"Growing God's Kingdom"



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Service of Healing

January 29th, 2023 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Samuel J. Leister, Pastor 3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

PASTOR EMAIL: mlcsleister@gmail.com OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In bapţism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister Bob St. Clair Slone Smith Andrea Cameron Kate Swailes Hannah Ehrisman & Harrison Mummah Sofia, Stella & Gabby Reed Tammy Brackbill & Jenn Hutchinson Pastor Organist/Pianist Organist/Pianist Choir Director Lector Acolytes Communion/Offering Presenters Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SERVICE OF HEALING JANUARY 29, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy One, source of our renewal,
- C we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

- * GREETING
 - P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.
 - C And also with you.
- * KYRIE (In Unison)

Come, Let Us Join



- * SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)
 - P The Lord be with you.
 - C And also with you.
- * PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
 - P Let us pray...
 - C Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:.....Psalm 15 (responsively)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; ³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

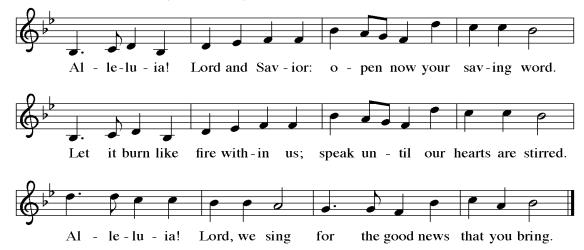
⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

SECOND READING......1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

> L: Here ends the reading. **C: Thanks be to God.**





Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

- - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*

Pastor Leister Pastor Leister #316 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

"Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- * PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Prayers read by Worship Leader)
 - P Merciful God,
 - C receive our prayer.

THE RITE OF HEALING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

- P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come down the center aisle in two lines to the right and left of the altar. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse or health care worker.
- P Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. We give you thanks for this oil, for the fruit of the trees, nurtured in the warmth of the sun, watered from the rain of the heavens, the olives harvested, and oil pressed from the fruit of the trees. With oil, you anointed your chosen people Israel, and fed them with choice flour, oil, and honey. You anointed Aaron and made oil a sign of blessing for your chosen ones. You promised to anoint with oil those who walk through the valley of the shadow

of death. You have anointed your own Son with the oil of gladness. The Good Samaritan tended a stranger, bound up his wounds, and poured oil on them. You gave the disciples power to heal, to cure, and to anoint with oil many who were sick. Your own body was anointed for burial by the woman who poured expensive ointment on his feet and wiped them with her hair. The virgins met the bridegroom and trimmed their oil lamps to burn brightly for the celebration, the feast to come.

(Those who wish to come forward to receive anointing with oil and the laying on of hands may do so now):

- P I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.
- C Amen.
- P I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- * PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)
 - P The almighty Lord a stronger tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - C Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

* PEACE

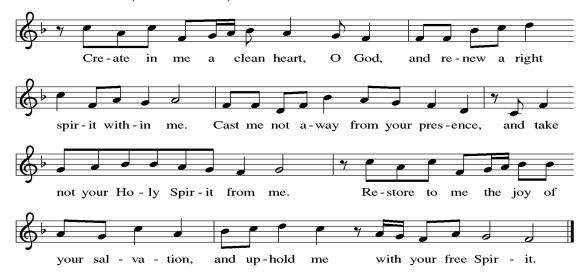
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')



* OFFERING PRAYER

- P Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.
- C Amen.

MEAL

- * COMMUNION DIALOG
 - P Let us give thanks to the Lord.
 - C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.
 - P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.
 - C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.
 - P Let us come to his table with joy.
 - C for we come as God's invited guests.
- * EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
 - P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

- C Amen.
- * THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)
 - C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

- * INVITATION TO COMMUNION
 - P Come and taste the joy of God!
- * LAMB OF GOD (sung)
 - C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

["At the Chancel Rail" – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in their seat for communion).

- * COMMUNION BLESSING
 - P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
 - C Amen.
- * PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
 - P Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.
 - C Amen.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.
 - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God.

* POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB154530

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Hannah Ehrisman NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Nick & Sofia Reed NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Stella & Gabby Reed & Paige Martin NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tammy Brackbill & Jenn Hutchinson (1/9/23 – 2/5/23) NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Diana Wise

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Dave Phelan, who passed away on January 21, 2023 at his residence. Please keep Nancy and family in your thoughts and prayers.

JUST A THOUGHT – G. K. Chesterton, English Christian Writer (1874 – 1936): A man was meant to be doubtful of himself but undoubting about the truth. This has been exactly reversed.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> <u>NOON.</u>

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at <u>mlcsleister@gmail.com</u>.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not "overbooked" in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at <u>mlcsleister@gmail.com</u>.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

JANUARY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for Central Juniata EMS. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to CJEMS to help them in providing local emergency medical care. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

PIANO COVERING NEEDED – If anyone would be interested in donating and "hooking up" a sheer black curtain for the back of our "new" piano in the altar area, please let Worship & Music director Slone Smith know. We are in need of covering some of the marks on the back of this 100+ year old piano but want to maintain its integrity. THANK YOU!!

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

January 15, 2023 Worship Attendance – (in person 42 – online 35 – Sunday School 9)

		Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$4,031.00	Building Fund \$	83.00
Other Funds	688.00	Benevolence	33.00
General Fund	\$3,343.00	Sunday School	2.00
		Lutheran Disaster	10.00
		Memorial Fund	450.00
		Use of Building	100.00
		Local Benevolence-EMS_	10.00
		Total \$	688.00

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WE WILL CONTINUE to collect donations of clothing for Packages of Hope for local families as well as children entering foster care as requested by Children's Services. The list of clothing items is included below. If you would like to purchase an item or two to donate, please place them in the appropriate storage containers located in the Adult Sunday School Room.

0-3 Years

- --Socks (2 packs each: sizes 0-3 mo, 3-6 mo, 6-9 mo, 9-12 mo, 2, and 3)
- --Onesies (2 packs each: sizes 0-3 mo, 3-6 mo, 6-9 mo, 9-12 mo, 2, and 3)
- --Pajamas (2 sets of each: sizes 0-3 mo, 3-6 mo, 6-9 mo, 9-12 mo, 2, and 3)

4-7 Years

- --Socks (2 packs each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- --Underwear (2 packs each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- --Pajamas (2 sets of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- --Short sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- --Long sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- --Sweatpants (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- --Sweatshirts (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)

8-12 Years

- --Socks (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium. large, extra-large)
- --Underwear (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Short sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Long sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Sweatpants (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Sweatshirt (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)

13-17 Years

- --Socks (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Underwear (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Short sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Long sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Sweatpants (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- --Sweatshirt (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)

(Additionally, we are requesting donations of plastic storage containers to help store and organize all donated items).

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER; OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MIDICINES; VICKS PRODUCTS; AND ANY HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS. DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE THESE SUPPLIES ARE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPTED.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Service of Healing.
Monday:	-6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room. -7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.
Wednesday:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall. -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.
Sunday:	-9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik Jeremy Barnes Donna Barton Gary Bechtold Michele Boniewicz Dan Brackbill Don Bratton Dan Brown Raymond Cameron Randy Clark Terry Coder Jean Compton Fred & Dot Dowling Seth Dowling Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski Rev. William Esborn The Ettlinger Family Neil & Pat Fisher Jim Fitzgerald Jane Fogleman Steve Freeman & family Mindy Fryer Bentley Fulkroad Terri Gayer Deb Geedey

Eddi Kay Gill Arrin Gilson Deborah Gingrich Sylva Grimm Family of Joyce Hart Sue Henderson Pat & Karen Henry Nox Hepburn Erin Husler Terry Imes Annie Ingle Morgan Johnson Guy Kerstetter Pam Lawson John Lehman Michael Lozano Zaden Mabey Anthony Martin Carlen McClure Alice McClure Cecilia Miller Ellwood Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller Brian Mullen Claire Mummah Ken Mummah

Paul Ogden Patrick Naylor, Sr. Ron & Linda (Kerchner) Parks Shade Parks Bob & Ramona Parsons Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Family of Dave Phelan Sandy Pines Betty Ranck Keith Ranck **Diane Rowles** Harold Shearer Ron & Arlene Shearer Barry Strawser Vicki Suoja Andy Spigelmyer Stacey & Bonnie Swartz Dorothy Towsey Molly Ulsh Doug Wagner Roscoe Warner Jim Woltman Phillip Zendt Gary Zeiders George Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

-Jane Marhefka – Brookline Retirement Village, 92 Village Drive, Mifflintown, PA 17059
-Gail Henderson & Carol Simonton - Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059
-Alice Swartz & Rich Smith – Berry's Personal Care, 68 Lexi St., Mifflintown, PA 17059
-Ruth Cisney & Ray Bramm – Honneman House, 58 Honneman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
-Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
-Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044
-Ken Stuck – 66 Eighth St., Mifflintown, PA 17059