The church received a second Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the government in March, and this will be applied to our payroll, utilities, and mortgage interest expenses.

**How can you give?**

- In-person using an offering box before or after worship
- Mailing a check to the church  
[6864 Campbell Blvd., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120]
- Online at [pendletonchurch.org/give](https://pendletonchurch.org/give)
- Automatic electronic funds transfer [contact the office]

*Thank you for all you do to make our dynamic ministries happen. We need to work hard to provide all the support they need, and your continued support will make our ministry a powerful witness to Christ.*

**MORE CHURCH NEWS**

**Women's Book Club**

Our May book is *The Great Alone*, by Kristen Hannah. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (May 21) at the Lodge on the Green at the Shawnee Golf Club at 6:30 PM. If you want to join the book club or have any questions, contact Yvonne Bova at [ybova@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:ybova@kaleidahealth.org).

**Prayer Vigil**

The Prayer Team will be holding a prayer vigil for Pentecost from Friday, May 21 at 1:00 PM to Saturday, May 22 at 1:00 PM. The vigil will reflect the theme of *"Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again."*

If you'd like to participate, you can email Pastor Scott [[scottjohnson@pcumc.org](mailto:scottjohnson@pcumc.org)] or sign up for a time when the sheet becomes available on our website.

**Lenten Fish Fry Dinner Update**

Our Lenten Fish Fry season, COVID style, consisted of two meal choices, takeout only, with online ordering for all seven Fridays in Lent! We had an amazing crew of volunteers who adapted beautifully to all the changes, and 1,830 total meals (an average of 261 per week) were prepared.

Our preliminary profit from the dinners was \$11,834, and we expect the total profit will be around \$11,900 when everything is finalized. This is a very respectable result, considering we're still in the midst of a global pandemic! This income is applied to the General Operations account to help pay the bills.

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!!!*

THIS MONTH'S  
*Birthdays*

~ HAPPY ~  
*Anniversary*

- |                      |                       |                       |                                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 - Kyle Lemma       | 11 - Ronald Diedrich  | 22 - Jeff Morris      | 1 - David & Connie Pasisz             |
| 2 - Burt Carlucci    | Bob Franke            | Jenn Phillips         | 4 - Tom & Lynne Elberson '73          |
| Douglas Routt        | Kaitlyn Gustafson     | Paul Seegar           | 5 - David & Theresa Korzak '79        |
| 3 - Diana Fritz      | Terri Harris          | 25 - Scott Follendorf | Dave & Sue Stout '84                  |
| Donald Szpaicher     | Dave Wagner           | Ryan Walck            | 12 - Loren & Annette Beutel           |
| 4 - Kaity Hersee     | 12 - Kristen Anastasi | 26 - Lee Brave        | 15 - Wayne & Brenda Forrest           |
| Lori Knobel          | Paul Poeller          | Landis DeCota         | Sue & Dan Nadeau '93                  |
| Mike Kozlowski       | Paul Snyder           | Debra Wagner          | Norm & Sue Wilson '81                 |
| Logan Mitrowski      | 14 - Dorothy Glosser  | 28 - Robin Selino     | 17 - Don & Barb Szpaicher '86         |
| Matt Semsel          | Donna Hahn            | 29 - Kristin Clark    | 18 - Lori & Darren Wildt '91          |
| Sherry Waild         | Susan King            | Rachel Kim-Kubiak     | 21 - Ron & Jane Diedrich '88          |
| Jacque Weeks         | Joshua Wildt          | Nick Semsel           | 22 - Ken & Sandy Leaver               |
| 5 - Sandy Climenhaga | Linda Zanke           | 30 - Bonnie Bush      | 24 - Amy & Jeffrey Volpe '96          |
| Allison Diedrich     | 15 - DJ Mahar         | Jill Hackett          | 25 - Steven & Nicole Prendergast '13  |
| Andrea Diedrich      | 17 - Kathy Hill       | Abigail Lukasik       | 26 - Sherry & Jerry Dugas '79         |
| Sandra Schmidt       | Cindi Owens           | 31 - Elizabeth Geary  | 30 - Christopher & Kristi Liddell '09 |
| 6 - Lily Anastasi    | 18 - Cal Crosby       | Mary Licata           | Tim & Jeanne Prendergast              |
| John Lickers         | 19 - Jacob Earle      | Jacek Mitrowski       | Joe & Bea Mattina '92                 |
| 7 - Jill Deibel      | Madison Remillard     | Sonja Nelaimischkies  |                                       |
| Jack Smith           | 20 - Liz Fisher       |                       |                                       |
| 8 - Debbie Rey       | Emily Reed            |                       |                                       |
| Kendall Slaght       | 21 - Wes Terry        |                       |                                       |

**What's Happening at Pendleton Center!**

Here's a few ways you can get involved this month!

More details can be found in the newsletter or at

[pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org)

*No internet? Call the office at 716-625-8306*

*Worship*

**Worship In-person:** Saturdays at 5:00 PM, Sundays at 9:00 AM

Reserve your seat: [pendletonchurch.org/reserve](http://pendletonchurch.org/reserve)

*All children welcome! - Jr. Church offered for 3 years - 3rd grade*

**Worship Online:** Sundays at 9:00 & 11:15 AM

Go to: [pendletonchurch.org/watch](http://pendletonchurch.org/watch)

*Missions*

**Niagara Falls Community Dinner** - Thursdays at First UMC

More info: [pendletonchurch.org/nfcd](http://pendletonchurch.org/nfcd)

**Feeding the Homeless** - Saturday, May 15

More info: [pendletonchurch.org/ftth](http://pendletonchurch.org/ftth)

**Seneca St. UMC Community Dinner** - Sunday, May 16

More info: [pendletonchurch.org/senecast](http://pendletonchurch.org/senecast)

*Adults*

**Sunday Bible Study** - Sundays at 10:00 AM at PCUMC

**GriefShare** - Thursdays at 7:00 PM online

More info: [pendletonchurch.org/griefshare](http://pendletonchurch.org/griefshare)

**Facebook: Music & Devotions** - Most days on Facebook

Visit Facebook for the schedule: [pendletonchurch.org/fb](http://pendletonchurch.org/fb)

**Women's Book Club** - Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 PM  
at Shawnee Country Club

*Youth*

**Youth Bible Study** - Sundays at 10:45 AM online

**Youth Group** - Sundays at 6:00 PM at PCUMC [5/2, 5/16]

**Boy Scouts** - Thursdays at 7:00 PM at PCUMC

*Children*

**Jr. Church** - Sundays during Worship at PCUMC

**Angel Wings** - Wednesdays at 6:30 PM at PCUMC

**Hot Chocolate with God & S'mores** - Fridays at 6:00 PM  
In-person at PCUMC and online

# May News

Pendleton Center United Methodist Church



**Website**  
pendletonchurch.org



**Email**  
theoffice@pcumc.org



**Phone**  
716-625-8306

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



**Facebook**  
pendletoncenterumc



**Instagram**  
@pendletonchurch

## **Worship In-person**

Saturday at 5:00 PM, Sunday at 9:00 AM  
*Reserve your seat weekly at [pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org)*  
*All children welcome!*  
*Jr. Church offered for 3 years - 3rd grade*

## **Worship Online**

Sundays at 9:00 & 11:15 AM [or anytime!]  
[pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org)

## **Facebook: Music & Devotions**

Most days on Facebook  
[pendletonchurch.org/fb](http://pendletonchurch.org/fb)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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North Tonawanda, New York 14120

**Pendleton Center United Methodist Church**

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