

## THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH ON THE HILL WITH THE BLUE ROOF



### REV. EPPS REFLECTIONS

SETTLING IN - As I sit at my desk looking out the window panes in front of my desk, the sunlight streams in the room. It hits a cross on a table creating three shadows of the cross on the opposite wall. And out the window are three crosses set up on a hill by the pavilion. It is a very inspiring moment in my day. Thank you all for providing me with such a space at the church for an office, a place to “settle in.” I know Sharon and I have been with you as a supply pastor since late November, but being called as your minister for the next two years is a warming feeling in my heart.

After my miracle, I wondered, “What now, God?” And now I know what a little white church with a blue roof on the hill with a unique sanctuary flooded with sunlight and love of God in people’s hearts can be like. For all you have done to make Sharon and I feel welcomed, thank you, thank you, thank you. And God bless you.

See you on the hill.

### PASTOR’S POSTS

See them weekly on Facebook. You can find them @ Don Epps. (You will see Rev Epps’ picture to be sure you have the correct one). Just send him a friend request and he will add you. He often posts brief videos that are inspirational and uplifting. Check them out.

### YOUR CONSISTORY:

- Bill Hoffman, Co-President  
610-469-2725
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- John B. Yeager  
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- Dale Lynn  
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### SERVING IT UP FAMILY STYLE

Worship is family style at 9 AM to 9:45 AM. Informal enough with focus on God. Summer worship is outdoors.



### KEY DATES

Sunday, March 5 - Holy Communion

Thursday, March 9 – Hoagie Sale (orders due Wed, March 1)

Sunday, March 19 - One Great Hour of Sharing, Consistory meets

Happy Birthday!!! March Birthdays:

1	Madison Wosczyzna
3	Holden Haslip
4	Ashley Hoffman
8	Kevin & Andrew Kowalko
16	Leann Clark
18	April Winham
19	Alan Moore
20	Jeff Swymelar
28	Tracy Heffentrager
28	Chris King
28	Joseph Dean
30	Mark Yeager



## It's time to share

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, March 19.

**“A Family in Christ”**

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386-527-5719**

**Worship: 9am**

*“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” - Luke 9:51*

When I was a kid, from age two to twelve, I lived in the country of Indonesia because my father worked in the oil industry. We had a woman working for my parents called Amat and as faithful Muslim she would take breaks throughout the day to pray. She would prostrate herself, and then stand back up again and repeat the prayer a few more times. I eventually learned that the direction she was praying towards was Mecca, the holiest city in Islam, something that the prophet Muhammad told Muslims to do. She literally orientated her face towards a city, but it was an act of faithfulness, of remembering what really mattered in this life, and what mattered for her was being faithful to her God.

Surely that act of faith is also what is meant by Luke 9:51 when it says that Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem. Jerusalem is just a city, though surely an important one, where the Second Great Temple resides and where all the drama of Holy Week will take place, including Jesus' own painful death. When Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem, he is not just doing what the Jewish people of his time had been commanded by God to do, which was to worship at the Temple during the High Holy Days. Instead, Jesus is living out his deep faithfulness to God and to the will of God that he knows awaits him in that great city. In this Lenten season, may we set our own faces to our own “Jeruselems,” towards faithfulness to God, and to what God asked of us as disciples of Jesus.

Rev. Kevin McLemore  
Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call

## SUPER-HEROES

By Sharon Welsh Epps

Super-heroes have been shown by comics, movies and television to have few weaknesses and can overcome things the normal person could not. They can climb tall buildings, fly through the air at lightning speed or throw lightning bolts with amazing accuracy. Some can ward off attacks with special bracelets, become invisible at will or have x-ray vision. All are portrayed as special, powerful and unique. They are fun to watch. Entertaining.

But have you ever seen a super-hero as a caregiver? Nope! Why? They are good, but they're not THAT good. Caregivers can teach super-heroes a thing or two.

One of the first areas where caregivers upstage your run of the mill super-hero is that caregivers are definitely not focused on themselves! They don't have time to run into a phone booth and change into a costume. No time for that. Caregivers sometimes don't have time for showers or even brushing their teeth. Sometimes they don't have a chance to get dressed at all. When the patient needs help with something, that takes precedent over all other needs.

Caregivers are not out and about in the world looking for opportunities to make the world a better place. They are confined to home much of the time. Need a haircut? Maybe next week. Need groceries? A mad dash to the closest store and back, even if it's not the store with the best quality food or least expensive prices.

Caregivers rarely have a side-kick, someone they can always count on, looking out for them, helping without being asked. Caregivers are pretty lonely folks. Yes, relatives say they will help, but rarely follow up on that. Caregivers are not invited out to lunch or shopping with friends. No one really wants to hear about what the life of a caregiver entails in the day-to-day. Picture having an infant baby but without all the cuteness to make you smile. And it is definitely without the knowledge that things will get better next week, next month, next year. Sometimes things just never get better.

Caregivers aren't in the limelight. And they almost never put themselves first. They are last. Dead last. Which is why 70% of caregivers die BEFORE the person they are taking care of. Yes, 70%! The airlines have it right. You have to put the oxygen mask on yourself before you can take care of someone else. But that isn't realistic in the life of the caregiver. There are so many other medical appointments on the schedule that the caregiver can't get to his or her own doctor. And it takes its toll. So you won't see Hollywood showing any mere super-hero as a caregiver. It's boring. It's unattractive. And it's physically and mentally demanding.

Which is why, when I was a caretaker I had to rely on God for the strength that I didn't have. For the hope that I couldn't see. For the joy that I just couldn't muster. It was faith that took me through. And above all else, it was love that helped me put one foot in front of the other when I felt that I was in total darkness. Love of God and love of my husband. Prayer made it bearable. And prayer was answered in my case (though it is answered differently in others). But God and I had some real honest conversations. And God heard me. And I knew God loved me through it all. Through my tears and my anger. Because that's the kind of God we serve. So take that, superheroes! Never seen one of you hanging out with MY god.

So bring on Superman or Wonder Woman or the Incredible Hulk. Because a caregiver is far more Super or Wonderful or Incredible.