

Wisdom has built her house...she has also set her table  
Proverbs 9:1a, 2b

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## *A note from the pastor*

[Beloved church family:](#)

As we move together through an additional period of liminal space and time, we want to keep everyone informed of our concerns and decisions about how we remain faithful to our calling to be a community of God's faithful people ~ a community that is grounded in the love and presence of Jesus the Christ and bound to each other because of that love and our trust in the ever-present God. One of the most difficult decisions we've been forced to make in the face of this life-interrupting virus is to suspend our gathering together to worship God and be in each other's presence.

We take seriously the disruption this causes in our lives and how hard it is not to be able to gather. We also take seriously our responsibility to do our parts to help stem the tide of the spreading of COVID-19. We hope you will too. Because we all need to feel the support of our church family, we have decided to offer a weekly opportunity to gather virtually via Wisdom's Table's Facebook page until we can be together again. On Sunday, March 22, Jeremy will lead a time of quiet, of meditation and words of prayer and reflection. All of our members and friends will receive an invitation to join him on the Wisdom's Table Facebook page at 11:00 am on Sunday morning. A member of the pastoral leadership team will lead one of these experiences each Sunday until we can be together again.

Because our members' health and safety are very important to us, we will continue to pray for wisdom about gathering during this time and to monitor the situation; and if changes are needed, we will inform you via email. The pastoral leadership team will remain in contact with all of you through phone calls and email. If you require contact before one of us reaches out to you, please email or call us. We will do our best to answer questions, make plans, and direct people in ways we can help one another.

Please remember look out for and stay in touch with your family, your neighbors, and members of your church family, particularly those most at risk. You may be able to help get food or supplies. Your voice or message will be a comfort.

given us. We will just have more physical space between us for a while.

May you be showered with an abundance of God's peace; and, may you be kept safe and well.

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# FAITH over Fear

Written by Mary Luti

Do not fear the terror of night, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at noonday. Psalm 91:5-6

The Bible is always telling us not to be afraid. And that's because there's so much real stuff to be afraid of. Like now, as shelves empty, markets tank, leaders dither, and old people die in a day. Life is scary enough in ordinary times. It's much scarier now. So the Bible exhorts us again, "Don't be afraid!"

And yet people are. Even Bible-believing people. Some are downright terrified, hoarding enough toilet paper to last till 2039. And like clockwork in our nasty age, they get roundly mocked on social media, called out as irrational, impervious to scientific information, bad, stupid, and wrong.

Maybe you're heeding both the Bible and good scientific information. Maybe you're feeling reassured and calm. Maybe you're side-eyeing the panicky, too. But here's the thing: Fear is fear, and human beings are what we are. All of us by nature are vulnerable and exposed.

So admit it—aren't you also just a little bit afraid? No matter how much you know, or how often you wash, don't you also feel foreboding? I know I do. A drastic spike in the infection rate could find me searching for a case of Charmin, too. It would be great if we were all at our rational best right now. But we're not. Optimal if we all rose brilliantly to this occasion. But we won't. So the next best thing is to dismount our high horses, summon some empathy from that quavering place inside us where we too feel afraid, cut each other some slack, and just be kind.

### Prayer

**If you can't make us unafraid, O God, at least make our fears a bridge to others,  
 an empathetic tie that binds.**

# Let us WORSHIP Together

This Sunday, March 22nd join Jeremy Edwards on our Facebook page for Worship.

Jeremy will be posting a live worship service at 11am on Sunday. Just go to the Wisdom's Table Facebook page and watch Jeremy as he leads a worship service.



Please hold the following people and situations in prayer:

We will update the prayers each week with Prayer Requests written on our Communication Cards.

### **Request**

If you have prayer requests that you want to share in the newsletter, please email it to Pam office@wisdomstableucc.org

**Please keep all those who have been infected with the virus in your prayers. Keep the medical personnel and first responders safe and healthy.**



**All people who hold meetings in our church building have been notified that the building is not to be used for meetings or gatherings or used in any way until after March 31st.**

If you have a key to the building, please do not use it at this time. Pam and Tommy are periodically checking the building and trying to sanitize the surfaces. If you enter the building you risk leaving germs behind.

We will keep you informed as to when we will reopen the building.



**During this time please remember the church!**

The church still needs your financial giving during these uncertain times.

Here are some ways you can continue to give to Wisdom's Table.:

1. Mail your contribution to: Wisdom's Table at St. Peter's UCC, 816 Buchanan Ave., Lancaster PA 17603 (Pam and Tommy will be making sure the mail is collected)
2. Visit Wisdom's Table's website. Page to the bottom and press the donate button. This will take you to PayPal. Continue as directed.
3. Most banks have bill pay. Visit your bank's website and make a donation through bill pay.
4. Please consider making a donation to the Jane Addams Fund. Many of our members will be experiencing difficult times in the near future.

Thank you for remembering the church!



**Don't forget to send Rich a note!**

**At this time all State Prisons have suspended any visitation. Please keep Rich in your prayers and send him a note.**

Due to new state regulations all mail is processed through Florida. Rich has not moved, he is still in Huntingdon.

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PO Box 33028  
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Please remember to surround Brenda with love from Wisdom's Table!

Brenda Buckwalter  
Keystone Villa  
100 N. State St.  
Ephrata PA 17522

### Election Day is April 28th

It has come to our attention that some may be concerned about voting in person at the PA primary on April 28. It is possible to request a ballot that will allow you to vote by mail. This is different from an absentee ballot and there are no conditions one must meet ~ such as being out of town on primary day. Here is the link: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/voting-and-elections/>. Then look for the section called "Voting by mail-in ballot" for instructions.

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for ourselves is  
precarious and  
uncertain until it is  
secured for all of us  
and incorporated into  
our common life.

meetville.com

Jane Addams

## JANE ADDAMS FUND

### What is the Jane Addams Fund?

Wisdom's Table is a diverse congregation in many ways and one of those is socio-economic. We have seen and increasing amount of need among our members and friends who live on the economic edge. We believe that as a congregation that is focused on Social and Environmental Justice, we should respond to those among us who are facing financial need in part because of social justice issues. As such we are collecting funds on a quarterly basis that will be disbursed to those members and friends in need.

### As a member or Friend of Wisdom's Table you are eligible to apply for the Jane Addams Fund.

Applications for funds are available in the bin above the mailboxes outside the office or from a pastor. Please return the completed application to Parish Administrator, Pam Kilgore's mailbox or to a pastor. The Professional Leadership Team (Pastor Anabel, Pastor Leah, Rev. Karin and Pam) will review and make decisions about each application received based on need and funds available.