

# St. John's United Church of Christ

## *The VOICE*

April 2015

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE by Pastor Tony

#### ON EASTER

Easter approaches earlier than normal; however, the promise of resurrection victory is not normal. The early arrival of the resurrection celebration empowers an Easter people to proclaim the Good News that "He lives." During this holiday as we engage with friends and family, often part of us is drawn to the deeper aspects of what the Easter story is about. However, as much as we'd like to connect more deeply with this sacred observance, life challenges seek to destroy the appreciation of Christ's resurrection. Frequently we fail to look at it through a victorious lens because we hear the passion story and become repelled by the terrible suffering of Jesus. The idea to embrace or recall our own religious shortcomings is too much to bear for some.

Perhaps this Easter we need better vision; we need to remove the cataract from our eyes to see what God is doing. Maybe we need a turning point--an early resurrection story. Life around us is changing, and perhaps it's time for us to embrace change while continuing to hold on to our God who isn't threatened by life changes or failures.

It's time to revisit our early religious upbringing, to look more profoundly at how the years "change." Maybe history and change were trying to teach us something more about life. Perhaps their approach was harsh and unhelpful at times, but perhaps in hindsight we can see that like us, they were attempting to extract greater meaning from life, because like us, they knew that greater meaning in living. As we reflect on this, perhaps it's time to forgive some individuals, some churches, some failures, and even ourselves. When we hold "their memory" in the light of the resurrection and allow all that was unresolved to dissolve in the beauty of what ultimately they were trying to achieve. In this moment perhaps we can find it in our hearts to ask what lesson was learned and then maybe peace and gratitude may help find resolution.

When our thoughts deepen, perhaps it's time to turn our attention to the risen Jesus - not simply as a man at the center of the dramatic Easter story - but as a great being of light, who not only changed those He came into contact with, but countless millions across the entire world. His very light still shines today throughout the universe, teaching us the power of wisdom, forgiveness, goodness, and truth. And it is good to celebrate the risen Jesus for being willing to submit to dying on the cross, and all He asks is that we remember that this was not the end of His story.

The Easter story shows us how to walk through life with grace, strength and clarity. When we ask, He will walk with us, protect us, and provide a healing hand. But He cannot make our journey for us.

The resurrection story invites us to live in the magnificence of God's presence, a presence we often fear. As Nelson Mandela rightly pointed out: it is our light not our darkness we fear.

This Easter you are being invited to deepen your acquaintance with Jesus. He holds His healing hand out to you in this moment, offering you the gifts of greater illumination, a much richer experience of life, and a greater love. As you make deeper contact with Him and with your own I AM presence within, may this Easter be like no other.

# APRIL WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, April 5, 2015  
 Easter Sunday  
 Acts 10:34-43  
 Psalm 118:1-2 14-24  
 I Corinthians 15:1-11  
 John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 12, 2015  
 Second Sunday of Easter  
 Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1-2:2  
 John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19, 2015  
 Third Sunday of Easter  
 Acts 3:12-19  
 Psalm 4  
 I John 3:1-7  
 Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 26, 2015  
 Fourth Sunday of Easter  
 Acts 4:5-12  
 Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16-24  
 John 10: 11-18



## Holy Week Schedule

**MAUNDY THURSDAY,**

**APRIL 2, 2015**

**Light Supper – 6:00 PM**  
**Followed by Worship Service**  
**Communion - Intinction**  
**Sermon: How Can I Repay You O God?**

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015**  
**Community Service – 7:00 PM**  
**Sermon: My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?**

**EASTER, APRIL 5, 2015**  
**SUNRISE SERVICE – 6:30 AM**  
**Cedar Hill Cemetery**  
**Light Continental Breakfast following Sunrise Service in the Social Hall of St. John's.**  
**Christian Ed. Easter Program – 9:00 AM**  
**Intergenerational Holy Week Devotion Journey**  
**Worship – 10:30 AM**  
**Altar Communion**  
**Sermon: God Shows No Partiality**

# APRIL CELEBRATION

## Happy Birthday to:

6 Rev. Drew Morris	11 Ken Mohn	18 Zachary Baynard
6 Jordan Seltzer	11 Steve Zechman	20 Becky Martin
6 Aidan Zechman	12 Andrew Fegan	20 Leah Stoltz
7 Sheila Fox	13 Erika Flanick	20 Sharon Hibshman
7 Pat Ziegler	13 Josh Stoltz	20 Kayla Benfer
8 Cathy Rentschler	15 Christine Lutz	26 Rick Rudy
9 Keith Gingrich	18 Wade Tyrpin	

## Happy Anniversary to:

9 Peggy & Charles Wike	21 Kim & Jarrod Kapp
14 Linda & Mark Tyrpin	27 Linda & Mike Nace
18 Betty & Vernon Schriver	

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office. Thank you.

# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

### April Readers

April 5-	Julie Ditzler
April 12-	Marc Griffiths
April 19 -	Sharon Hibshman
April 26-	Robin Getz

### April Flowers

April 5-	Melissa Seltzer
April 12-	Scott Benfer
April 19 -	Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman
April 26-	Millie Schriver

### March Attendance

March 1-	46
March 8-	57
March 15 -	64
March 22-	55
March 29-	

### April Bulletins

April 5-	Melissa Seltzer
April 12-	OPEN
April 19 -	Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman
April 26-	Millie Schriver

### April Coffee Host

April 5-	Priscilla Rentschler
April 12-	Priscilla Rentschler
April 19 -	Ken & Violet Leibensperger
April 26-	Ken & Violet Leibensperger

### April Deacon

Mark Tyrpin

### SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flower Sponsors:  
June 14 & 28

Bulletin Sponsors:  
April 12  
June 7, 14, & 28

Coffee Hosts  
May 3, 10, 17, 27 & 31  
June 7, 14, 21 & 28

The signup sheets are in the Social Hall.



## St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

St. John's Fellowship set dates for the Spring Flea market and Bake Sale. The sale will be held Friday, April 17th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday, April 18th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

This is a good time to do a bit of Spring cleaning of closets and cupboards. Gently used items are needed. Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure!

The sale of Easter flowers for the sanctuary is underway. See the weekly bulletins for flowers and prices. Violet Leibensperger reported she sent 102 cards in 2014. Birthdays, sympathy and general cards are sent by the fellowship to church members.

It seems Thankoffering boxes are a thing of the past. We are trying to locate boxes to be distributed Easter Sunday. Last year we collected \$280.00 and it was given to the JOY Pantry in Jonestown. The Annville UCC Home is observing its 20th anniversary. A \$50.00 donation was approved for this occasion.

Due to the date of the Flea Market we have rescheduled our next meeting for Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30 PM. At that time we will set up the Social Hall and then have our regular meeting. We are very busy and need your help. Our projects are to raise money for the church. Can you help? Hope to see you at our next meeting.

### NEW HORIZONS 2015

New Horizons is an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the Lebanon Association, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ. For additional information for future programs, please call Betty Holdren (866-2013), Dolores Wolfe (867-1807), Eleanor Hollowell (865-8087), Etta Cuddelford (273-8140), Eleanor Baylor (865-4977), Ann Wagner (867-8087), or Patricia Rentschler (865-1492).

**April 25 – 2:00 PM** - Slide presentation, "Grand Canyon" by Dale & Jodi Diffenbach. Meet at Christ Church UCC, S. White Oak St., Annville. Eat at Water Works Fire Hall.

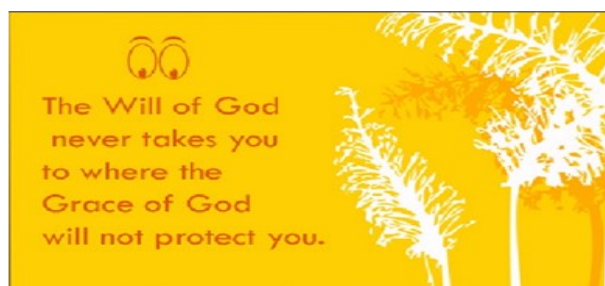
**May 23 – 2:00 PM**- Miniature Golf and games. Meet at Kauffman's Bar-B-Que, Bethel.

**June 27 – 2:00 PM** – Quilt – trunk show by Pauline Charles. Meet at Quentin UCC Church. Eat at Quentin House Restaurant.

Note—Programs are subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members whose names and phone numbers are listed at the top.

### NEW PHONE NUMBER

Gail Grimes  
717-450-5709



## MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

### April Choir Anthems and Musical Offerings

**April 2** Maundy Thursday

The Sr. Choir will sing, “Jesus, at Your Holy Table”, the words by Tom Allen and arranged by Lloyd Larson. Charlene Ziegler will provide the flute accompaniment.

**April 3** Good Friday – Community Good Friday Worship

A Community Choir with members from all the churches participating in the churches will sing, “How Beautiful”. The words and music of this song are by Twila Paris and it was arranged by Mary McDonald

**April 5** Easter Sunday

The Sr. Choir will sing “He Is Alive!”, words and music of this anthem were written by Joel Raney.

**April 12** Second Sunday of Easter

To be announced.

**April 19** Third Sunday of Easter

“Victory in Jesus” will be the choir anthem and Pam Emery and students will provide trumpet accompaniment.

**April 26** Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Hand Bells will provide our musical offering.

### Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee will meet on Monday, April 20th at 7pm. Gary Trautman will lead our devotion time.

### Thank You!

Many thanks to Kadie Walmer for leading our contemporary music during our first, “Youth on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday” worship on March 29. And of course many thanks to the youth who participated. They were: Morgan and Wyatt Hevel, Grayclin Griffiths, Mckenna Zohn, Noah Gingrich and Miles Krause, Lena Gonzalez, Regan Walmer, Jason Eberhart, Trevor Zohn, and Andrew Eberhart.



## Youth Group by Morgan Hevel

First youth group meeting on April 19th following Sunday's worship service. Seventh grade and higher children are allowed to attend! We will discuss a group name, activities, and fundraising ideas for the rest of 2015! Cookies and soda will all be

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

VBS will soon be here before you know it, so we need your help. The sign-up sheet for volunteers will be in the Social Hall. If you have any questions, feel free to call 673-4287.

Proverbs 22:6

Peace & Blessing

Jodie Fields

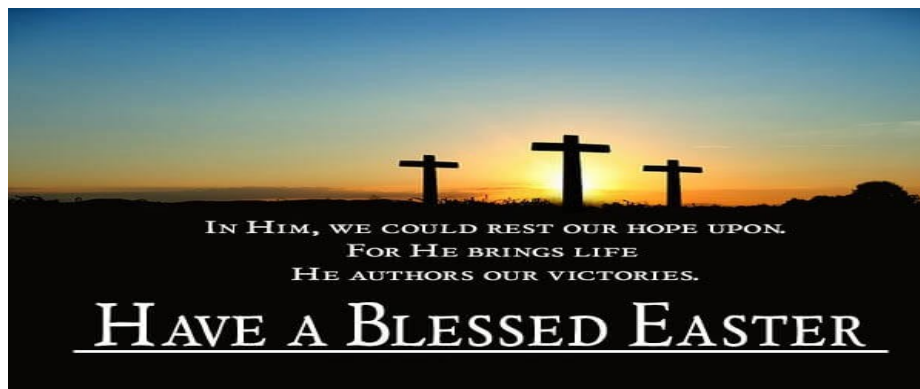
## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We are celebrating the laity of the Lebanon UCC churches! Plan to join us on Sunday, April 19, for this afternoon of celebration. We will have a tasty dinner, an energizing laity speaker and awesome prizes! Details will be forthcoming. For now . . . think Spring, mark the date, and plan to join us for this exciting event! Sponsored by the Association



## HERE'S A SPRING RIDDLE

What is it that the dogs don't like  
And we don't like them, too?  
The answer's "fleas" and, if you've got some,  
Here's what you should do.

OK. Enough of that nonsense! It's really about the Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale on April 17 and 18th. We're not sure where those items got that *itchy* name but St. John's Fellowship will be glad to take them off your hands. Drop off your donations by Thursday evening, April 16, at 6:30 and maybe stay for the fun of setting up and the meeting to follow. You may also want to contribute some baked goods that's your specialty. That, too, would be welcome. Plans include lunch available on Friday of sausage stew, hamburger bar-b-q, hot dogs (with or without sauerkraut), chips and coffee, tea, sodas, and water.



# April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  7PM Choir Practice	 2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Light Supper 6:00 PM Followed by Worship Service	 3 Good Friday Community Service 7 PM	4
5 Sunrise Service At Cedar Hill Cemetery 6:30 AM Light Continental Breakfast following service Christian Ed 9AM Worship (Communion) 10:30 AM Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	6	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	8 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  Budget & Finance Meeting 6:00 PM	10	11
12 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry	13	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  6:30 PM Fellowship Meeting	15 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  Bible Study Noon Choir Practice 7:00 PM	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  Flea Market Sorting & Drop Off Day for Flea Market Items	17 Flea Market & Bake Sale 8:00 AM-5:00 PM	18 Flea Market & Bake Sale 8:00 AM-11:00 AM
19 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Ed meeting following worship Youth Group Meeting following worship	20 Music & Worship Meeting 7:00 PM	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	22 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  Bible Study Noon Choir Practice 7:00 PM	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	24	25 Wedding 1:00 PM
26 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	28	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  Bible Study Noon Choir Practice 7:00 PM	30 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM		

## St. John's United Church of Christ

141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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E-mail [stjohnsucc@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnsuccfburg.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfburg.org)

**Every Sunday**  
**9:00am Christian Connection**  
**10:30am Morning Worship**

*St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.*

### *Church Staff*

Rev. Tony Fields, Sr. Pastor  
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist  
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director

### *Consistory*

Joe Ditzler, President  
Robert Seltzer, Vice President  
Missy Daub, Secretary  
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

### *Elders*

Walter Bolles  
Missy Daub  
Joe Ditzler  
Robin Gingrich  
Neil Grimes  
Terry Knapp

### *Deacons*

Pam Emery  
Connie Martin  
Morgan Hevel  
Bob Seltzer  
Mark Tyrpin  
Pat Ziegler