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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

HAPPY EASTER!!!! We begin the month of April with the celebration of the empty tomb! HOW AWESOME is that? Of course, it is also April 1st and, of course, we are all aware that this is April Fool's Day. Why this identification is connected with April First is unclear but for centuries, playing pranks on friends and family has been a traditional FUN thing to do.

With Easter being on April first this year, some would "tongue in cheek" say God is saying to Satan "April Fool", but we know that the empty tomb is not a prank—it is reality. We know that the resurrection of Jesus is not a prank—it is reality. We know that Jesus dying for our sins and being raised from the dead is not a prank—it is reality. So, to term Easter on April 1st as God saying to Satan, "April Fool" just does not sit with me. Now, I will agree that Satan could be termed a "fool" because with the death of Jesus, Satan felt that he had won in the battle against God. After all, God's Son and the truth of God He taught and shared in His life had come to an end. With the death of Jesus on the cross, Satan thought the victory was his. But, we know the truth and we know that Satan was the biggest fool of all. With the death of Jesus on the cross, the ultimate price for our sinfulness was paid in full. With the resurrection of Jesus, the bond of death for our sinfulness was broken. GOD WON—we win!!!! So, Satan—you are a fool if you think you could ever win against God!

We begin the month of April with the celebration of Easter, and in past messages I have emphasized that not only the one day on the calendar is Easter Day, every day we should live and celebrate as if it were Easter Day. So, consider yourself reminded! And in the past years we have held Humor Sunday or Butterfly Sunday. Humor Sunday is an opportunity to laugh after the somberness of Lent and Butterfly Sunday emphasizes resurrection because of the "death" of the caterpillar and the "new life" of the Butterfly. Both focuses are a good element to include in our faith journey!

April is also a month when we see a marked transition from the "deadness" of winter to the "rebirth" of Spring. Many of our flowers and trees blossom and bloom and beauty breaks out all around us. After the L O N G, cold winter, I for one am anticipating the beauty of this season! I am ready for the warmer temperatures and the longer days! (Not that I want to wish away time, but come on summer!)



Spring is always an uplifting time of year and definitely the message of Easter lifts us up from many of the hard times in life (and we have all been through some difficult times lately). So, let us keep our eyes on Jesus! Let us place our hands in His! Let us go where He needs us to go and be ministers in His name always and all-ways!

God Bless! With love - HAPPY EASTER! Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in APRIL

April 1 - Easter Sunday—Services at 6:30 AM and 8:45 AM

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: “He Is Not Here”

Anthem: “An Easter Celebration” Williams/Sorenson

April 8 - Easter 2

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Family Retreat at Hartman Center-Jeri Jones Supply
Worship Leader

April 15 - Easter 3

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon: “Jesus Appears to His Disciples”

April 22 - Easter 4

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Sermon: “One Flock, One Shepherd”

April 29 - Easter 5

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Sermon: “The Vine and the Branches”

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
The Haven at Springwood
2321 Freedom Way
York, PA 17402
717-718-3615

Ruth Grove
389 Waters Road
York, PA 17402
717-848-4690



Emerson Knaper
855 New School Lane
Dallastown, PA 17313
717-244-5003

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



**Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military**

A1C Ness, Brandon
98950 East Harmony Lane
Tucson, AZ 85748

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for APRIL

GREETERS:

April 1 - To be announced
April 8 - To be announced
April 15 - To be announced
April 22 - To be announced
April 29 - To be announced

GIFT COLLECTORS:

April 1 - Matt & Randi John
April 8 - Sterling Boyd
April 15 - Diana Myers
April 22 - David & Susan McDowell
April 29 - James McDowell

LAY READERS:

April 1 - Kevin Myers
April 8 - Barb Adams
April 15 - Sonja Ness
April 22 - Nelson Leader
April 29 - Linda Rost

ACOLYTES:

April 1 - Barb Marshall
April 8 - Lonnie & Carol Barnhart
April 15 - Greg & Sonja Ness
April 22 - Curt & Ginny Weber
April 29 - Beth March & Janie Montgomery

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

April 1 - Happy Easter-No coffee social
April 8 - To be announced
April 15 - To be announced
April 22 - To be announced
April 29 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

April 1 - Terry Doll
April 8 - Ed Adams
April 15 - Chase Matthews
April 22 - Wyatt Myers
April 29 - Eli Matthews

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

April 1 - Joel Frey
April 8 - Greg Ness
April 15 - Greg Ness
April 22 - Sterling Boyd
April 29 - To be announced

CAMERA OPERATORS:

April 1 - Greg Ness
April 8 - John Sterling
April 15 - Todd Miller
April 22 - Terry Doll
April 29 - Greg Ness

VIDEO OPERATORS:

April 1 - Sydney Brown
April 8 - Jeri Jones
April 15 - Judy Bishop
April 22 - Nelson Leader
April 29 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER: April 15

APRIL
BIRTHDAYS



*May God
Bless You
On Your
Birthday*

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

CELEBRATING APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- April 6 - Fred and Brenda Kerchner - 27 years
April 10 - Nelson and Marti Leader - 53 years
April 18 - Peter and Donna Busch - 3 years
April 22 - Jeri and Lou Ann Jones - 29 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

| Month-2018 | Income | Expense | Income | Expense | Income | Expense |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| January | \$10,386.24 | \$12,278.60 | \$3.48 | \$549.36 | \$698.29 | \$770.40 |
| February | \$10,166.17 | \$9,496.26 | \$3.09 | \$312.96 | \$100.11 | \$445.00 |
| March | | | | | | |
| April | | | | | | |
| May | | | | | | |
| June | | | | | | |
| July | | | | | | |
| August | | | | | | |
| September | | | | | | |
| October | | | | | | |
| November | | | | | | |
| December | | | | | | |
| Total | \$20,552.41 | \$21,774.86 | \$6.57 | \$862.32 | \$798.40 | \$1,215.40 |

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ March 1, 2018

\$9,634.26

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ March 1, 2018

(Includes \$48,674.30 Endowment)

\$75,406.20

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ March 1, 2018

(Includes \$778,902.89 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation))

\$781,346.00

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2018

| | # | Total | Monthly | Available |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Families | \$\$\$ | Donations | Balance |
| Beginning | | | | \$ 376.57 |
| January | 2 | \$ 175.00 | \$ 62.55 | \$ 264.12 |
| February | 4 | \$ 150.00 | \$ 67.65 | \$ 181.77 |
| March | | | | |
| April | | | | |
| May | | | | |
| June | | | | |
| July | | | | |
| August | | | | |
| September | | | | |
| October | | | | |
| November | | | | |
| December | | | | |
| Total | 6 | \$ 325.00 | \$ 130.20 | |



MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire's on Tuesday, April 10, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Those attending the meeting please bring information on potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing.
REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.



Faith Kidz will be meeting at 6:30 PM every Wednesday in April.



EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, April 1, we will be holding a Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM. Following the service, you are invited to a breakfast in the Gathering Room. You don't need a ticket, but are asked to give a donation for the breakfast. Then at 8:45 AM, you can move into the sanctuary for our Easter celebration. As is our tradition, you are invited to bring loose flowers to put on the cross in the front of the sanctuary.

We would also like to continue the tradition of wearing special hats on Easter Sunday. If you don't already have one in your closet, now is the time to go shopping for one. Let's brighten up the church on Easter with lots of colorful "Bonnets."

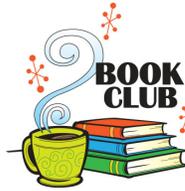
HARTMAN CENTER RETREAT

You are invited to join our retreat April 6, 7 and 8. We will have a wonderful time connecting with the Lord. We will have worship time, crafts, free time. We will be playing bingo, so we will need prizes for adults and children. Each family will have their own bedroom. You will need to bring your own bedclothes and towels and any snacks to share with each other. Nelson Leader will be making our wonderful meals this year. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Any questions contact Nelson Leader or Diana Myers.

SISTERS OF SERVICE



Sisters of Service (SOS) will be holding their next meeting on Monday, April 16, at 6:30 PM at the church. Heather Matthews will be in charge of devotions and Marlene Matthews will provide refreshments.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, April 10, and Tuesday, April 24, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. This month we will each choose our own book to read and will discuss it with the others. New members are always welcome to join us.

CRAFTY CHICKS

On Sunday, April 22, beginning at 1:00 PM Crafty Chicks will be having a regular bring whatever craft you want to work on gathering at the church.

On Sunday, May 20, at 2:00 PM we will again have a special class. Sarah Leader will be teaching us how to make yarn baskets. Those attending are asked to bring two different colored skeins of yarn with them. The cost of the class is \$15. Watch for samples soon next to the sign up sheet in the Gathering Room. Deadline to register is Sunday, May 6.



On Saturday, April 14, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, the Men's Group will be holding their first chicken BBQ of the season. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, and roll and butter all for \$8.00. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the slip below and turn it in to the church office or call 244-0655. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru September.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Dinners _____ x \$8.00 = _____



DALLASTOWN ELEMENTARY FOOD BACKPACK PROJECT

The Dallastown-Yoe Ministerium has begun working with the Dallastown schools to prepare backpacks to send home with needy students each Friday. These backpacks contain food items that can be eaten at home over the weekend. They are currently in need of the following items: Regular sized (12 oz) boxes of cereal, boxed mac and cheese, applesauce cups, cracker packs, and peanut butter. Donations may be placed in the designated box in the Gathering Room.

TOILETRIES COLLECTION



We are once again collecting toiletries for Helping Hands to give out. You may put your donations in the boxes under the coat rack in the hallway. Please try to keep items gender neutral. We will also be giving out bags to children, so kids' items are needed as well. Thank you.

HOMEWOOD HOMES NEEDS YOU

If you can do simple sewing, Homewood Homes needs you! The skilled care facility needs soaker pads and laundry bags for the residents. The directions for each are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. There is a box of material located in the fellowship hall—flannel for the soaker pads and cotton for the laundry bags. Any questions, please see Steph Frey. Thank you for supporting this project.

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 20, 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, April 22.*** We will include a paragraph about you and your future plans in the June edition of "Bly Lines". On Sunday, May 20, your name will be listed in the bulletin and Pastor Lou Ann will have a small presentation to make to you.



NAME _____

PARENTS NAMES _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

DATE OF GRADUATION _____

DEGREE EARNED _____

AWARDS/ACTIVITIES _____

FUTURE PLANS _____

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

April 2018



Socks and Underwear Project

We are doing a collection for our socks and underwear give-out for ages nb-17 years. The following items are needed: Diapers-sizes 2-6; Pullups-sizes 2-6; Wipes-individual packs; Socks-any size packs from toddler on up (please no individual pairs since we are trying to give similar items to each child); Underwear-any size from toddler on up; Gift cards in amounts of \$5.00 or \$10.00. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome too. The deadline for any donations is Sunday, April 22. The give-out will take place on May 19. Thank you for your support of this project.

Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet bin in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."



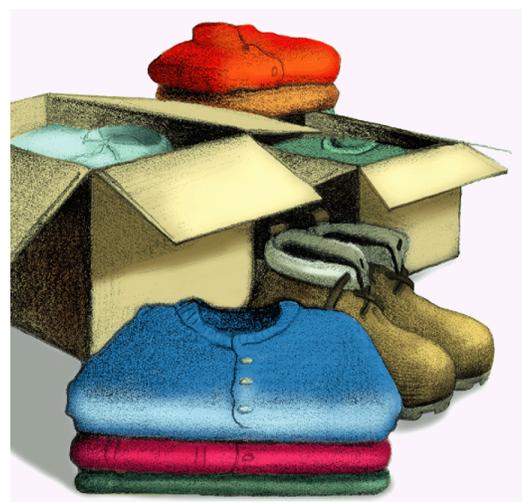
THANKS FOR CARING!

E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Broth
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Coffee/Tea
Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Baby food, formula, diapers, etc.
Children's books/toys
Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items

We are now collecting spring and summer clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.



HEALING HEARTS INSPIRATIONS



What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.

Pericles

April 2018



GOD'S COMFORT BLANKET OF LOVE

Jesus knows how you feel when you're hurt, scared, or alone. He knows what it's like to suffer; He suffered on our behalf! And He also knows what it's like, late at night, to feel such heartache you think you'll die. On the night before He was crucified, he led His disciples to Gethsemane and told them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." And certainly he knows what it's like to feel all alone, because those same disciples--His closest friends and followers--suddenly disappeared when the bad times started. Jesus understands. And He's always with you to wrap you in His comfort blanket of love.

Barbara Johnson



APRIL SHOWERS



Ah, springtime. A season full of warm weather and outdoor adventure. Of course, before we can bask in the sunlight, we've got to storm through that April rain. We've all heard the short poem — you know, the one about April showers? The poem Sweet April showers, do Spring May flowers was found in Thomas Tusser's book, "Five Hundred Good Points of Husbandry," from the mid-1500s. But what are the facts?

As it turns out, most flowering has more to do with temperature than rainfall. In fact, record-breaking temperatures in recent years have resulted in earlier blooming seasons. So why exactly does it rain so much in April? One of the major causes is the position of the jet stream in early spring. As it moves further north, heavy rain and wind are brought in from the Atlantic.

Whether you're getting ready for sunny gardening weather, or counting down the days until you can head to the shore, enjoy some downpour downtime. After all, the "flower show" is less than a month away.



SPRING IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.

W. Earl Hall

FULL OF YEARS

There's an expression in the Bible that's always fascinated me. When referring to someone's death, it says he died "full of years." It's used to describe Abraham, Isaac, and Job. Abraham and Isaac lived two of our lifetimes. That's a lot of years.

It could also express the idea that the years of their lives were full, busy with God's packed agenda. I don't want to live 180 years, but I want to live all the years of my life doing everything I can to make sure they fulfill all God wants me to do.

Getting old is inevitable. But are you going to hobble and groan your way to the grave—or race your rickety old wheelchair downhill to your funeral? We're all going to end up the same way, but we can sure have fun getting there! I know what I want... what about you?

Max Lucado

THE GIFT WRAP AND THE JEWEL

"I looked in the mirror and what did I see, but a little old lady peering back at me
With bags and sags and wrinkles and wispy white hair, and I asked my reflection,
'How did you get there?'

You once were straight and vigorous and now you're stooped and weak,
when I tried so hard to keep you from becoming an antique.

My reflection's eyes twinkled as she solemnly replied,
'You're looking at the gift wrap and not the jewel inside.

A living gem and precious, of unimagined worth
Unique and true, the real you, the only you on Earth
The years that spoil your gift wrap with other things more cruel,
should purify and strengthen, and polish up that jewel

So focus your attention on the inside, not the out
On being kinder, wiser, more content and more devout

Then, when your gift wrap's stripped away your jewel will be set free,
to radiate God's glory throughout eternity.'"

92 year old Wanda Goines



*How, you ask,
are we to walk
the spiritual
path?*

I answer:

Say little and
love much; give
all; judge no
person; aspire
to all that is pure
and good.

White Eagle



The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you.

Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.

Frederick Buechner

Nature is God's first missionary. Where there is no Bible there are sparkling stars. Where there are not preachers there are spring times... If a person has nothing but nature, then nature is enough to reveal something about God."

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people so that you will work for justice, equality and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.

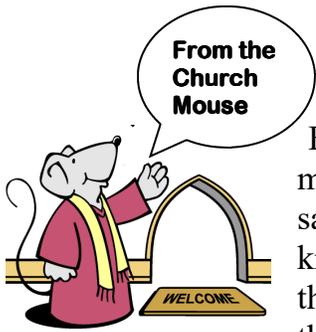
And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Author Unknown

SPRING

Who builds a church within
their hearts
And takes it with them
everywhere
Is holier far than they
whose church
Is but a one-day
house of prayer.

Morris Abel Beer



Revelations for APRIL from “Bly Mire” Mouse

HHH-EEEE-LLLLLL- OOOOOO! I would imagine that since

Easter is on April 1st and the newsletter is available the first Sunday of the month that you are reading this column sometime after Easter. So, I will simply say that Mire and I with all of our family hope that you had a blessed Easter! I know we had a great time with all our little ones so excited about the visit from their grandparents. I always hope they are excited to be able to spend time with their grandparents, but, I think most of you can identify with this - the

grandparents always bring lots of candy whenever they visit and the little ones definitely enjoy the sweets! I think that may be the true reason for their excitement. I of course always enjoy the visit! We will always sit down after the meal and before our eyelids just get too heavy to hold open and we will talk about the old days. Of course, it is usually when the little ones hear “I remember when” that they decide it is time to walk the dog (we don’t have one) or they will suddenly decide their room needs to be cleaned up. Now I should be skeptical about this one, but I always hold out hope that they truly are in cleaning up their rooms! These are typical holiday memories for me and I got to wondering.....what are some of your holiday memories? I heard Pastor Lou Ann talking about an Easter memory for herself and Jeri. They have friends that have given them a standing invitation to share all the holidays with them. Their Easter celebration takes on a neat twist though. After the big meal at noontime, everyone relaxes for a short time because the bunny helper is busy hiding eggs. Now, this is typical with most households except for one bit of information. Each egg has a name on it. And kids and adults alike must keep hunting until they find their egg! It is always fun.... Especially if you find someone else’s egg and hide it so that even the bunny helper can’t direct the person to where their egg is hidden!

There is one Easter memory I have from a few years ago. In Sunday School, Miss Jean taught the class about Resurrection eggs. She had an egg box for each student. In this egg carton, you place twelve eggs with surprises inside—something connected with Jesus’ life from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday and you have cards with the scripture passages on also. Each student was really excited about this project. I have given my little ones Resurrection Eggs each year since!

Easter traditions are so varied and definitely meaningful. But even though we may go overboard with candy and other gifts, we keep in mind the beautiful meaning of the day. Easter is our victory over death! Until Jesus died and rose from the dead, we had no hope that we would be able to do enough to break the bond of sin. Jesus did this for us. PRAISE GOD! And may we all keep this reality central in our thoughts and in our hearts! God Bless!

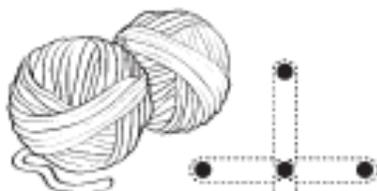
With our love!

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!



CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.



RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| $2+2 = \underline{\quad}$ united | $2 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$ death | $7+6 = \underline{\quad}$ resurrection |
| $3 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$ certainly | $18-16 = \underline{\quad}$ have | $4-1 = \underline{\quad}$ been |
| $0+1 = \underline{\quad}$ if | $2 \times 4 = \underline{\quad}$ we | $13-1 = \underline{\quad}$ him |
| $2+3 = \underline{\quad}$ in | $20-6 = \underline{\quad}$ like | $2+5 = \underline{\quad}$ his |
| $2 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$ be | $8+3 = \underline{\quad}$ with | |

"For 1 we 2 3 4
with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,
8 will 9 also 10 united
11 12 in a 13
14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV