



Valley Voice

*The Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*

Pastor Calvin Miller

Office Phone: 814-355-2208 – Cell Phone 814-810-6738

March 2019

Lent 2019: With All Your Heart

In going from my high school career to my college career, I experienced quite a transformation in my thinking. In high school, I did enough to get by- the “essentials” needed to get passing grades- the bare minimum. In college, besides the fact that my wife and I were footing the bill, it was no longer about doing enough to get by; it turned into getting the most out of it so I would be prepared for a career in Parish Ministry.

The transformation continued as I went from being an undergraduate to a graduate student. The classes went from being about book-based knowledge to becoming part of the fabric of who God was Calling me to be. My Seminary taught me to not only think about things, but to also think about how I thought. What a revolution! Learning how I understand so that I could understand better. My grades were the highest in Seminary, because God was preparing my heart.

This is the theme for Lent 2019: serving God and each other with all our heart. In January we had a sermon series titled “Greater Gifts” which helped us understand Spiritual Gifts and how God uses them.

Our current series is a follow-up to Greater Gifts titled “See All The People” which is helping us understand how to best employ our Gifts to teach others about Jesus. “With All Your Heart” will bring this all together, further strengthening our Witness, leading others to Christ.

May God Bless us as we seek God’s Will, understand it, employ it, and reap the harvest!

Blessings and Wholeness,

Pastor Calvin





CHURCH NEWS

Phone & Internet Access Available

The trustees have made several phones available for use when in the building without your cell phone or unable to get service. One is located in the office and the other is in the kitchen area near the coffee pot downstairs. You can also connect wirelessly to the internet using the password gbrvumc1.

**Greater Buffalo Run Valley
United Methodist Church
1667 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823**

*MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD*

**Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.**

If you are in need of prayer or would like to have a pastoral visit, please contact

Pastor Calvin Miller

Office Phone: 355-2208

Home Phone: 814-810-2106

Cell phone: 814-810-6738

Email: cmiller@susumc.org or

millercalvin@comcast.net

Parsonage address:

112 Trinity Court

Bellefonte, PA 16823



If you're wondering what all the dust flying and endless activity going on is about take an opportunity to check out the renovations being made by the trustees to improve the accessibility to areas of our church in order to promote easier access for everyone. The step on the right side of the sanctuary leading to the Sunday School rooms has been removed and the restrooms have also seen major improvements. Thank you seems like such a small phrase for the mountain of work these dedicated individuals have provided.

Children's Church Update

If you've been hesitant about volunteering to help with children's church because you weren't sure you could prepare a lesson there's good news! We now have literature with everything you need to share in this amazing ministry. If you're interested in becoming a helper please contact Melissa Ishler or Gloria Lohr. All you need is a heart for children and your clearances which we can help you get.



Something to think about....

If God is the Lord of your life isn't he the Lord of your mouth also? Do **all** your words honor God and those he created?

Lent & Easter: Sharing the Message of God's Love

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.



The Easter Season, also known as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days, begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost focusing on Christ's most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection, we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

Won't you spend some time during this Lenten Season reflecting on your own spiritual journey and reaching out to your community to share the season's message of love, hope and transformation?

A Closer Look at St. Patrick



The saint Americans celebrate each March 17 was not born in Ireland, and his birth name might not even have been Patrick. St. Patrick's commitment to the gospel led him at great personal risk to spread Christianity across Ireland.

After his death, Irish

missionaries used his methods to re-evangelize Western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. When people talk about how the Irish saved civilization, Patrick had a large hand in that. And his life and ministry offer lessons for United Methodists today.

Patrick demonstrated that we as Christians have something worth sharing, even at great

hardship. Patrick's ministry is a reminder that Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations "is a form of loving our neighbor."

The son of a Roman imperial official in Britain, the saint who would be Patrick was born around A.D. 387, just a few years after Christianity became the official state religion of the Roman Empire. At about 16, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates who sold him into slavery in their native land. That was his first encounter with the island he would later transform. Prayer, Patrick later recounted, was his main comfort during a lonely captivity. After six years, he managed to escape.

Following his sense of call to become a priest, he eventually made his way to Gaul (modern-day France), where he studied at the monastery founded by St. Martin of Tours. The future saint eventually became known as Patricius, the Latin version of Patrick.

In a dream, he heard the Irish people calling out for him to return to the land of his captivity. His bishop shared Patrick's vision with other bishops. Eventually, the pope appointed the former slave to be the first bishop of Ireland.

As far as we know nobody in history had ever escaped from slavery and voluntarily returned to those who still owned him at great personal risk, loving them and telling them of the high God whom they had only dimly known. He loved them, he cared for them and he redeemed them.

As John Wesley would some 1,300 years later, Patrick combined evangelical zeal with social teaching. Patrick was the first well-known man in Europe to stand publicly against slavery.

Like Patrick, today's United Methodist churches need to reach the pagans in their own communities who are looking for life in all the wrong places.

Written by Heather Hahn
with Rev. George Hunter III, Professor of
Evangelism and Church Growth at
Asbury Theological Seminary