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From the Pastor's Desk



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

How are you holding up in light of the furor around Covid19? It has been interesting to encounter the panic to get supplies and all the press intensely asking about the availability of tests to check for Covid19. I don't mean to make light of this situation because certainly there is a lot to be concerned about for elderly people who have underlying health issues and for anyone whose immunity is compromised. Otherwise, the majority of people will be fine.... IF we follow the suggestion to WASH HANDS for 20 seconds and, allow SPACE whenever we are around people. Of course, what we have heard about people fighting over toilet paper, etc., people are not keeping 6 feet apart. But, I cannot emphasize enough that we all need to keep calm and use common sense throughout this time. We do know that this too shall pass! We may face some difficult times over the next weeks and months, but we will get through this!!! One thing I will ask is that you join me in thinking about the people who have a difficult time getting around! Pick up your phone and call neighbors and friends and ask them if there is something you can do for them. Maybe make extra food some time and take it to an elderly neighbor. **(This is added after my initial writing....we already have a volunteer to do errands for anyone who is leery about being out in public. IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP IN GETTING GROCERIES OR OTHER ITEMS, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL ARRANGE FOR HELPERS!!!!)**

I heard something on the news that an elderly couple was sitting in their car in a store parking lot for some time. They finally put the window down and asked a woman if she would be willing to get their groceries for them and they gave her the money to do this. Let's not make our elderly friends and neighbors do this. Let us show the love of Christ and initiate contact to offer our time and energy to helping others. We have seen enough of the self-centeredness flare because of the desire to hoard hand sanitizer, toilet paper, soup, canned goods, non-perishable items, etc. Let us try to be the community people that God desires us to be!

And, since it is spring (as of March 19th, near midnight), there will be outside chores that should or could be done. With our students being out of school, it would be a good time to teach them to care about others. With so much time on their hands, let's lead them in reaching out to do good for others. We could offer to clean up flower beds.



We could offer to wash their windows. We could sweep their walks and rake their lawns to clean up what Mother Nature has deposited on their lawns. Let us look beyond ourselves and ask what we can do for others!

As I think about the Passion Story that will be central to our worship experiences in just a few days, I would say that looking beyond self is definitely what Jesus showed us in the last days of his earthly life. I repeatedly say that when Jesus knelt in prayer in the garden, and he said "Let this cup pass me by," he could have easily given in to his human nature and walked away saying.... "I have had enough! I can't go on!" But, we give praise to God that Jesus' divinity overpowered the human in him and he followed through, giving his life for us all!

Our hope is that the divine in each one of us will overpower the human side throughout this pandemic and we will put others first and do all that we can to help others make it through! We need to put self in our back pockets and share in taking care of others who may be more impacted than we are. Let us SERVE as God needs us to serve..... especially now!

God Bless us ALL! HAPPY EASTER!!!

With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in APRIL

April 5 - Palm Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: "Your King is Coming to You"

April 9 - Maundy Thursday—7:00 PM

Gospel: John 13:1-17. 31-35

Sermon: "A New Old Commandment"

April 12 - Easter Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon: "He Is Not Here"

April 19 - Easter 2

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Life in His Name"

April 26 - Easter 3

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: "Their Eyes Were Opened"

We hope that we will be able to hold and participate in the services and other activities listed in this newsletter. However as the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread, we may have to cancel or postpone many of them. If you have any questions, please call the church office. As of the printing of this newsletter, Wanda will be in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Pastor Lou Ann will be in Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Please also remember that even if we don't have worship services or other events, the church still has bills to be paid. You may drop your offerings off during the above times or mail them to us. Thank you very much and stay healthy.

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for APRIL

GREETERS:

April 5 - Nancy Taylor
April 12 - Mike & Roberta Wills
April 19 - Joyce Horning
April 26 - Linda Eichelberger

GIFT COLLECTORS:

April 5 - To be announced
April 12 - To be announced
April 19 - To be announced
April 26 - To be announced

LAY READERS:

April 5 - Barb Adams
April 12 - Mike Wills
April 19 - Nelson Leader
April 26 - Ginny Weber

ACOLYTES:

April 5 - Curt & Ginny Weber
April 12 - Janie Montgomery
April 19 - Ed & Barb Adams
April 26 - Joan Mickey

ANNOUCEMENTS:

April 5 - To be announced
April 12 - To be announced
April 19 - To be announced
April 26 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

April 5 - Terry Doll
April 12 - Ed Adams
April 19 - Eli Matthews
April 26 - Greg Ness

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

April 5 - Joel Frey
April 12 - Greg Ness
April 19 - To be announced
April 26 - Sterling Boyd

CAMERA OPERATORS:

April 5 - Greg Ness
April 12 - John Sterling
April 19 - Greg Ness
April 26 - To be announced

VIDEO OPERATORS:

April 5 - Jessica Keller
April 12 - Jeri Jones
April 19 - To be announced
April 26 - 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
13. Joan Mickey
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 - 29 years
April 10 - Nelson and Marti Leader - 55 years
April 18 - Peter and Donna Busch - 5 years
April 22 - Jeri and Lou Ann Jones - 31 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2020	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,741.85	\$12,109.48	\$0.35	\$269.82	\$812.70	\$1,291.80
February	\$14,597.12	\$13,351.53	\$1.68	\$274.10	\$1,142.27	\$0.00
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$24,338.97	\$25,461.01	\$2.03	\$543.92	\$1,954.97	\$1,291.80

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ March 1, 2020

\$3127.46

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ March 1, 2020
(Includes \$53,501.38 Endowment)

\$73,743.23

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ March 1, 2020
(Includes \$828,822.00 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$835,503.96

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2020

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 437.35
January			\$ 69.87	\$ 507.32
February	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 86.47	\$ 568.79
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 156.27	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
The Haven at Springwood
2321 Freedom Way
York, PA 17402

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



Linda Trone
Room 700
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Burl Gingerich
Nancy Taylor
Linda King
Friends battling cancer



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

A1C Ness, Brandon
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756

MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, April 14, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

SISTERS OF SERVICE

Sisters of Service (SOS) will be holding their next meeting on Monday, April 20, at 6:30 PM. All women are invited to join us.



On Friday, April 17, we invite you to join us as Brenda Miller leads us on another exciting trip through Lancaster County. Brenda has discovered many unusual shops and wants to share them with us. If you would like to come, please meet us in the church parking lot at 8:00AM.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesdays, April 14 and 28, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. And . . . just like the Book Club in Mary Ann Shaffer's novel, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, we are each reading our own book choices and discussing them with the group. New members are always welcome.



On Sunday, April 26, from 1:00-4:00PM Diana Myers will be teaching how to make cards by using different techniques. We will be stamping, using die cuts, embossing, stencils, etc. Diana will have several die cut machines available for us to use.

The cost is \$10.00, which will include all materials to make seven cards. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Gathering Room. Any questions, call Diana at (717) 741-1840.



FAITH KIDZ will be meeting on Wednesdays, April 15 and April 29, from 6:30-7:30PM.

St. John's Blymire's U.C.C. Shirt Fund Raiser

We have not had a shirt Fund raiser project for a number of years. We had an offer of support for this project that will ensure a good profit for our church funds. The emblem is embroidered on the shirts, not screen printed.

Orders are due back to us by April 30.

We will offer White (as in the picture) and Light Blue colors in all sizes listed.

The sizes we offer are: Men's: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL.

Tall Men's: ST, MT, LT, XLT, 2XLT, 3XLT, 4XLT.

Ladies: AS, AM, AL, AXL, A2XL, A3XL, A4XL.

Youth sizes: YS, YM, YL, YXL.

PRICES: \$25.00 per shirt for S, M, L, or XL. sizes (Two for \$45.00) (Three for \$65.00) (Four for \$80.00) and can be in a combination of colors and sizes. There is a surcharge per shirt for the larger sizes! For a 2XL SHIRT, you would add \$2.00 per shirt; 3XL you would add \$4.00 per shirt; and for 4XL you would add \$5.00 per shirt.

Note: If you order three shirts.... One Men's 3XL, one ladies AXL and one Youth L, the price would be \$65.00 + \$4.00 for the surcharge on the Men's shirt. If you order Two Tall Men's 2XLT and one Ladies' L, the cost would be \$65.00 + \$8.00 for the surcharge on 2 of the Tall Men's size.

We hope you will contact anyone who may be interested in having a nice shirt signifying our church and the U.C.C. emblem. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lou Ann.



NAME & phone	COLOR:	SIZE:	Is there a SURCHARGE?
John Doe 717-222-2323	blue	A2XL	\$2.00

Total number of shirts: _____

Price: _____

Surcharges total: _____

Total of purchase: _____

Name and address: _____

THANK YOU for your support of our fund raiser

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

April 2020



Easter Project

We would like to thank everyone who gave donations for our extra Easter holiday food bags. They will be given out on March 28 and April 4.

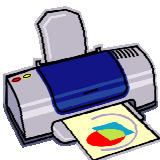
Changes Due to Coronavirus

In order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus we have temporarily closed our Clothing and Household room. Therefore, at this time we are not accepting any of this type of donation.

We are still accepting donations of food, cleaning products and toiletries. We are giving them out by having the clients come to the parking lot door rather than inside St. Paul's. Donations of food and other products may be dropped off at Blymire's church any weekday morning from 8:00-11:00 AM. Thank you for helping your neighbors in this time of need.

Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box above the coat rack in the hallway. 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."



Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Assorted beverages
Canned mixed vegetables
Chicken helper/canned chicken
Pancake mix/syrup
Canned pasta
Canned spam
Cereal
Peanut butter/jelly
Scalloped potatoes
Assorted boxed macaroni/pasta

E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal/Oatmeal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Pancake Mix
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Soap
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Children's books/toys
Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items



THANKS FOR CARING!



April 2020

Science has never drummed
up quite as effective a
tranquilizing agent as
a sunny, spring day.
W. Earl Hall

"Spring is when you feel
like whistling even with
a shoe full of slush."
Doug Larson



THE BROKEN WING

"He will cover you with his feather and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart." Psalm 91:4

My friend and I were at a local wholesale nursery when I noticed a bird a few steps behind her. I called her attention to it and the next thing we knew, this bird started squawking, then limping in a circle. We thought it was bizarre, so we did some investigating and soon found a nest full of eggs nearby. I was worried something might be legitimately wrong with the mama bird, but a little Google searching explained what was really happening. This type of plover fakes a broken wing and squawks to draw attention away from the nest. Predators (as she incorrectly identified us) are then sidetracked by the display, thinking the mother bird is easy prey. The image brought an entirely new dimension to what it means to take refuge under the Father's wings. Because not only does God protect us from danger, but he loves us so fiercely he puts himself in our place—directly in line of the predator, as Jesus does in the most ultimate way. What a beautiful depiction of a parent's love, and the safety we have, even as vulnerable hatchlings, under His wings.

Ashley Clark

Father, thank you for sheltering us under your wings. Thank you for your faithful covering, which is a refuge for us. In times of trouble, when we're pressed in every direction, may we run back into "the nest" and rest in the shelter of the Almighty.



A teacher brought balloons to school and asked the children to blow them all up and then each write their names on their balloon.

They tossed all the balloons into the hall while the teacher mixed them from one end to the other.

The teacher then gave them 5 minutes to find the balloon with her name on it.

The children ran around, looking frantically but as the time ran out - nobody had found their own balloon... Then the teacher told them to take the balloon closest to them and give it to the person who's name was on it. In less than 2 minutes everyone had their own balloon.

Finally the teacher said,

"Balloons are like happiness. No one will find it looking for theirs only. Instead if everyone cares about each others they will find theirs as quickly as possible."

"Life is amazing. And then it's awful.
And then it's amazing again. And in
between the amazing and awful it's ordinary
and mundane and routine. Breathe in the
amazing, hold on through the awful, and
relax and exhale during the ordinary.
That's just living heartbreaking, soul-healing,
amazing, awful, ordinary life. And it's
breathtakingly beautiful."

L.R. Knost

**CELEBRATE
SPRING!**



"Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day."

Henri Nouwen

GO PALMS UP

I love Palm Sunday. It's the one time of year we get to bring trees into church and wave them around like lightsabers. You don't have to meet a certain standard to participate. There are no bad palm wavers. Every year when Palm Sunday rolls around, I get my branch and get ready to go palms up as we recite the story of when Jesus rode into Jerusalem to launch what we now call Holy Week. And every year as I wave my branch, it gets me thinking about what it would look like to go palms up the rest of the year. I don't mean we should carry trees around with us wherever we go; I mean we could be palms up with our hands.

Here's what I mean:

Did you know it's almost impossible to be defensive when we sit with our palms facing upward? Try it? The position of our bodies and the position of our hearts are connected, so it's hard to be angry while sitting in a posture of welcome. What if you went palms up every day of the year? Instead of arguing with people or getting defensive, what if you made a habit of keeping a posture of welcome? Try it. It'll change you!

Bob Goff

HOW WIDE IS GOD'S LOVE? "For God so loved the world."

As boldly as the center beam of the cross proclaims God's holiness, the crossbeam declares his love. And, oh, how wide his love reaches.

Aren't you glad the verse does not read:
"For God so loved the rich..."?
Or, "For God so loved the famous..."?
Or, "For God so loved the thin..."?

It doesn't. Nor does it state, "For God so loved the Europeans or Africans..." "the sober or successful..." "the young or the old..."

No, when we read John 3:16, we simply (and happily) read, "For God so loved the world."
How wide is God's love?
Wide enough for the whole world!

Max Lucado

Prayer during times of a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically
Wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

Incredible

"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



If you can make just one person smile today, if only by giving them one of yours, it just might change their entire week, which just might change their entire life.



Revelations for APRIL from “Bly Mire” Mouse

I certainly didn't think that when I wrote to you last month that things would go the way they did with Covid19!!! I couldn't believe all the news reports and postings on facebook that showed people fighting over toilet paper! Unfortunately times like these tend to bring out the worst in people. Sad...

I restate my prayers from last month...I keep in prayer all who are in need of being quarantined! I keep in prayer all who have lost loved ones due to Covid19.

And, I keep in prayer all who have become panicked and went on a buying spree!

I pray that people would have more common sense and restrain themselves! Panic in times like this does more harm than good! We will get through this!

I applaud some of the suggestions for families to help children work through the days of no school. Mire and I will be doing this with our little ones.... We will be making cards and writing notes to send to the nursing homes in our area. We will combine them in one envelope and ask the staff to distribute them to the residents who are most lonely or worried because no visitors are allowed. We are also daily making a phone call to our elderly neighbors. We ask if they need anything from the store. We are looking around to see if any of our neighbors need help with yard work, garbage cans, window washing, etc. Also, we are practicing a couple of songs that we will go to their house and stand outside the door or an open window and sing to them! That way, we keep our social distance as we are asked to do. We are trying to keep our common sense and not give in to the panic over Covid19.

I heard Pastor Lou Ann talk about keeping our regular worship services going. She was planning to do that until the other day when we were asked not to hold gatherings of more than 10 people in one area. She has come up with a compromise to still hold Sunday morning services, but instead of gathering in the sanctuary, she has invited everyone to gather in their cars in the parking lot and put their windows down. She will conduct a short service from the pavilion. Mire and the children and I will have to sneak out there early because we would like to hear the service, but don't want to get run over by the cars. Keep looking for notices when these will be offered. Look on our facebook page or call the church office.

GOD BLESS ALL during this trying and difficult time!

April's humor:

Two women dressed to the hilt in their Easter finery were making slow progress in the crowd headed for the church entrance. Finally, one of them burst out impatiently, “Now wouldn't you think that these people who do nothing but go to church Sunday after Sunday would stay home on Easter and leave room for the rest of us?”

and

Why did the cowboy get a Dachshund? Someone doggy!



told him to get a long, little

Are you discouraged by what's happening in the world today? Then watch this video which was part of Women's Sunday a few weeks ago. In minutes, you'll discover the wonders and possibilities that surround us everyday just waiting to be noticed and celebrated. Find out for yourself why former National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones is considered by thousands to be one of the most inspiring speakers on the planet. Dewitt Jones is one of America's top professional photographers. 20 years with National Geographic, 10 years creating national advertising campaigns, 2 documentary films nominated for Academy Awards, 20 years speaking to audiences around the world on vision, possibility and celebration. This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community.

https://www.ted.com/talks/dewitt_jones_celebrate_what_s_right_with_the_world?language=en

Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.



What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.












Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took , gave  and  it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my  given for you; do this in  of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This  is the new  in my  blood, which is  out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured