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From the Pastor's Keyboard



Many ask during this Lenten/Easter season: What's Next for the Church? Jesus said, *"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death; then they will hand Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day He will be raised."* – Matthew 20:18-19

Where We Have Been?

As my friend and colleague Rev. Ron Oelrich of Faith UCC in York recently shared with his congregation (and which is relevant and pertinent for us here at St John's Blymire's UCC as well): "Anyone who has been part of the church for ten years or more will readily see that we are not who we once were. Many of us remember the days of full churches, lots of children in Sunday School, and the church having a major role in the community. If you remember those days, it can be disheartening to look at where we are now. We can become lost in our grief, wanting to return to the 'bygone days.' It has been said by wiser sages than myself, that 'you can't go back...you can only go forward.' And so [it is important and necessary for us] to remember and to celebrate 'where we have been.' We have impacted many lives, and many of us were part of the life of the church in those former days! We are truly blessed with this firm foundation of faith!"

"We also want to ask: **'Where are we now?'** Other wise sages have quipped that 'the present is a gift.' I believe this present moment is a gift for our church! It is a gift which we can squander if we only look back. But it is a gift which we can open and celebrate if we instead ask God how we are called to live in the present!"

Here at Blymire's Church, we have taken steps in celebrating the gift of the present as we start new ministries such as Messy Church and livestreaming and as we revitalize ministries such as Circle of Grace, FUN Team, Bible Study, vocal and bell choirs. As I have shared before, during our interim period, we are filling out a Diversity Survey, determining what we need to change or tweak about our church's Constitution and By-Laws, establishing active and affiliated church membership lists, looking for a new home for Emmanuel's Closet, continuing our caring responses to local and wider church needs, and starting a Profile Committee.

Rev. Oelrich goes on to say for all of us: "We are using the blessings we have to serve God. Yet there are even more opportunities that God is offering our church in the present moment—to breathe new life into our ministries of Worship, Outreach, Discipleship and Caring....let us give thanks for where we are today!"



Where is God leading us? Jesus' disciples must have been perplexed when Jesus told them (in the Scripture passage above) that He would be condemned, crucified and on the third day rise. Most likely they wanted Jesus to lead Israel to the "bygone days" when they were a great nation! Jesus, however, wanted to lead them to a new life!

I love the different Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection narratives that we have in the gospels that we listen to this time of year. Each gospel writer speaks from their own perspective and time period and to their own audience. One of my favorite Resurrection Appearances story is from Luke 24:13-35. I invite you to re-read that story. It's about two followers of Jesus who were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. This is an encounter between Jesus and these two disciples who loved Jesus deeply, but who had reluctantly given up on ever seeing Him again. As they talk with Jesus (not initially knowing who He was) on the road, they convince Jesus to stay with them. When Jesus broke bread in their presence, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. Then, just as quickly, Jesus vanishes out of their sight. They realized that their hearts were "burning" when Jesus opened the scriptures to them and revealed Himself to them. And they returned to Jerusalem to report to the disciples and their companions what they had experienced.

How is Jesus burning within our hearts today? How are we recognizing His presence? What is the new life that Jesus is inviting us to embrace as a church? The story of Jesus' Emmaus appearance tells us that Jesus is available to any and all honest seekers who open their hearts to a living relationship with Jesus Christ. At the end of the day, it's not about the number of people who know us, but how deeply we know and are known by our Lord.

Those who are faithful in worship attendance and those of you who come when you can: Do join us on Palm Sunday and Easter and after Easter as we celebrate who we have been, give thanks for who we are, open our hearts once again to the risen Jesus, and embrace God's vision of where God is leading us!

I hope to see you around this month of April. Embracing God's Vision with You,
Pastor Rick

April Humor

A young preacher was flattered when someone described him as a "model preacher" after the Easter service.

His pride, however, soon vanished when he turned to his dictionary and found the definition of Model: "A small imitation of the real thing."

He was a bit more cautious the next Sunday when he preached. On being described as a "warm" preacher, he turned to Google on his phone for the definition of Warm. It read: "Warm... No so hot."

The pastor visited the youth group one Easter Sunday evening. Volunteers were called on to pray. A little girl volunteered to pray for her pastor. Her prayer: "Be with our pastor and help him to preach a better sermon next Sunday."

Both passages come from: Phillips, Bob, The World's Greatest Collection of Heavenly Humor, Harvest House Publishers, 1982.



We would like to continue the tradition of wearing special hats on Easter, so we invite you to wear yours on Easter Sunday.

Also, if you have any flowers blooming in your yards or gardens, we ask you to bring some with you to decorate the cross. Let's brighten up the church with lots of color this Easter.



MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES-APRIL 2023

APRIL 2 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT– PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Message: “Places that have a memory”

Theme: As he approached the Mount of Olives, did Jesus see the faces of King

David, the prophet Zechariah, and all of humanity waiting for salvation? During

Sunday School: Prayer Mosaic

APRIL 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE—7:00 PM

Traditional Service around tables in the Gathering Room, Our Journey to the Cross

Message: “Our Betrayal, Too” Holy Communion celebrated

APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Message: “Fear Not? Really?”

Theme: Easter reminds us that we can live without fear, but that’s easier said than done. We can if we trust Jesus to overcome anything that can hurt or destroy us.

No Sunday School

APRIL 16 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - ORTHODOX EASTER

Scriptures: John 20:19-31, 1 Peter 1:3-9

Message: “Encouraged anyone today?”

Theme: Sometimes a word of encouragement is all that stands between us and giving up. It is something we can all do; it’s the right and Christian thing to do.

Sunday School: Peggie Free

APRIL 23- THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER-UCC BREAK THE SILENCE SUNDAY

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Guest Preacher:

The Emmaus Road experience – then and now

Sunday School: Jeri Jones

APRIL 30 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - UCC PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Message: “Church: A Team or a Body?”

Theme: From the start, Christians have committed themselves to the church community, where prejudices and barriers are removed, even when challenging.

Sunday School: Peggie Free

REMINDER OF THE QUESTIONS WE ASK DURING OUR INTERIM PERIOD:

Who are we as St. John’s Blymire’s United Church of Christ?

Who are our neighbors?

Who is God calling us to become as we journey into God’s future?

What is our unique niche here in Dallastown?

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. Gene Wise
Debra Forbes
26. Marcia Ness
27. Fran Doll
Brandon Ness
28. Tessa Myers

CELEBRATING APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 6 - Fred and Brenda Kerchner - 32 years
April 10 - Nelson and Marti Leader - 58 years
April 18 - Peter and Donna Busch - 8 years
April 22 - Jeri and Lou Ann Jones - 34 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2023	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,823.00	\$9,149.59	\$0.30	\$612.18	\$738.24	\$200.00
February	\$7,242.25	\$9,309.43	\$0.22	\$338.98	\$0.12	\$375.34
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$18,065.25	\$18,459.02	\$0.52	\$951.16	\$738.36	\$575.34

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ March 1, 2023

\$14,567.24

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ March 1, 2023
(Includes \$55,169.25 Endowment)

\$57,684.43

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ March 1, 2023
(Includes \$798,180.71 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$798,375.55

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2023

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 806.82
January	3	\$576.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 381.82
February	1	\$150.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 311.82
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	4	\$726.00	\$ 231.00	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

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



Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Jeanette Black
Cindie McKinsey
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients

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

Carolyn Innerst
Room 123
Senior Commons@Powder
Mill
1775 Powder Mill Road
York, PA 17403



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

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

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 28, 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 30.** We will include a paragraph about you and your future plans in the June edition of "*Bly Lines*". On Sunday, May 28, your name will be listed in the bulletin and Pastor Rick will have a small presentation to make to you.

NAME _____

PARENTS NAMES _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

DATE OF GRADUATION _____

DEGREE EARNED _____

AWARDS/ACTIVITIES _____

FUTURE PLANS _____



MEN'S GROUP



Our Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 7:00 PM. Michael Shanabrook, EMA Director for the City of York will be our guest and will present a program about his occupation and the City. Anyone wanting to have supper at Parma in Dallastown are asked to meet there at 5:45 PM.



Our first chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, April 8, 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 office 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.



"Pull Up a Chair and Be Our Guest"

The FUN Team is once again sponsoring a ladies luncheon and program called "Pull Up a Chair and Be Our Guest." The event will be held on Saturday, April 15, from 11:30 AM-3:00 PM.

Registration will begin at 11:30, with lunch at noon. The menu will consist of comfort food, including chicken and waffles. After lunch we will move to the sanctuary for our program on Christian hospitality, featuring Cindy Innerst-Axe as our speaker. The cost is \$15.00 per person, which includes lunch, gift bags, and door prizes. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room. Deadline to register is Sunday, April 2.

Feel free to invite a friend and join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. See Marti Leader or Diana Myers if you have any questions.

MESSY CHURCH



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 first Messy Church gathering has been scheduled for Friday, April 28, from 6:00-7:45 PM. April's theme will be "Springtime Celebration" a celebration of springtime, Easter, and Mother's Day. Supper will be included at no cost.

A Matter of Balance

The York Area Agency on Aging will once again be offering a class 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 last spring. The program is FREE for those 60+ years old. It will run for 4 weeks on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-3:00PM May 2-May 30 (no class May 16 because of Election Day). See the flyer in the March newsletter or on the table in the Gathering Room for more information. To register, please call Megan at (717) 855-0437. This class is open to the public and space is limited, so call early to reserve a spot!

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.

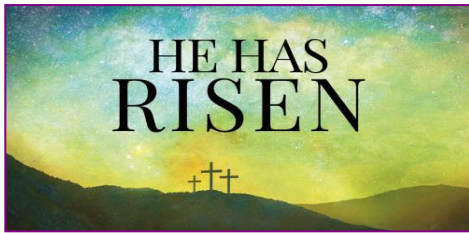
We will meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our next meeting will be April 12.



CHAIR YOGA

Looking for some gentle, easy exercise? Come check out our Chair Yoga classes! These classes are especially good for beginners. No equipment is necessary. Yoga is one of the most highly recommended forms of exercise for seniors! You can come occasionally, once a week, or twice a week. Just come and give it a try! It's easy! Men, this is not for women only!

Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-11 AM here at the church. There is a \$10 fee for each class. Hope to see you there!



Our lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

Martin Luther



THE UNIVERSE IS FULL OF MAGICAL THINGS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR OUR WITS TO GROW SHARPER.

Eden Phillpotts

Yes, the universe is full of magical things. And when we think of "universe," we don't have to think of the stars and the vast darkness of the galaxies that surround ours in space. The universe is right here, right now--simply all around us. Unfortunately, though, we seem to be bound and determined to miss all of the beauty and magic that surrounds us all the time. Our wits have become dull through our years of passively receiving, of looking in the places that others tell us we should look rather than in the places that our hearts tell us we need to look.

I read a passage once about a boy who found a quarter on the sidewalk. He had almost walked right past it, but it caught the sun just right and its gleam caught his attention. All of a sudden he realized that there might be treasures on the ground that he never would see if he didn't look, so he determined right then and there that he never would miss another potential treasure, and he kept his eyes on the ground from that moment on.

Over the next few decades, he found literally hundreds of dollars that other people walked right by. One day, though, he looked up, and saw the most beautiful sight he ever had seen--a rainbow that filled the eastern sky. It held him spellbound until it disappeared, and he wondered why he never had seen such a thing before. The answer, of course, was painful to him--he had sacrificed the experience of such beauty for the possibility of finding a few more cents here and there. For years he had missed sunsets, smiles, rainbows, clouds, trees, and so much more, because he had been focused on the ground.

His senses had dulled because he put so much importance on just one thing: money. Other people do the same thing with their work, their hobbies, their obsessions (with sports teams, for example), their possessions, or any of many other possible distractions. But if we can keep ourselves aware, and if we can, on a consistent basis, keep our focus on the beautiful things that this world is offering us, our ability to see the little things will grow sharper, and we can learn to see and to recognize all of those things that can make life so meaningful.

The possibility of a few coins on the ground cannot match the glory of a sunset or the special moment of a shared smile.

Tom Walsh

LEAVE YOUR LIST AT THE CROSS

God not only wants the mistakes we've made, he wants the ones we're making. Are you drinking too much? Are you cheating at work or cheating at marriage? Mismanaging your life? Don't pretend nothing's wrong. The first step after a stumble must be in the direction of the cross. 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away."

So start with your bad moments. And while you're there, give God your mad moments. There's a story about a man bitten by a dog, and when he learned the dog had rabies he began a list. The doctor said, "There's no need for you to make a will—you'll be fine." "Oh I'm not making a will," he said. "I'm making a list of all the people I want to bite." God wants that list. He wants you to leave it at the cross.

Max Lucado

Darkness fell. His friends scattered. Hope seemed lost. But Heaven just started counting to three. No tomb could contain what Love was about to release.

Bob Goff

He felt the sand of a dusty road, the growl of a hungry stomach, and the soft fibers of a warm blanket. He heard the phrase, "I love you son," as his mom embraced his shoulders. He tasted the soft bread as he conversed with good friends. Tears wet his cheeks when his friends lost their brother. And he felt the sting of rejection from people who hated him.

Jesus. Fully human.

All the feelings, all the emotions –
Jesus experienced them.

This is the part of the Christian story that is mind-boggling to me. God could have just **told** us His message, but instead, he **showed** us. God sent his son to walk in our world with us. Jesus showed us how to love big, live fully, find real joy and commune intimately with God.

And then he did so much more...

Cheryl Donely



Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.

Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Imagine a machine that uses solar energy to remove carbon from the air and turns it into a beautiful, strong and sustainable building material.

Oh, wait... That's what trees are!

It's almost here, it's safe to say
I saw a crocus yesterday.
It's colors bright, a lovely thing,
My heart rejoiced.
Twill soon be spring!



Look at your life thru the lens of a child,
such wonder, such trust, such joy in
the unwrapping of the day. Put your
hand in Mine and skip along with Me,
unrestrained by grown up versions
of what this day might hold.
I hold the day and I hold your hand.
See Matthew 18:3

Pamela Steinke

GUARD DOG

Rev John E Troncale

My very first assignment as a minister was to an inner-city parish in New Jersey. There was drug-dealing and violent crime within sight of our home, and rough characters knocked on our door at all hours.

Not long after we arrived, I had to attend a weeklong church conference out of town. I dreaded leaving my wife and children alone in our new neighborhood. "God", I prayed, "take care of them."

My first spare moment at the conference, I called home to make sure all was well. My wife assured me that everything was ok and that no one had bothered them. "But there is one thing," she said, "You had barely gotten out the door when a huge black Labrador retriever ambled up to our front porch and lay down. Now he won't leave." "Don't feed him or touch him." I said. "He's probably one of our neighbor's. He'll go back where he

belongs soon enough."

The next day, the dog still hadn't left the front porch. "He never bothers us, but he won't let anyone else come to the door," my wife said. "Not even the mailman!"

At the end of the conference, I came home to find the big black dog still sitting on our porch. He stood up when I opened the car door, his eyes on my every move. Once I reached the steps, I said tentatively, "Hey, boy, I've got to get into the house to be with my family." With that, he stepped aside.

After hugging my wife and kids, I asked what we should do about the dog. "I don't know," she said. "I have to admit, I felt completely safe knowing he was out there keeping watch." We both looked to the porch. The dog was gone. I went outside and walked around the block, checking all the porches. No sign of the big retriever! It was as if he had vanished off the face of the earth. Perhaps, he had!

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. She had bags and sags and wrinkles and 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.

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, 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



Revelations for April from “Bly Mire” Mouse

We have said this before. But we just love it when we see you scampering about like us mice. We love to see and hear all of your activities and to overhear your conversations. There's so much going on – from Wanda coming in each week day, the counters coming in each week, chair yoga classes, card and game club, Bible study, book club, Circle of Grace, men's group, choir and bell rehearsals, people working in the back rooms, people working in the sound room setting up the new livestreaming, and you hosting one of the UCC Cluster Lenten luncheons and worships. We see that your PRT, Trustees, and CMT meetings are resuming. It's good that we're “people mice” since we are running into all of you so often! lol

We'd like to share with you in a little different way this month. We have been asking ourselves what Good Friday and Easter mean – things that we've overheard you folks talk about. We heard two messages that have helped us understand those days better. And we thought we'd pass them on to you, hoping that these messages will help you understand these days better, too.

The first message starts with Colossians 2:14 (TEV) *“He cancelled the unfavorable record of our debts...and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.”*

Let's talk about hats. Can you think of all the kinds of hats that you've seen in the last month? Bus driver. Pilot. Skier. Nurse. Baseball player. Beach goer. Cook. Gardener. Railroad engineer. Police officer. Sailor. Often the hats people wear serve a purpose. The hat may keep a person warm, shade a person from the sun, keep one's hair from blowing around, or is worn just for fun. A hat may be a symbol of the work a person does. Sometimes we can identify a person's occupation by noticing what type of hat that person is wearing.

As Christians, we have a symbol that we think about, especially during the Easter season. Do you know what it is? The cross. Jesus Christ died on a cross many years ago and because He was God's Son, three days later He was restored to life. Because of His sacrifice, all of us are offered the gift of eternal life. For a person who has faith in Christ, the cross is a symbol of hope. The cross reminds us of the work that Jesus did while He was on the earth. It also reminds us of His continuing work, which is accomplished through us when we accept His love. Since Jesus Christ is identified with the cross, some people wear a cross around their neck to identify themselves as Christians. We've heard that often there will be a cross on the roofs of churches and inside churches, such as ours here at Blymire's UCC. We have learned that the cross identifies the church as a place to worship and to learn about Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that *“He cancelled the unfavorable record of our debts....and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.”* Wow, now Good Friday makes more sense to us! (1)

Let's also talk about caterpillars. Yes, we mice sometimes make caterpillars our friends – those fuzzy crawlers that wiggle and squirm on trees and on the ground. Last fall we saw through the glass door one what was on the church parking lot. A big, fat, wiggly caterpillar. He was green and yellow. He had fuzzy little hairs all over his body, and a big horn on the front of his head. We called the little ones over to see this large caterpillar. He must have been eating for days to be so fat! Do you know what happened? A couple of days later we looked through the glass to check on the caterpillar, and he wasn't there – at least we didn't think he was. But over by a tree on the edge of the driveway, we looked at something new – a cocoon! This cocoon is a house that the caterpillar lies in during the winter. It protects him from the rain and cold. Any day now the cocoon is going to open. And do you know what will come out of the cocoon. No, not a caterpillar – a butterfly! Every butterfly that you see fluttering in the air from flower to flower – the yellow ones, the black ones, the orange ones – all of them used to be caterpillars in a cocoon.

Easter Sunday, a very special day, is coming soon. That day reminds us that Jesus came alive out of the grave. After Jesus died on the cross, they put His body in a cave and rolled a stone in front of it. It was like the caterpillar wrapped in a cocoon. But the cave could not hold Him, just like the cocoon cannot hold the caterpillar. On the first Easter, Jesus came out of the cave alive, just like a butterfly will soon come out of the cocoon that we see through the glass door. And Jesus had a new body, just like the caterpillar gets a new body. Easter tells us that Jesus came alive, and we will come alive, too, if we believe in Him.

We look forward to celebrating (in our tiny mice ways) Easter with you. Will you pray with us: *Gracious and loving God, thank You for Easter. How glad we are that Jesus came alive on Easter Sunday. And thank You, God, that we too have life eternal because we believe in Him. Amen.* (2)

Love,

Bly and Mire and our precious little ones



- (1) Edstrom, Lois, Contemporary Object Lessons for Children's Church, Baker Book House Company, 1985
- (2) Trull, Joe E., 40 Object Sermons for Children, Baker Book House Company, 1978

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!



a seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger

 seeds are planted in this

 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____
come up and a _____ causes

_____ to _____, so the
Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring