

**Steel City Mennonite Church**

**Mid-Week Connection**

**April 8, 2015**

**Revival Meetings:**

**In a little more than a week, we will kick-off our series of Revival Meetings with Phil Stutzman.** Previously you have been encouraged to attend, reminded of the dates and invited to pray for these special meetings. The Worship Commission has been practicing music for our gatherings. The Evangelism Commission has captured our attention with powerful announcements and pointed personal stories of the "Why and Who" of revival. **So what is left to do in preparation? Here are a few items to address:**

**Clear out your calendar for those evenings.** There are very few things on our calendars that can't be rescheduled or canceled. A 7:00 p.m. start time on Monday through Wednesday evenings allows for after school sporting practices AND attending revival meetings. This is an opportunity to put God in the highest priority and for your children to see your example.

**Engage the enemy!** As we get closer to the Revival Meetings, the more distractions of illness, accidents, discord and strife we will encounter as a body. That is the enemy of God trying to get you to surrender to him without you even knowing it. Stand your ground! Take authority over the prince of darkness by reminding him of the One who said, "I am the light of the world."

**Pray with purpose.** Each Wednesday evening, a small number of people have prayed diligently for our gatherings. But as we get into the final stretch, we are going to do something different, blending technology and prayer. So, rather than meeting together for prayer on Wednesday evenings, (April 8 and 15), you are encouraged to set a 7:00 p.m. alarm that will remind you to pray for specific items related to the Revival Meetings. In addition, to help us daily "Pray with purpose", you will be receiving, via email or by text message (see below), a daily prayer focus item. Incorporate this into your devotions or your family prayer time. How wonderful it is to have your children pray for this event as well.

**Wednesday's Prayer Focus:** The Holy Spirit's anointing upon Phil Stutzman as he prayerfully prepares for our Revival meetings.

**Thursday's Prayer Focus:** Pray for your availability to encounter God on April 19-22. Has God set an appointment with you?

**Friday's Prayer Focus:** Pray for those who will be attending. Ask God to meet them where they are.

**Pastor John Prasad in India** said that he and his churches are praying that the "gates of God's kingdom would be thrown open so that SCMC would be overwhelmed with God's love". Also, pray for Pastor John's right leg, as he fell while riding his horse.

**March Forth to Victory Study and Prayer** will not meet tonight (see above).

There will be **No Worship Team Practice** tomorrow evening (Thursday). Please meet on Sunday morning for practice at 8:15 a.m.

**This Sunday Evening** at 6 p.m., "Can of Worms—How should Christians respond to the situation in Kenya?"

There are **Five Prayer Pal** cards left. If you are willing to pray for an additional child, please contact Tara Willard.

Please contact Tara Willard ASAP if your youth, grades 6-12, is interested in going to **Knoebels** this summer. The dates being considered are July 10-12 or July 17-19.

The **Evangelism Commission** will meet this Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.

Meet for **Weekly Koffee and Konversation** at the Hellertown Diner on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Come and enjoy a great time of fellowship together!

**The Ladies next event** is on Thursday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m. We will be doing some **Spring Cleaning at the church**. While we will officially start at 9:30 a.m., if you cannot come until later in the day, that can certainly happen. There will be a list of things that need to be done, along with the supplies needed to do them. We will plan to have a lunch together somewhere at 12-12:30 p.m. Please sign up if you plan to participate.

Our **Fellowship Meal** will be the third Sunday in April, as opposed to the normal second Sunday of the month. This will give everyone an opportunity to get to know Phil & Elsie Stutzman a little bit better at the beginning of their ministry among us.

Our **April Lunch Bunch** is on Wednesday, April 22, at 12 noon, during the week of our renewal meetings. We will be meeting in the back room of the Hellertown Diner. Everyone is invited to fellowship over lunch with Phil & Elsie Stutzman. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer if you plan to attend.

**Men's Deep Sea Fishing Trip:** Our fishing trip for men 12 or older will be on Saturday, April 25. We will meet at the church at 4:45 a.m. to carpool together. The total cost will be \$70, which includes the fishing trip, a rod to use, tips for the mates on the boat, and all the food you want. We are fishing off the coast of New Jersey, leaving from Atlantic Highlands. We still have plenty of room for others, so sign up today and bring your friends! If you have questions, please see Kevin Olsen or Mark Walters.

**Lehigh Valley Christian High School**, a fully accredited 9th-12th grade program, is accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year. Applications are available online at [www.lvchs.org/admissions/application](http://www.lvchs.org/admissions/application) or by calling 610-403-1000. Leading the way in Christian education for the 21st century, LVCHS seeks to equip students to think biblically and function purposefully in society.

**Mennonite World Conference Assembly Pennsylvania 2015** (Harrisburg, July 21-25) will be the largest gathering of global Anabaptists held in the United States for at least the next 24-30 years. For some, this will be a "once in a lifetime" event to attend. Daily registrations open today, April 1. The fee for each day is \$120, which includes two meals and parking. Another option available to us is to share a full time registration (\$595). This would mean sharing the "badge" from one day to the next. Please indicate your potential interest in attending by signing up on the sheet in the foyer.

**Consider the SCMC Text Messaging Program.** When communicating prayer chain requests, cancellations or other church family items via email, they are often not read or are read after the fact. To address this lapse in our communication, SCMC will also be utilizing the instantaneous text message. (Did you know that the primary way of communication for the 15-24 age group is texting?) You will need to opt-in to this program. You opt-in by texting the keyword SCMC to 313131 from your cell phone.

**Childcare Volunteers are Needed!** We will offer childcare during all services of our Revival Meetings. To accomplish this, we need volunteers for Sunday evening through Wednesday evening. Please contact Bev to indicate when you can help out.

**One of the greatest criticisms of the church is that they always ask for money.** To make sure this negative perception isn't perpetuated during our Revival Meetings, we will not be receiving an offering at the evening services. The estimated costs associated with this life-changing event are \$2,000.00. If you are able to additionally contribute toward these expenses that would be awesome. Designate as such on your giving envelopes.

**Next Week's ESV Study Bible Reading Plan:** April 12, Psalm 102, Leviticus 9, Isaiah 7-8, 2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10; April 13, Psalm 103, Leviticus 10, Isaiah 9:1-7, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:10; April 14, Psalm 104, Leviticus 11, Isaiah 9:8-10:34, 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:16; April 15, Psalm 105, Leviticus 12, Isaiah 11-12, 2 Corinthians 8-9; April 16, Psalm 106, Leviticus 13, Isaiah 13-14, 2 Corinthians 10:1-12; April 17, Psalm 107, Leviticus 14:1-32, Isaiah 15-16, 2 Corinthians 10:13-12:13; April 18, Psalm 108, Leviticus 14:33-57, Isaiah 17-18, 2 Corinthians 12:14-13:14.

**This Week: Nursery Staff,** Randy Willard, Sue Reed, Jasmyne Cox; **Greeter,** Phil & Lena Lakjer; **Worship Team Leader,** Robert Bergey; **Ushers,** Bob Kemmerer, Rob Ibach, Greg Feenstra, Nick Mace, Aaron Kochsmeier; **Children's Message,** Kelly Schoch.

**Please Pray For . . . Phillip & Betsy Rhodes Fisher,** preparing to leave this summer to serve through Rosedale Mennonite Missions in Morocco; **Bart & Jessica Tossenou,** and their work in China; **Nicolas & Jennifer Haddad,** serving in Lebanon; **Kathleen Drescher; Dave & Debbie Faust;** and **Ron & Sandy Faust.**