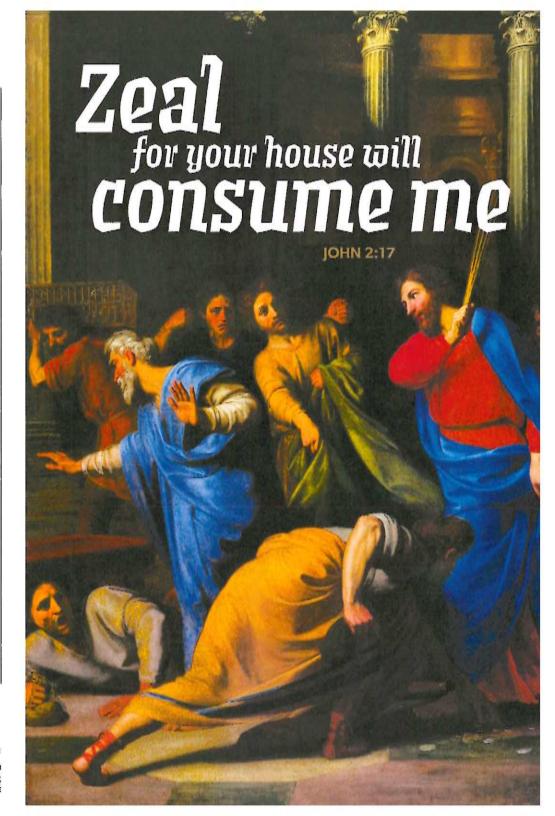
God's Zeal Makes Us Clean

In this penitential season, we hear the words of God's law revealed on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The law was given to guide Israel, newly rescued from slavery in Egypt, to become a community reflecting God's love and holiness. However, this law, no matter how full of love it is, will always carry the sting of accusation for us because our hearts have strayed from God's gracious purpose. We aren't capable of fully following the law because we are still captive to the powers of sin and death, so the commandments will always reveal our trespasses. We should not be surprised that God's word convicts even those who have been called into the community of faith. After all, Jesus cleansed even the temple, reacting against sin within the very heart of religious life.

These scenes on Mount Sinai and in the temple don't just concern people of times long past. They draw us in as well. In the mysteries of holy baptism and holy communion, we become the house of the Lord. Joined to Christ by grace, we are, together, the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is zealous for the holiness of his body, desiring that those who have been united to him would walk in love and truth.

Our great assurance, though, is that the living Word of Jesus is greater even than the revelation on Sinai. Where the law can only convict, Jesus forgives. Where the law reveals our bondage to fear and pride, Jesus brings joyful freedom. In Christ, his body the church dies to sin and then, by grace, rises to new life, made clean and holy.

Let us not fear the one who calls us into holiness and cleanses the temple with zeal. The law reveals where sin has brought death to our souls. But Jesus has passed through death into a glorious resurrection to make us into a living temple, where God's mercy can be found in abundance for us and for the world.



Cover: Christ Expelling the Money-Changers from the Temple by Nicolas Colombel (French, 1644-1717). Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the Saint Louis A Museum.

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Millcreek Lutheran Church Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 2024

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Eternal God, who desires worship to be motivated from a devout heart, not from legal requirements: Cleanse our hearts of all that hinders our communion with you, that we may be honest and sincere in our devotion to you. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

*Opening Hymn: No. 156 (NCH),

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*Greetings: Pages 57, line 5

*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6

*Prayer of the Day: (On the lesson insert, read in unison)

Children's Sermon The First Reading

The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)

The Second Reading

*Return to the Lord: Page 63

*The Gospel

*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: No. 480 (LBW),

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

*The Nicene Creed, Page 64

*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22

*The Greeting of Peace: Page 66, line 23

Choir Anthem

*The Great Thanksgiving: Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29 & 31

*The Lord's Prayer, Page 71 (sung)

Holy Communion (Table)

*Post Communion Canticle: Pages 72 & 73, line 39

*Post Communion Prayer: Page 74, line 40

*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43

*Departing Hymn: No. 327 (NCH), Trust and Obey Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

*Please stand

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor, The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

Lay Leader, Susan Long Organist, Pianist, Debra Tice

Lay Reader, Debra Buffington

Ushers, Audio, Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

The flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Lou Bergman's birthday (March 5th) by Greta and Greer.





Today's Readings

Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words:

⁸I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; "you shall have no other gods before me.

*You shall not make for yourself an idol. whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath. or that is in the water under the earth, 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

"Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your

work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any workyou, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

15 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery,

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against

your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not cover your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm

Psalm 19; tone 2



The heavens declare the glo-1 ry of God. and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

*One day tells its tale ! to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have

no words or language,

and their voices lare not heard. "their sound has gone out into all lands,

and their message

to the ends 1 of the world, where God has pitched a tent I for the sun.

alt comes forth like a bridegroom out 1 of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to I run its course.

"It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens

and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

continued

Psalm, continued

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re- | vives the soul;

> the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

"The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light ! to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean and en- i dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous laitogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold.

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your ser-1 vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is I great reward.

12 Who can detect one's 1 own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹⁸Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion lover me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a ligreat offense. 14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength

and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For 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? 21 For 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. ⁹²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but 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. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospet

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. "In the temple be found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16Hc told those who were seiling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 99 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

TODAY'S READINGS March 3, 2024

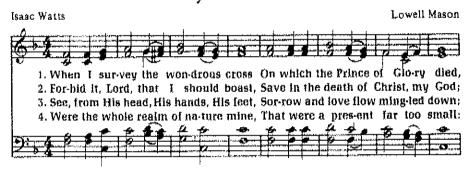
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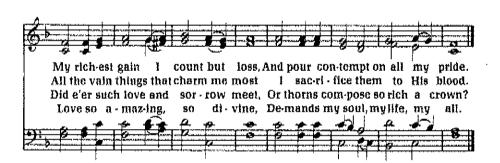
Tracks 1 and 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psa(m 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephasians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

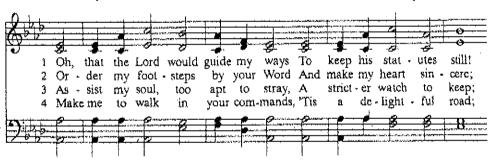
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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross





480 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways





Text. Isaac Witts, 1674-1748, oli. Tune: William H. Mavergal, 1793-1870 EVAN CM





"The Church on the Hill"

Church Office (610) 589-2570 secretary@millcreeklutheran.com 221 North Sheridan Road PO Box 399 Newmanstown, PA 17073 www.millcreeklutheran.com

Pastor Scott Paradise

Home: (717) 628-1241

Cell: (540) 335-1693

pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday March 3, 2024

You can listen to the worship service over the phone patch at 10:15 AM. Just dial 717-628-0125. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.



Don't' forget to turn your clocks
AHEAD
Saturday March 9 before going to bed.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

Please see the insert for information on Lenten services. Lists of Lenten services are also available on the table in the narthex. The next service (March 6 @ 7:00 PM) will be held at St. Paul's UCC, 13 Church Rd. Newmanstown with Pastor Matt Grant speaking. Light snacks/refreshments will be served after the service.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT: The Sharing Cupboard food pantry has been a local food resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Now they serve approximately 100 families monthly.

THE SHARING CUPBOARD asked area churches if they'd be willing to choose a month during the year to have a food drive. The Evangelism Committee at Millcreek Lutheran decided to take on this challenge and chose the month of March. Coincidentally, Lent and Easter are in March this year. The Committee will have an area in our church narthex for you to place your donations. Please pick up a list of foods at the display that the pantry is saying they need. This project will begin March 1 and end March 31. Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."



GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY is March 10th. The Girl Scouts will meet at Millcreek to sell Girl Scout Cookies following the worship service.

THE FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST 2024 annual membership drive is presently going on and will continue till March 31. By donating towards this membership drive Friends of Spang Crest help provide special activities and projects for the Spang Crest residents. In the last year Millcreek has lost two of its longtime faithful givers to this wonderful cause and we need some additional new faces to step in with any donation certainly appreciated. Last year Millcreek helped this cause by having 23 contributors and raising \$456 - please consider stepping forward this year if you didn't already. Please see Margie to contribute.

LEBANON COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES LENTEN BREAKFAST-PANCAKES, BACON, EGGS, PASTRIES & MORE! \$30@TICKET HELD MARCH 16, 2024, 8 AM DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM SOUTH LEBANON COMMUNITY CHURCH 13 EVERGREEN ROAD, LEBANON, PA SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE-\$3000 PREMIER EVENT SPONSOR, \$1000 BREAKFAST SPONSOR, \$500 UPLIFT TABLE SPONSOR.

DEADLINE TO ORDER: March 9, 2024

Obtain tickets by ordering online; www.LCCM.us or send payment to LCCM 250 S. 7th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042.

Please write "Lenten Breakfast tickets" in the memo line. Please indicate if you are with a church or group for seating purposes. A free-will offering will be taken to help LCCM continue its mission.

CAMP KIRCHENWALD: There will be an Open House for Camp Kirchenwald on Sunday, March 17 from 2:00-4:30 PM. Pamphlets for camp registration are in the wall rack in the narthex.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet today after the worship service.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 25, 2024-Current Offerings-\$1,715.00, Plate-251.00, Initial-6.00, Flowers-120.00, Bulletins-40.00, Building Rental-300.00, Coffee-10.00, Chili Dinner-20.00. Total-\$2,462.00. Attendance-63, Sunday School-16

FEBRUARY ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS: Current-\$2,040.00, Restore & Renew-100.00 Total-\$2,140

THE MARCH PARISH ECHO is available for those of you who prefer hard copies. It may be picked up from the table or the wall rack in the narthex.

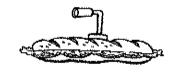
EXTRA PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES may be picked up from the wall rack in the narthex on a first come basis.

READERS FOR PALM SUNDAY are needed for March 24th when we will be reading the Passion. Rehearsal for this will be the week prior after church (March 17) if that works for everyone. There are Passion booklets & a signup sheet on the table in the narthex.

MARCH CHURCH BREAKFAST will be on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 8 AM. at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown. We would love to see you there. Nancy Deiter

EASTER EGG HUNT PRIZES: Millcreck's annual egg hunt will be held on March 30. We are requesting prizes to be donated by the congregation for ages 0-12. Prizes may be put in the Sunday School wing- last room on the right. Contact Nikki Johnson with questions - 717-639-1300.

COLLEGE STUDENT TREAT: It was a success because of "YOU ALL" no less-guess what we gotenough for "7" (our lucky number in heaven) \$50 Subway gift cards! Thanks 7 X 7, The Evangelism Committee



CHOIR REHEARSAL: Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Consider joining us in our music ministry. Contact Debbie Tice with questions.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves



SWEET SECOND SUNDAY is today. Baked goods will be available for you to purchase in the multipurpose room after the worship service. All proceeds are donated to the church. Many thanks to Charmayne for satisfying our sweet tooth.

Dear Millcreek Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your generous donation of tissues for our Fort Zeller students and staff. We greatly appreciate your support and partnership! Sincerely, Fort Zeller Elementary.

ADDRESS CHANGE for Paul Zimmerman. His address is now 139 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073.

WEATHER ALERT: In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service.

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS: Mrs. Mary Meyer, 16 Newburg Drive, Newmanstown, PA 17073

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A <u>WEEKLY BASIS</u>. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. <u>secretary@millcreeklutheran.com</u> or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Karl Koch



The Sunday School classes are making a craft and organizing gift bags for our members who are unable to attend church. The list of folks is on the table in the narthex. They are asking members for Easter cards to add to the craft and palm branch. We are requesting volunteers to deliver the card and gift bags. A delivery sign-up will be located next to the gift bags in front of the display case. Cards can be dropped in the gift bags now through Palm Sunday.

Thank you, Nikki Johnson SS Superintendent







SATURDAY MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
AT 11 AM
PRIZES FOR ALL
AGES 0-12

Millcreek Lutheran Church 221 N. Sheridan RD, Newmanstown, PA 17073

EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE!



Sponsored by the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium

All services begin at 7:00 PM Lenten Theme: "Return..."

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Millcreek Lutheran, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "A Call to Return to the Lord" - Joel 2:12-14

Wednesday, February 21

Church of Christian Outreach, 101 W. Main Street, Newmanstown, with Pastor Mario Madden speaking. Topic: "Return to Prayer" - Romans 8:26-28

Wednesday, February 28

United Christian Church, 2 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Bruce Farrell speaking. Topic: "Return from Betrayal" - Acts 2:22-24

Wednesday, March 6

St. Paul's UCC, 13 Church Road, Newmanstown, with Pastor Matt Grant speaking. Topic: "Return from Denial" - Mark 14:66-71

Wednesday, March 13

Tulpehocken Trinity, 961 Tulpehocken Road, Richland, with Pastor Bill Wink speaking. Topic: "Return to the Kingdom of God" - John 18:36-38a

Wednesday, March 20

Grace UCC, 22 Church Street, Richland with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "Return to the Church" - John 14:6-7

Wednesday, March 27

Elias UCC, 9 N. Sheridan Road, Newmanstown with Pastor Scott Paradise speaking. Topic: "Return to the Table" - John 15:1-4

Good Friday, March 29

Richland Church of the Brethren, 215 S. Race St., Richland, with Pastor Jim Artz speaking. Topic: "Return and See Life" - John 10:10-11

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow each service.

Weather related cancellations to be determined by the home church and will be announced on the Ministerium Facebook page.

Offering taken will go to the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist local families in need. Please make checks payable to Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, March 21st • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive a Papa John's buy one Large pizza get one FREE certificate & a 3oz. bag of Beef Stick Bites from Stoltzfus Meats!





A form of ID is REQUIRED to donate

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on
- · call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code







- · We strongly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- · Walk-Ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.

Who Depends on Blood You Donate

Liver transplant	6-10 units of Red Blood Cells 20 units of plasma 10 units of platelets
Kidney transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells
Heart transplant	2-6 units of red blood cells
Adult open-heart surgery	2-6 units of red blood cells 2-4 units of plasma 1-10 units of platelets
Newborn open-heart surgery	1-4 units of red blood cells 1-2 units of plasma 1-4 units of platelets
Prostate cancer surgery	2-4 units of red blood cells
Abdominal aortic aneurysm	4-6 units of red blood cells
Bone marrow transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells every other day for 2-4 weeks 6-8 units of platelets daily for 4-6 weeks
Automobile accident	4-40 units of red blood cells
Leukemia	2-6 units of red blood cells 6-8 units of platelets daily for 2-4 weeks
Sickle cell disease	10-15 units of red blood cells to treat severe complications
Premature newborn	1-4 units of red blood cells while in intensive care



Friends of Spang Crest 2024 Annual Membership Drive

The Annual Membership Drive is your chance to join or renew your membership to the Friends of Spang Crest. This year's membership drive will run through March 31, 2024.

The Friends of Spang Crest is an auxiliary organization dedicated to supporting activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, Luthercare's Senior Living Community in Lebanon, PA. In 2022-2023, the Friends of Spang Crest donated **over \$26,000** to Spang Crest for programs, services and purchases including:

Benevolent Care • Resident Christmas Presents

- Outdoor Patio Furniture
- Activity Program Equipment
- Outdoor Band Concerts Fish Tank Maintenance

Your membership dues, combined with generous donations from congregations, individuals, annual fundraising events and proceeds from the Spang Crest Gift Shop, will allow the Friends of Spang Crest to continue its work in 2024. Membership Levels for 2024 are:

Member: \$2.00 Sustaining: \$10.00 Contributing: \$5.00 Patron: \$25.00

You may submit your membership contribution directly to your congregation's Key Person: Margie Kriss, 103 Hardwood Street, Box 205, Schaefferstown, PA 17088. Please add "Friends of Spang Crest Membership" on the memo line of your check.

Thank You for Supporting the Friends of Spang Crest

7 ogether We Make A Difference!

SHARING CUPBOARD WISH LIST

CEREAL

CRACKERS

COOKIES

TUNA

SPAM

CANNED CHICKEN

PEANUT BUTTER

SPAGHETTI SAUCE

PASTA MEALS

BEEFARONI

BEEF STEW

CHUNKY SOUPS

GRANOLA BARS

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

