

The BUZZ

Volume 30 Issue #4

APRIL 2024



Lower Saucon United Church of Christ
Reverend Rebekah Thomas
1375 Third Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-8821

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:30 am

Lower Saucon UCC, a progressive congregation rich in history, exists to:

- Promote spiritual growth in all people of all ages
- Nurture a loving and caring Christian community
- Worship our Living God through faithful service

Lower Saucon UCC: a place to believe, belong and worship together.

2024 CONSISTORY

Cheryl Christman	Kirk Gorkos (Treas.)
Kate Griffiths	Judy Koch
Tim Mattes	Tom Sofka (VP)
Lindsey Sanders (Sec.)	Tina Seifert
	Paul Wilhelm (Pres.)

Church Office Hours
Church Office
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am to 12 noon
(610) 838-8821
(610) 838-2659

Website
Church Email
Pastor's Email
Online Giving
Visit us on Facebook
Email for BUZZ Articles

www.lowersauconucc.org
churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org
pastorbecky1121@gmail.com
lowersauconucc.org/donate/
[facebook.com Lower Saucon UCC](https://facebook.com/LowerSauconUCC)
info@lowersauconucc.org

Lay Leader Schedule Ushers/Greeters

Usher of the Month Lindsay Sanders Scripture Reader Children's Sermon

Apr	7	Carlene Barrell	Cheryl Christman	Betty Byerley	Tony Nauroth
Apr	14	Tina Seifert	Diana Severn	Doug Lander	Diana Severn
Apr	21	Betty Byerley	Kris Breidenbach	Nicole Meyers	Pastor Becky
Apr	28	JoAnn Sofka	Tom Sofka	Tony Nauroth	Josh Sanders

FROM PASTOR BECKY ...

As I write this, the flowers have begun to emerge, the birds are starting to sing, and the sun is shining brightly. There is still a cold wind that blows through and the rain is still mixed with some snow at times. But, we are on the edge of spring. I've found myself getting frustrated at the clutter around me the past few weeks. Perhaps it is because I'd rather be outside in the sun than sitting in my office. The papers on my desk, the boxes in the corners, the disorganized books, all of it has been making me feel a little claustrophobic lately. Alas, there are sermons to write, worship services to prepare, meetings to attend, phone calls to make, and emails to answer.

When you read this, Lent will be over and that time of deep reflection will be through. Easter will have been celebrated and your minds will have moved on to the longing for summer vacations. I find myself hoping that you don't forget your spring cleaning. No, I'm not just talking about washing the windows, airing out the house, cleaning the cobwebs from the dark corners of your living room. I'm talking about doing those same things, but in your heart. Opening yourselves up, decluttering, and making room for God. Lent was a time for us to examine ourselves, to start making changes. Now it is time to practice those changes, to continue drawing closer to God.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky



A Little Extra by Ann Kansfield

John told them, "If you have two coats, give one away to someone who doesn't have any." – Luke 3:11 (CEV)

This scripture sure seems to be about material goods—a call to live simply and generously by giving away excess “stuff” to people in need. It reminds me of the *UCC Book of Worship* communion prayer that describes “the vision of the day when sharing by all means scarcity for none.”

Sometimes as we pray these words before the eucharist, I think of Luke 3:11 and say, “I should go through my closet and give away my extra coats.”

Over time, I've experienced this prayer as a call to mutual ministry with others—something much deeper than giving away extra things. Depending on the day or the thing that's being shared, I may have extra or I could be in need. Some days we have extra love, compassion, space for prayer and deep faith. Other days, we might need a little extra love or compassion, prayer or faith.

Recently my children and I went out for dinner. It was a long day, and they were on my last nerve. Just as I was losing patience with them, our server arrived to take our order. The kids continued to act up, and she remained calm. She turned to take my dinner order and said, “What can I get you?” I said, “I need your patience.” She smiled long enough for me to catch my breath. She had extra serenity and without thinking about it shared that with me.

Prayer

God, help me to be generous both with giving and with receiving the things that I and others might need today. Amen.





Consistory Corner

LSUCC CONSISTORY MINUTES

March 12, 2024

In attendance: Tina Seifert, Lindsey Sanders, Pastor Becky Thomas, Cheryl Christman, Kirk Gorkos, Paul Wilhelm, Tim Mattes, Judy Koch, and Tom Sofka.

Missing: Kate Griffiths

Meeting called to order by Paul. Pastor Becky led devotions – The Living Psalm: Psalm 23. Pastor Becky led us in prayer.

Secretary’s report was presented as prepared by Lindsey Sanders:

- Kirk made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tom seconded. All voted to accept.

Treasurer’s report was presented by Kirk:

- Today Kirk presented a Profit and Loss statement for calendar year to date. Tina made a motion to accept. Judy seconded. All voted to accept.

Pastor’s Report:

1/8/2024 – 3/10/2024

Period	Hours	PCE	Notes on Activities
1/8-1/14	23	2	Consistory; Worship & Music
1/15-1/21	25	4	Clergy Women’s Retreat; Newsletter Article
1/22-1/28	26	3	Women’s Retreat; Book Club
1/29-2/4	23	3	Boundary Training
2/5-2/11	15	1	
2/12-2/18	29	6	Ash Wednesday; Funeral Prep; Digital Hymnal Research
2/19-2/25	24	7	Funeral; Newsletter Article; HAM Meeting
2/26-3/3	23	2	Book Club; Midweek Lent
3/4-3/10	24	6	Funeral Prep; Midweek Lent
Total	212	34	

Notes:

- Boundary Training Complete
- HAM has begun discussion on a joint Longest Night service in December
- Vacation scheduled 6/24-6/30

President’s Communication:

- Nothing new to report.

Committee reports:

- Property –
 - Fixed the cabinet in the Gardner Room

- Started some work outside
- The fenced-in area will be used for gardening this spring/summer
- We now have 2 separate cleaning groups that alternate weeks

• Service –

- Easter candy is finished
- Yard sale June 1
- Community Day August 17

• Christian Ed –

- Dinner & Movie – March 23 at 5:30pm (Coco and taco bar)
- Egg hunt on Easter – eggs have been distributed to fill
- Escape Room – April 21
- VBS – June 17-20 (SCUBA theme)
- Sunday school – Last day June 2; Rally Day September 8

Concerns from the Past:

- Decided to postpone the Consistory packet workshop until after Easter
- Committee assignments for Consistory members:
 - Kirk – Finance; Property
 - Cheryl – Christian Service
 - Judy – Worship; Christian Ed
 - Lindsey – PPRC; Christian Ed
 - Tom – Property
 - Tim – PPRC; Property
 - Paul – Worship; Mission
 - Kate – Christian Service
 - Tina – Mission; Christian Ed
- Digital Hymnal – Kirk made a motion to go forward with the purchase of the digital hymnal at the quoted price of \$2814. Tim seconded. All voted to accept.
- Looking at local parks to decided which is best for joint outdoor service with First UCC.

Concerns for the Future:

- We discussed the possibility of installing security cameras around the church. Cameras cost \$100-\$120 each. There is an annual fee for the recording plan. We might need to upgrade the WIFI. Tim is going to work up a full quote to put a camera at every door (6 total).
- We received cost information from “Penny Power” to advertise for Easter worship. Tim made a motion to put a small ad in with information about Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday service. Cost is \$72.54. Tom seconded. All voted to accept.
- Road cleanup tentatively set for April 27th.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30. Meeting was adjourned, and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey

Consistory meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to every member of our congregation. For comments, concerns or further details, please see any member of Consistory.

stewardship report

February Income
\$5,063.00 Current Expenses
1094.00 Benevolences
112.00 Facilities Use
675.00 Memorials
255.00 Fundraising
\$7,199.00 Total



Our church family wants to share in your joys and sorrows. Hospitals and care facilities do not notify churches or share information, so please contact the church office with information about family members who are hospitalized, in care, or in need of prayer for any reason. We'd also like to share your joys so be sure to let us know those as well.



H O M E
FUND

Contributions to our "Helping Our Members Emergency" fund are coming in. You can give to this fund anytime simply by writing "HOME" on your church envelope. The amount you give will be credited to your church offering statement. Lower Saucon will also add to the HOME fund by giving 10% of all fundraising profits.



**AMONG
OUR
MEMBERS**

Information has been omitted from this online version for the privacy of our members.

YOU CAN PAINT LIKE BOB ROSS

Lower Saucon United Church of Christ

LET'S PAINT A PICTURE!

Instructor: **Chris Severn, C.R.I.**
www.letspaintapicture.art

Lower Saucon U.C.C.
1175 3rd Ave
Hellerstown, PA 18055

FAST, FUN PAINTING!
ALL AGES WELCOME!

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

\$59 per person
Includes all supplies

2pm - 5pm
APRIL 14, 2024



Dolores J. (Maurer) Lander, 87, formerly of Hellertown, died Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at Sacred Heart Senior Living by the Creek, Northampton. She is the wife of the late Theodore R. Lander, who died Nov. 11, 2023. Dolores was born in Bethlehem on July 28, 1936

to the late George and Helen (Dimmick) Maurer. She worked in food services at Lehigh University for many years until retiring.

Dolores is a faith filled member of Lower Saucon United Church of Christ, Hellertown, where she was the first female Deacon at the church and assisted in serving at the church dinners. She enjoyed all types of shopping, sewing, camping and traveling.

Dolores was blessed with two sons: Douglas R. (Christine E.), Scott A. (Bella L.) all of Bethlehem; sister: Shirley A. (Leslie) Herczeg of Allentown; grandchildren: Benjamin, Cassondra; great grandchildren: Levi, Aliyah, Caleb, Kariana, Thiago. Predeceased by brothers: Kenneth, George Jr.

To share an expression of sympathy with this family, please visit www.heintzelmancares.com. Arrangements are by the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc. – Hellertown. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Dolores's name to Lower Saucon UCC, 18055.



Dear Members of Lower Saucon UCC:

The family of Dolores (Dee) Lander once again extend our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, support and assistance after her passing on February 13th, 2024. While her loss, just over three months since the passing of our father, leaves a void that cannot be filled, we find comfort in the knowledge that she no longer suffers and is now comforted by God's gentle embrace. Many of you came together to remember Mom and to make Mom's memorial service and luncheon memorable. Mom loved going to church and sharing with so many of you. Her presence and quick wit will be missed.

With sincere thanks,
The families of Doug and Scott Lander



Sandra Elaine Kirka, 81, of Hellertown, died Thursday, March 7, 2024 at Saucon Valley Manor, Hellertown. She is the wife of the late Frank S. "Butch" Kirka, died Nov. 15, 2006.

Sandra was born in Lower Saucon Twp. on November 30, 1942 to the late Stephen J., Sr. and Arlene C. (Koch) Wentzel.

She is a member of Lower Saucon United Church of Christ, Hellertown.

Sandra is survived by sons: Frank A. (Sheri Vega) of Bath, John S. (Pamela) of Mertztown, Kevin J. (Mary Beth) of Hellertown; siblings: Stephen J., Jr. (Carolyn) Wentzel of Center Valley, Kathryn E. (Kim) Griffiths of Hellertown, Debra J. (Silas J. Jr.) Rodenbach of Hellertown; grandchildren: Amanda, Kailey, Samantha, & Morgan; great granddaughters: Addison, Charlotte, Madelyn, Sadie; step granddaughter: Angela; step great grandson: Zachary. Predeceased by siblings: Betty Jane Littlefield, Mildred W. Cahn, Shirley J. Ebert.

To share an expression of sympathy with this family, please visit www.heintzelmancares.com. in lieu of flowers, memorials to Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 Third Avenue, Hellertown, PA 18055.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please change Spencer Lysek and family's address to 3990 Hawks Way NE, Huntsville AL 35811

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Spencer Lysek
April 2 Noelle Roth
April 12 Rick Repash
Tom Sofka
April 13 Nancy Gorkos
April 14 Pastor Dale Sattizahn
April 16 Jacob Klotz
April 26 Susan Donchez
Silas Rodenbach
April 27 Marguerite Johnson
April 28 Matthew Murphy
Danaka Seifert



APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

April 3 Don & Diana Severn
April 16 Larry & Pam Wolf
April 17 Andor & Judith Kovacs
April 23 Kirk & Nancy Gorkos



If you, or your family members, were omitted from the celebration lists please accept our apologies and contact the church office to see that the information is updated.

ROAD CLEANUP



LSUCC will participate in a road clean up on April 27 at 9 AM. We will meet at the Gorkos residence to distribute equipment.

Let Kirk know if you are willing to help out.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Family Game Event

April 13, 2-5 PM

All are welcome to join us as we enjoy the pleasure of friendly, family competition playing games together. Bring your favorite game along or learn a new one.

It's all part of the fun. We have added

Pickle Ball to our game options.



ADULT FORUM



Our Adult Forum will resume meeting after worship on April 6 in the Gardner Room. We are having a discussion based upon the book "Making Sense of the Cross" by David J. Lose. If you are interested in joining, contact Andrea Keller (afkeller07@gmail.com).



Mark your calendar and plan to help out as we invite our community to join us for Scuba VBS, June 17-20. Let Nancy Gorkos know if you would like to help in any way.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

SHOO-FLY PIES

Shoo-fly pies will be baked on April 20. The price is \$10.00 and pies can be picked up from 10am – Noon. Pies should be pre-ordered on the sign-up sheet posted in the side hall or Fellowship Hall or you can call Gerrie (610-838-9350) or the church office by Apr. 17.



Gift Basket Bingo



May 5 2 – 4:15 pm

\$10 will get you one double bingo card for 20 games of bingo. Children accompanied by a paying adult, \$5.00.

Extra cards are \$.50. Light refreshments served at intermission are included in admission.

Hope to see you there!

Anyone willing to donate a basket, please see Cheryl Christman.

ALLIANCE STAMP MINISTRY

Please continue to be on the lookout for the envelopes you receive with stamps. Just trim your used envelope postage so there is 1/3 inch of paper surrounding the stamp, and then drop them in one of the collection containers located in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. If you want to know more about this ministry visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj0G11S3j6Ec>



Grocery Gift Cards

Sign up for May Gift Cards by April 17 with delivery scheduled for Sunday, April 28. The Church earns 5% of the amount we sell. If there are any questions please see or call Gerrie Koch. You can sign up for cards in the side hall, Fellowship Hall or by phoning Gerrie or the church office.



EVANGELISM & MISSION NEWS

Make a JOYFUL NOISE

Our JOYFUL NOISE campaign raised \$42.00 in February for the CWS Blanket Fund. In April, the money collected will support the Hellertown Area Ministerium Crisis Fund.

Our Mission Committee will be packing and distributing college snack boxes at the end of April. If you would like to contribute individually packed powder drink mix, snacks, nutrient bars, money for postage, or shoe boxes please see Martha Sterling or any other committee member.



Fellowship Hour

Apr 7: Severn
May 5:
Jun 2:

Thank you to the Gorkos Family for sponsoring Fellowship Hour in March. You can sign up to sponsor a Sunday on the side hall bulletin board. Contact Barbara Gross if you have questions.



This club meets at Elaine Kantor's home, usually monthly. In April they will be reading, *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. For date and time information please see Martha Sterling or Elaine Kantor.

Phoebe Partnership



Thank you to everyone who donates or helps make items. Phoebe staff and residents appreciate our efforts. Donations of large print puzzle, word-search and fill-in books, adult coloring books, small boxes of crayons or colored pencils are always welcomed by the residents.



Look for a collection basket in the Narthex. If you'd like to do some simple sewing to help create prayer items or if you knit, crochet or have extra yarn—any colors, prayer blankets size 3' x 3', are being made for our ministry at Phoebe Richland. **Yarn and/or blankets can be dropped off at church or someone can pick them up.** Questions? Call or text Cheryl at 610-657-1787

OUR QUILTERS

We have begun to collect prizes for next year's raffle. Anyone interested in sponsoring a prize, please speak to one of the quilters. They meet each Tuesday from 9 AM to 3 PM. We have recently welcomed several new members and others are always welcome. No experience necessary. Just a willingness to learn.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

Please continue to support both of our area Food Banks. Monetary donations can be made through your church offering or directly to: New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, ATTN: Food Bank, 3233 Apples Church Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015, or the Emergency Food Bank at Word of Life, ATTN: Food Bank, 3221 Bingen Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS



The Property Committee will be adjusting our cleaning schedule to alternating Thursdays and Fridays in order to accommodate more volunteers. Please let Kirk know if you would be willing to be on a rotating list. Thank You!



70 new chairs were purchased for Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$20 per chair. Anyone wishing to sponsor one or more chairs can do so by indicating a specified amount on your regular church envelope or by using the special envelopes available in the Narthex.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Easter Flowers 2024

In Honor of

Loved Ones Past
 Roberta Barrell
 Roberta Severn

In Memory of

Carl Barrell
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Family
 My Daughter, Jackie
 My Father, Tom Galgon
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Edward & Michele Quier
 Sterling Severn
 Our Son
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones

From

the Koch Family
 Carlene Barrell
 Don & Diana Severn

From

Carlene Barrell
 Bob & Cheryl Christman
 Sharon Fenstermacher
 Kirk & Nancy Gorkos
 Kate Griffiths
 Dee Marshall
 Nicki Meyers
 Carol Rudolph
 Todd & Tina Seifert
 Don & Diana Severn
 Don & Diana Severn
 Bob & Martha Sterling
 Bob & Martha Sterling
 Larry & Pam Wolf
 Paul & Veronica Wilhelm

Thank you to all who ordered Easter Flowers.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The new "These Days" & "Upper Room" are in. If you want one dropped off to you, call or email the church. If



you are more techno-savvy and would like a free Stillspeaking daily devotional message delivered to your email inbox visit <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>



April 3, 7:00PM

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

to serve as greeters.

If you would be willing to take a turn greeting folks at the door on Sunday morning please let Diana Severn know. We always welcome others as acolytes, lay readers and children's sermon leaders as well.



Friedens Lutheran Church is hosting a "Drive Thru Roast Beef Dinner" on Sat., April 6th from 4-6pm to benefit our local Meals on Wheels. The dinner consists of roast beef, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, salad, and dessert. Cost = \$15/per order. Pre-orders are available by calling the church office at 610/838-4414 or website at friedenscentervalley.com.

JOINT YOUTH MINISTRY

A meeting of a joint group of youth in 7th to 12th grade will be held monthly at First UCC. For further details contact Pastor Becky.

SPIRITED AWAY BOOK CLUB



Come escape with us as we explore books that will nourish your Spirit! We will meet in-person at LSUCC on the last Thursday of the month 7pm. Join us for one book or all the books!

April 25: *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber

May 30: *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them* by John Ortberg

LOWER SAUCON CHURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Although this cemetery is now an independent non-profit, it was once owned by our congregation. Many of the ancestors of our congregation are buried there, perhaps some of yours. The Board would like to remind you that grave sites are still available at reasonable rates. For more information check the posting on our bulletin board or for assistance please contact Kathy J Kline at 610-419-0264 or Justina McCardle at 610-838-6784.



Letter from Our Conference Minister Dated March 14, 2024

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16, NRSV)

Dear Friends,

I had the occasion this past weekend to visit Alabama. I was invited by my friend, the Rev. Jonathan Pemberton who is the pastor of Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, Alabama. Jonathan is also a fellow student at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School where I received my Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees and where I am completing an Executive Certificate in Gender, Sexual and Racial Justice. I was so pleased to be invited to be with him, his family, and his congregation. The hospitality I encountered was phenomenal and heartwarming.

As a part of my weekend, I was able to visit the historic Moton Airfield, where the Tuskegee Airmen trained to participate in World War II. This was the only training field for the African American pilot candidates in the US Army Air Corps. To see the place where heroes of our history trained to serve our nation, despite the segregation and discrimination they encountered, touched my heart deeply.

I also had a chance to see the historic Tuskegee University begun by Booker T. Washington on Independence Day in 1881. The University has been designated as the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site by the National Park Service. Booker T. Washington and Washington Carver are both buried in

the cemetery next to the chapel. The more than 3000-acre University is a private, historically Black land-grant University. Its programs include nursing, veterinary medicine, psychology, mechanical engineering, biology and the biologic sciences, business administration and management, and agriculture and animal sciences. To walk the grounds of this historic school and to know the efforts made to educate our Black citizens from 1881, touched my heart deeply. I stood and had my picture taken at the famous Booker T. Washington memorial which proclaims his goal to “lift the veil of ignorance” from the formerly enslaved people. I share these experiences as a reminder of how different many of our histories have been – often depending on race, ethnicity, economic status, and our gender identity and sexual orientation. We are a nation, and a church, which needs to understand the roots of our nation, the difficulties of our citizens, and be clear that we will honor the lives and the stories of those who are different from ourselves.

On Sunday morning, I stepped into the pulpit of Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church as the first white woman to preach there since its inception as a Sunday School in 1903. I was humbled and honored to have been asked to preach. I shared my message from the gospel of John 3:14-21, which includes one of the most famous verses in scripture quoted above this letter. The message is clear, in these weighty days of conflict, division, hate, and war across our world, it is even more necessary for us to unite with our faith in God, our following of Jesus, and our strengthening from the Holy Spirit.

We must not let our difference keep us from experiencing the grace of God, the blessing and hope of belief, and the nurturing of faith communities. In these days, we must lay down our burdens – not to forget the sins we have committed and the challenges we have faced, but to prepare to move into the light of God’s love and the resurrection joy of Easter.

My hope for you this day is that you can look, critically and with compassion, at the past errors of the world, the nation, the church, and even individual mistakes and move into the light of love God provides. Let’s open our hearts to forgiveness as we travel through the last few weeks of Lent with hope for a brighter future in which we have a role in creating.

- Blessings, Bonnie

Did you know

At the mid-week Lenten Service that we hosted, one of our visitors questioned the meaning of the cat o' nine tails on our paraments. Several of us had our own theories of why it would be a symbol of Lent. I thought you might like to see the information that was found when I researched it.

Understanding the Cat o' Nine Tails:

The Cat o' Nine Tails is a whip-like instrument consisting of nine knotted cords or thongs attached to a handle. It earned its name from the belief that a cat's nine lives represented the harshness of the punishment inflicted upon the recipient. This instrument of punishment traces its roots back to ancient civilizations and was notably used by the Roman military during Jesus' time.

Biblical References:

In the Bible, we encounter the Cat o' Nine Tails in the context of Jesus' crucifixion and the events leading up to it. In Matthew 27:26, we read how Pilate, the Roman governor, ordered Jesus to be flogged before His crucifixion. The soldiers, following this directive, took the Cat o' Nine Tails and lashed Jesus, inflicting immense pain upon Him.

Symbolism of the Cat o' Nine Tails:

At first glance, the Cat o' Nine Tails may appear as a symbol of cruelty and suffering. However, as we explore its biblical significance, we discover a profound message of grace, redemption, and divine love.

Suffering and Sacrifice:

Jesus willingly endured the brutal flogging with the Cat o' Nine Tails as part of His sacrificial journey toward the cross. His suffering exemplified the depth of His love for humanity, as He took upon Himself the punishment meant for our sins. Through His wounds, we find healing (Isaiah 53:5).

The Power of Grace:

Despite the pain inflicted by the Cat o' Nine Tails, Jesus displayed unwavering grace and forgiveness. In Luke 23:34, Jesus utters the profound words, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." This act of grace, even in the midst of unimaginable suffering, demonstrates the transformative power of God's love and mercy.

Redemption and New Life:

Just as the Cat o' Nine Tails tore Jesus' flesh, it

symbolizes the breaking of the bondage of sin in our lives. Through His sacrifice, Jesus opened the door to redemption, offering us forgiveness and a chance for new life. The wounds He bore became the pathway to our spiritual healing and restoration.

Search-A-Word Puzzle

Based on Psalm 23:1-4 (NRSV)

D S T A F F F S T I L L E E
H J M A K E S W S E V E N B
R A E F D O W N T D K L A W
S R E T A W U R U E A V M D
N B L M V H O P V O D E A Y
I E I F L F A I N R U E L L
D S E O M S L G E H K S U U
A I R O T S G H R A L T R O
R D C U H M P J S E Q D I S
K E R T S E R O T S E R G L
E E A R H B C Y W P N N H L
S P R S U Y E L L A V J T A
T F G O T H O U G H N J I H
I E A I D H G U O R H T W S

Psalm 23:1-4

The **LORD** is my **shepherd**, I **shall** not **want**.

He **makes** me **lie down** in **green pastures**;

he leads me **beside still waters**; he **restores** my **soul**.

He **leads** me in **right paths** for his name's **sake**.

Even though I **walk through** the **darkest valley**,

I **fear no evil**; for you are **with** me;

your **rod** and your **staff**—they **comfort** me..

A special thank you to Betty Byerley & Tony Nauroth for acting as proof readers.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY INFORMATION FOR THE BUZZ BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH TO

info@lowersauconucc.org

I WILL REPLY TO IT SO YOU KNOW I RECEIVED IT.

OUR CALENDAR PAGE

Please see

<https://lowersauconucc.org/our-calendar/>