

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✧ Pastor's Message
- ✧ April Humor
- ✧ April Services
- ✧ Graduates
- ✧ Birthdays and Anniversaries
- ✧ Financial Report
- ✧ Shut-Ins & Military
- ✧ Bingo
- ✧ Knitters & Crocheters
- ✧ Church Cookbooks
- ✧ Emmanuel's Closet
- ✧ A Matter of Balance
- ✧ Men's Group
- ✧ Ladies' Luncheon
- ✧ Meditation/Drum Circle
- ✧ W.O.W.
- ✧ Chicken BBQ
- ✧ Hymn Sing
- ✧ Messy Church
- ✧ Card & Game Club
- ✧ Soul Food
- ✧ Just For Kids
- ✧ April Calendar

From the Pastor's Keyboard



Dear friends in this wonderful family of faith,

One of the most important life verses for me in the Bible (one of my true “north stars”) is Galatians 2:20: “**I have been crucified with Christ...**” One of my most important devotional/spiritual mentors, who lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was a gifted artist, musician, teacher, principal of a Bible college, and a YMCA secretary in Egypt during World War I who was a friend of the troops and known for his uncommon spiritual insight – Oswald Chambers. He died during that war, but his legacy lives on in his own teachings and writings and in writings about him.

One of the things that Oswald Chambers said about the above verse is that there is an inescapable spiritual need each of us has to sign the death certificate, so to speak, of our sin nature. I have found what Chambers says is true: I must take my emotional opinions and intellectual beliefs and be willing to turn them into a moral verdict against the nature of sin; that is, against any claim I have to my right to myself as I surrender my life to Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul says in this verse, “**I have been crucified with Christ....**” He did not say, “I have made a determination to imitate Jesus Christ”, or, “I will really make an effort to follow Him.” No. But he did say, “I have been *identified* with Jesus Christ in His death.” I have experienced, like Oswald Chambers, that once I reach this moral decision and act on it, all that Christ accomplished *for* me on the Cross is accomplished *in* me. What a wonderful thing to remember now that our Lenten (where we followed the journey of Jesus)/Passion/Holy Week/Easter season has just ended!

“**...it is no longer I who live....**” My individuality remains, but my primary motivation for living and the nature that rules me are radically changed. I have the same human body, but the old satanic right to myself has been destroyed.

The verse goes on, “**...and the life which I now live in the flesh,**” not the life which I long to live or even pray that I live, but the life I now live in my mortal flesh – the life which others can see, “**I live by faith in the Son of God...**” Oswald Chambers says that this faith was not Paul’s own faith in Jesus Christ, but the faith that the Son of God had given to him (Ephesians 2:8). It is no longer a faith in faith, but a faith that transcends all imaginable limits – a faith that comes only from the Son of God.

I have found that the life that we now live by faith will continually be touched by the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit will lead us to abide in Jesus where our “**hearts burn within us**” (Luke 24:32). If the Holy Spirit restrains us as individuals or as a church, we need to



stop immediately. But if the Holy Spirit kindles a fire within us and stirs and prods us to go forward, we need to let God have God's way in our lives and let the consequences be what they will.

That is true in our individual lives and in our church life. When God puts a spirit of restraint in us, we need to stop. But when God gives us a vision and a stirring, we need to follow up with God at that point, no matter what the cost because that is what God wants for our personal and our congregational lives.

The weeks before and during Lent, I asked you to join me in praying to put God first in our lives, to seek to do what Jesus would do, to join us in online or in-person worship, to pray for world peace and an end to senseless violence, and to do some random act of kindness. During this month of April, following Lent and Easter, I ask you to join me in a prayer to simply ask God to help us discern when He is restraining us and when He is stirring and prodding us to action.

Let us pray as a church to be truly open to how God is leading us as we continue to receive new members, to reach out in helpfulness and prayer to those within our fellowship, to touch lives outside of the four walls of our church, to enjoy our fellowship and fun-raising activities, to lift God in worship, and to continue to grow in our faith lives; in short, let us pray to God to help us to truly be the church.

Will you join me in prayer and in action, as the Spirit directs us, in these exciting times for St. John's Blymire's UCC Church?

See you around this month of April, Pastor Rick

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought
in our life, or in the life of another."

Helen Keller

Today, I want to share with you my ten commandments for a life well lived:

1. With whom you go is often more important than where you go.
2. Execution is critical—how you do what you do. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well.
3. Focus on being, not just doing and getting. Who you are will always be more important than what you do or have.
4. You have to give if you ever hope to receive. Remember the law of sowing and reaping?
5. Stay on the learning track. When you stop learning you cease growing, and whatever is not growing is dying.
6. Don't be afraid to fail. That's how you learn. But always fail forward!
7. Provide the people in your life with an environment that stresses individual accountability and the rewards of faithfulness.
8. Share your blessings and lessons learned. Be a conduit through which the richness of God flows.
9. Be the best that you can be. Never settle for good enough. The biggest room in the world will always be the room for improvement.
10. Have fun! The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Steve Sabol

April Humor

Thinking about the word "fool" on April's Fool Day, these two items come to mind:

Heckler: If I ever had a son who was a fool, I'd make a preacher out of him.

Preacher: How come your father didn't send you to seminary?

Reverend Henry Ward Beecher entered Plymouth Church one Sunday and found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word, "Fool". Quietly and with becoming seriousness, he announced to the congregation that fact in these words:

"I have known many an instance of a person writing a letter and forgetting to sign their name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of a person signing their name and forgetting to write the letter."

Both excerpts above were taken from The World's Greatest Collection of Heavenly Humor, compiled by Bob Phillips, Harvest House Publishers, 1982.

MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

APRIL 7, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / AKA HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY / BAPTISM OF LANDON CONTINO

Message Scripture: John 20:19-31 Centering Scripture: 1 John 1:7

Message: “Did Jesus Laugh? Is He Still Laughing?”

Theme: What are some ancient and new ways to celebrate Easter? Can we truly celebrate Easter and grasp its meaning without laughter and humor, and joy?

Sunday School: “What We Believe” - Peggie Free

APRIL 14, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER/ AKA JUBILANT SUNDAY

Message Scripture: Luke 24:36-49 Centering Scripture: 1 John 3:1

Message: “Could It Happen To You? Could It Happen To Our Church?”

Theme: When was the last time you had unexpected, overwhelming, hard-to-believe joy? How do you wobble between disbelief and joy? How does Easter get into you?

Sunday School: “What We Believe” - Peggie Free

APRIL 21, 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Message Scripture: John 9:1-17, 24-25, 32-39

Message: “Here’s Mud in Your Eye” - Pastor Curt Weber

Theme: Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. He didn’t say, “Here’s mud in your eye,” though he could have. He said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” So the man went and washed, and from then on he could see.

Sunday School: “What We Believe” - Pastor Curt

APRIL 28, 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / UCC PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY / BREAK THE SILENCE SUNDAY / RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Message Scripture: John 15:1-17 Centering Scripture: 1 John 4:19-20

Message: “How Connected Are You?”

Theme: How is your “real heart”? Staying connected to Jesus Christ and to others is the key, and it is vitally important for our health and general well-being.

Sunday School: “What We Believe” - Peggie Free

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

You are about to complete a very important step in your life and we would like to recognize you for your accomplishment on Sunday, May 26, during the worship service. If you are graduating, or have graduated in the past year from high school, college, or a trade/business school, please complete the information below and return it to the church office **no later than Sunday, May 5.** We will include a paragraph about you and your future plans in the June edition of “*Bly Lines*”.

NAME _____ PARENTS NAMES _____

SCHOOL NAME _____ DATE OF GRADUATION _____

DEGREE EARNED _____ AWARDS/ACTIVITIES _____

FUTURE PLANS _____

APRIL
BIRTHDAYS



*May God
Bless You
On Your
Birthday*

2. Mark Eberly
3. Sasha Richardson
Connor Boyd
6. Beth Markey
7. Jeri Jones
8. Elijah Matthews
9. Teila Geesey
11. Cindy Innerst-Axe
12. Kara Sylte
Roslyn Bowen
Sydney Brown
13. Joan Mickey
15. Daniel Neuhaus
18. Charles Williamson
21. John Barley
Nancy Taylor
22. Charles Diehl
Aubrey McKinsey
24. Debra Forbes
26. Marcia Ness
27. Fran Doll
Brandon Ness
28. Tessa Myers

CELEBRATING APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- April 6 - Fred and Brenda Kerchner - 33 years
April 10 - Nelson and Marti Leader - 59 years
April 18 - Peter and Donna Busch - 9 years
April 22 - Jeri and Lou Ann Jones - 35 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2024	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,102.00	\$9,943.43	\$600.89	\$319.65	\$784.93	\$0.00
February	\$7,747.00	\$10,447.49	\$1,200.83	\$318.91	\$1,652.89	\$500.00
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$17,849.00	\$20,390.92	\$1,801.72	\$638.56	\$2,437.82	\$500.00

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ March 1, 2024

\$4,775.65

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ March 1, 2024
(Includes \$55,169.25 Endowment)

\$64,314.17

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ March 1, 2024
(Includes \$798,180.71 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$876,631.78

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2024

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 956.17
January	1	\$25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 979.17
February	1	\$50.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 1121.17
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	2	\$75.00	\$ 240.00	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Terry & Fran Doll

Room 346
Residence @ Fitz Farm
2200 Springwood Rd.
York, PA 17403
Terry's cell (717) 968-2454
Fran's cell (717) 968-8754

Peggy Luckenbaugh

Room 704B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403



Linda Trone

Room 604
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers

Cindie McKinsey
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

AIC Ness, Brandon
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756

B - I - N - G - O

No, it's not the farmer's dog!!! Homewood Auxiliary is playing Bingo year-round with the skilled care and assisted-living patients. Bingo is played 5 times per week. Homewood is seeking your help: They are looking for Bingo prizes to give to the skilled-care patients and assisted-living residents, many who have outlived their resources. There is a box in the Social Hall for those Bingo prizes- you might have seen it—"BINGO" is on it, along with ideas for those Bingo prizes. The idea list is also in the hallway outside the Social hall, alongside the soaker pad dimensions and laundry bag dimensions. Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!!!! Thank you very much!!!! Steph Frey, your Homewood Auxiliary rep- (717)244-5012

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET



We are now getting settled in our new home here at Blymire's Church. Past clients are coming back and we are registering some new ones. Clients can come to the door by the flagpole on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:00 AM-Noon to pick up food bags. Due to space limitations we are no longer giving out clothing or household goods.

If you would like to donate any nonperishable food, toiletries or cleaning products, please put them in the marked bins in the Gathering Room. Right now we are especially in need of **laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, juice, and cereal**. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

A MATTER OF BALANCE

The York Area Agency on Aging will once again be offering classes here at our church to help older adults who are experiencing trouble with balance and have concerns about falling. This is the same class that was offered here in the past.

The program is FREE for those 60+ years old. Each session runs for four weeks. The first session will be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM, June 10-July 3. The second session will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 AM-Noon, August 20-September 12. To register, please call Lindsey at (717) 487-2752. This class is open to the public and space is limited, so call early to reserve a spot!

KNITTERS and CROCHETERS

Memorial White Rose Hospice is asking for donations of handmade scarves and blankets. If you would like to help with this ongoing project, there is a box in the Gathering Room for you to put your donations. They are especially in need of items for men.



Tired of always eating the same food? Buy one of our church cookbooks containing mouth-watering recipes from current and past members of our congregation. Check them out on the table in the Gathering Room. The cost is only \$18.00.



MEN'S GROUP

The next Men's Group meeting will be held on



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH at 7:00 PM. After several months hosting regular speakers, this month we return to The Mystery Guest format. You are guaranteed a program that will be interesting inside and out. Our guest's name will not be disclosed until the meeting begins in fear that someone recognizes her.



The FUN Team is once again sponsoring a ladies luncheon and program. This one is called "All Creatures Great and Small." The event will be held from Noon-3:00 PM Saturday, April 27. Registration begins at 11:30.

Our featured guest will be chalk artist Elva Hurst. Watch Elva's magical chalk art take form as she gives her inspirational talk. The cost is \$20.00 per person, which includes lunch, gift bags, door prizes, and much more. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room or you can call the church office at (717) 244-0655. This is not just for church members, so grab a friend or two and come join us. Deadline to register is Sunday, April 21.

GUIDED MEDITATION AND DRUM CIRCLE



Meditation and Music are very good ways to deepen your personal spiritual practice. Relax, let go of worldly thoughts, and sink into your soul. You are invited to join us on Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 AM for Guided Meditation, followed by Drum Circle, with a variety of instruments available. We will not be meeting in April.



W.O.W (women's discussion and support group) has begun meeting again at 11:00 AM in the Gathering Room on the 4th Saturday of each month. We will be skipping the month of April, so our next meeting will be May 25. Our time together will include informal discussions of things we've read, heard about, or have questions about. We will also share joys and concerns. Lunch afterwards is optional. Everyone is welcome. Questions, text or call Ginny (202) 549-4358.



Our first chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$10.00. To place an order, please call the church at (717) 244-0655. We sold out early nearly every month last summer, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru October.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of homemade cookies, rice krispie treats, cupcakes, candy, etc. Please put individual portions in baggies or plastic wrap. They may be dropped off at the church the day before or the morning of the BBQ. Thank you.



On Sunday, April 14, from 6:00-8:00 PM, you are invited to join us for an old-fashioned Hymn Sing, followed by delicious refreshments. The public is invited and there is no charge.

WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?

It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of family church for children and adults. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. If traditional church is no longer a part of your life, come try out Messy Church!



Our next Messy Church gathering will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on Friday, April 12. As always, a meal will be provided. PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our next gathering will be held on April 10.



APRIL 2024

“When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.”
James Hudson Taylor

THE HOKEY POKEY

If one [body] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.
1 Corinthians 12:27-28 (CEB)

“You put your right arm in, you put your right arm out. You put your right arm in, and you shake it all about. You do the Hokey Pokey, and you turn yourself around. That’s what it’s all about.”

This silly children’s song activates wiggles and giggles as it cycles through body part after body part, inviting the singers to move one zone of their bodies after another. It ends with putting the whole self in, out, and shaking it all about.

The wisdom of the Hokey Pokey is simple yet profound. Each individual body is made up of separate parts built into a whole with diverse shapes, sizes, colors, and abilities. Honoring and bearing witness to each whole part of the Body without judgment or shame is essential. Who are we to enact any kind of violence on God’s precious Body? Indeed, when one Body part hurts, we all hurt. When one Body part celebrates, we all celebrate.

Join me, if you dare, in doing the Hokey Pokey right where you are. Let’s put our whole selves in, and then put our whole selves out to make room for others. But when it’s time to speak truth to power and spend down our privileges, let’s put our whole selves back in again, and shake things all about. Let’s do the holy and inclusive Hokey Pokey and turn ourselves around from aligning with the various -isms that harm the Body. Because you know what? That’s exactly what it’s all about!

Prayer

We give you thanks for all the diverse parts of your Body. Amen.

U.C.C. Daily Devotional

I can’t make the world be peaceful I can’t stall tanks from roaring down roads I can’t prevent children from having to hide in bunkers I can’t convince the news to stop turning war into a video game I can’t silence the sound of bombs tearing neighborhoods apart I can’t turn a guided missile into a bouquet of flowers I can’t make a war-monger have an ounce of empathy I can’t convince diplomats to quit playing truth or dare I can’t deflect a sniper’s bullet from turning a wife into a widow I can’t stave off a schoolyard being reduced to ash and rubble I can’t do any of that The only thing I can do is love the next person I encounter without any conditions or strings to love my neighbor so fearlessly that it starts a ripple that stretches from one horizon to the next I can’t force peace on the world But I can become a force of peace in the world Because Sometimes all it takes is a single lit candle in the darkness To start a movement oh, Spirit, Let me be a candle of comfort in this world Let me burn with peace!

John Rodel

“When you go through hard times, remember you already have everything you need inside of you to bloom again.

Trees grow their buds for the spring before winter even arrives so that when the long nights and cold days of winter do arrive, they don't need to do anything except rest. People are like that too.

When you're going through your own season of winter, know that you already have everything you need to bloom within you, you just need to hang on a little more for longer days and warmer nights.

Your spring is right around the corner, beautiful friend, And the bloom that's coming? It's going to be more beautiful than ever.”

Nikki Banas

When you understand, that what most people really, really want is simply to feel good about themselves, and when you realize that with just a few well-chosen words you can help virtually anyone achieve this, you begin to realize just how simple life is, how powerful love is. Love really is the key!

Mike Dooley

CELEBRATE SPRING!



A DOOR TO HAPPINESS

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The words of Jesus are spot-on. When you give, it has a boomerang effect. Happiness happens when we give it away. That is such great news! You can't control your genetics, the weather, the traffic, or the occupant of the White House. But you can always increase the number of smiles on our planet. You! Yes, *you* can help people to sleep better, laugh more, hum instead of grumble, walk instead of stumble. You can lighten the load and brighten the day of other human beings. And don't be surprised when you begin to sense a newfound joy yourself. This is the unexpected door to joy. And standing at the entryway to welcome you is Jesus of Nazareth.

Max Lucado

When interpreting the Bible,
filter it through the larger
biblical theology of
"God is love."

If where your interpretation
ends up excludes,
belittles, is violent, ignores
those in need, or allows
you to feel superior to others,
it isn't loving.
It isn't from love.
It isn't of God.



Rev. Mark Sandlin

"I think joy and sweetness and affection are a spiritual path. We're here to know God, to love and serve God, and to be blown away by the beauty and miracle of nature. You just have to get rid of so much baggage to be light enough to dance, to sing, to play. You don't have time to carry grudges; you don't have time to cling to the need to be right."

Anne Lamott

ACCORDING TO KIDS...

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

In the first book of the bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

SMILING IS INFECTIOUS

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

Author Unknown

Many of us are so focused on the outcome that we miss the joy of the task. Is it meant for us to live frantically, in order to accomplish as much as we possibly can, as fast as we can, before we die?

Or, are we meant to live simply slowly, enjoying every task and experience until we die? Understand that you don't have to run around trying to make a good life. The goodness of life is right where you are, but you have to slow down in order to recognize it. It's the difference between running in circles or dancing for joy!

Iyanla Vanzant

Love isn't
how you
feel;
it's what
you do.



Madeleine L'Engle

YOU
MATTER!

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but also in trees and in the flowers and clouds and stars,"

Martin Luther

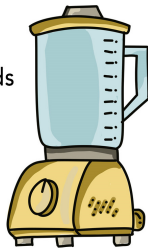
SOMETHING
OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



PUZZLE



PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

- = God
- = seed
- = planted
- = watered
- = grow
- = one
- = anything
- = only

I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the

_____ who waters is _____,

but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow, one, one, grow, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow