

Conyngham United Methodist Church
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conynghamumc@ptd.net
www.conynghamumc.org
April 2022

My Dear Church family and friends,

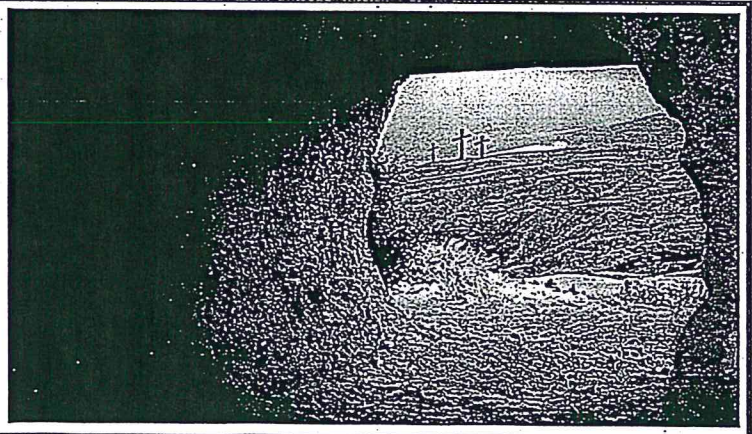
The Easter bunny gets a bad reputation as just something to sell chocolate. But bunny has been a symbol of Easter since the days of the Romans. Well, actually it was a symbol of spring, which is when Easter was celebrated, so it became a symbol for Easter. Eventually Germans began to paint and hide eggs that were "laid" by a spring rabbit. When German immigrants came to the USA in the 1700's they brought this tradition with them, which is why we have Easter egg hunts today. But this image of the bunny didn't really become big until the 1900's when stores began selling chocolate bunnies. But that doesn't mean the rabbit or bunny isn't a good symbol of Easter for today. The rabbit represents new life, life a new, a fresh start. That is because rabbits give birth in the spring, and spring is the time when all kinds of plants and animals find new life too. That's why it's such a good symbol for Easter, because Easter is about the new life of Christ.

Luke 24:1-6- On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen!

That's the whole point of Easter. Christ has risen. Jesus has new life. Death could not stop him. Suffering, pain, evil, sin, all the things that made him die on the cross; none of that could stop him. The world and sin tried to kill Christ, but in the end, they failed. Christ has risen! Because he has risen, we rise too. Because Jesus gets a new life, we get a new life too. Easter is a time to start afresh. It's a time when God gives us new life. A new life where sin, or trauma, or pain, or tiredness, or suffering, or busy-ness no longer have to weigh us down. A new life where we are being freed from all of these things to have a constant communion and healthy relationship with God and others. A new life that lasts eternal.

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That is what Easter is all about, new life with God, in which we are being freed from sin and the burdens of this life. That's why the Easter bunny is actually a pretty decent symbol for Easter, because it represents new life. So, this Easter, I want to invite you to remember new life whenever you see an Easter bunny. I think too much this old symbol has become about chocolate, or sale, or something silly just for kids. But this Easter, I want you to let the bunny serve its original purpose, to remind you of the new life you have in God. When you see a bunny this Easter, let it remind you that each day is a new opportunity for new life with God. Each day is a day to start afresh with God, to draw close to God, to be an Easter people who celebrate the resurrection by embracing the new life God gives us.

It's a bit early, but Happy Easter everybody!

Peace and love,

Pastor Graham



Lectionary

03—April

5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126 (UMH 847)

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

10—April

Palm Sunday

Palm Service

Luke 19:28-40

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Passion Service

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16 (UMH 764)

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

11—April

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 36:5-11 (UMH 771)

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:20-36

12—April

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 71:1-14 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

13—April

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 70 (UMH 793)

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

14—April

Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

15—April

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

16—April

Holy Saturday/Easter Eve

Job 14:1-14

Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764)

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27: 57-66 or

John 19:38-42

17—April

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-8 or

Luke 24:1-12

24—April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 150 (UMH 862)

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Ron Eckrote, Pat Derr, Pastor Sandy Murphy, Valley Food Pantry Families, Irene Miller, Judy Younker, Connie Hofmann, Nancy Cromley, Irene Healey, Gil Bittenbender, Bev Hilliard, Sandy Houseknecht, Maxine and Bill Magill, Kayla Baucum, Larry Sims, Steve Janso, Tony Tier, Beverly Kraft, Father Rick, Marilyn Tedesco, Rose Luethy, Jacquelyn Walker and All Essential Workers.

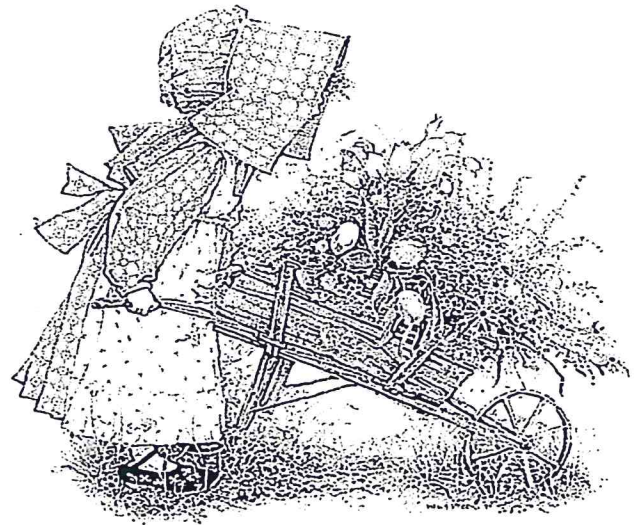
Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, Pastor Graham Truscott, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Rev. Joanne Young of the Hazleton Enlarged Ministry and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection. Also, pray for the leaders of our country and military personnel.

April Birthdays

01-Apr	Beverly Hilliard
01 Apr	Joyce Boyle
02-Apr	Benjamin Young
05-Apr	Aaron Radzwich
08-Apr	Eileen Schuetz
08-Apr	Hazel DeBalko
09-Apr	Ellena Cara
10-Apr	Nancy Cromley
15-Apr	Kate Flaim
16-Apr	Connie Hofmann
17-Apr	Gilbert Bittenbender
20-Apr	Sadie DeBalko
22 Apr	Pastor Graham
25-Apr	Olivia Racho
27-Apr	Craig Bicking
27-Apr	Roger Legg
29-Apr	Heather Groce
30-Apr	Robert Stark, Sr.
30-Apr	Karen Lingenfelter

April Anniversaries

20 Apr	Scott and Fran Phillips
23 Apr	Carl and Kate Flaim
30 Apr	Rich & Paula Piacenti



May Birthdays

06-May	Cassidy Bicking
08-May	Judy Whitaker
12-May	Joseph Racho
13-May	Rita Washick
13-May	Kirsten Young
15-May	Gerry Cromley
15-May	Ruth Huey
17-May	James Ancharski
21-May	John Selby
22-May	Megan Flaim
25-May	Paulette Laskos
27-May	Bonnie Racho
31-May	Patti Ancharski
31-May	Mary Lou Legg

May Anniversaries

08 May	John & Deborah Cara
16 May	Jeff & Heidi Klein
26 May	Chris & Bethany Gogola
27 May	John & Beverly Selby

Dates and Times to Remember

April 10th—

10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship Service
3:00 pm Immanuel Christian School production of Ragman
and Other Cries of Faith here at CUMC

April 14th—

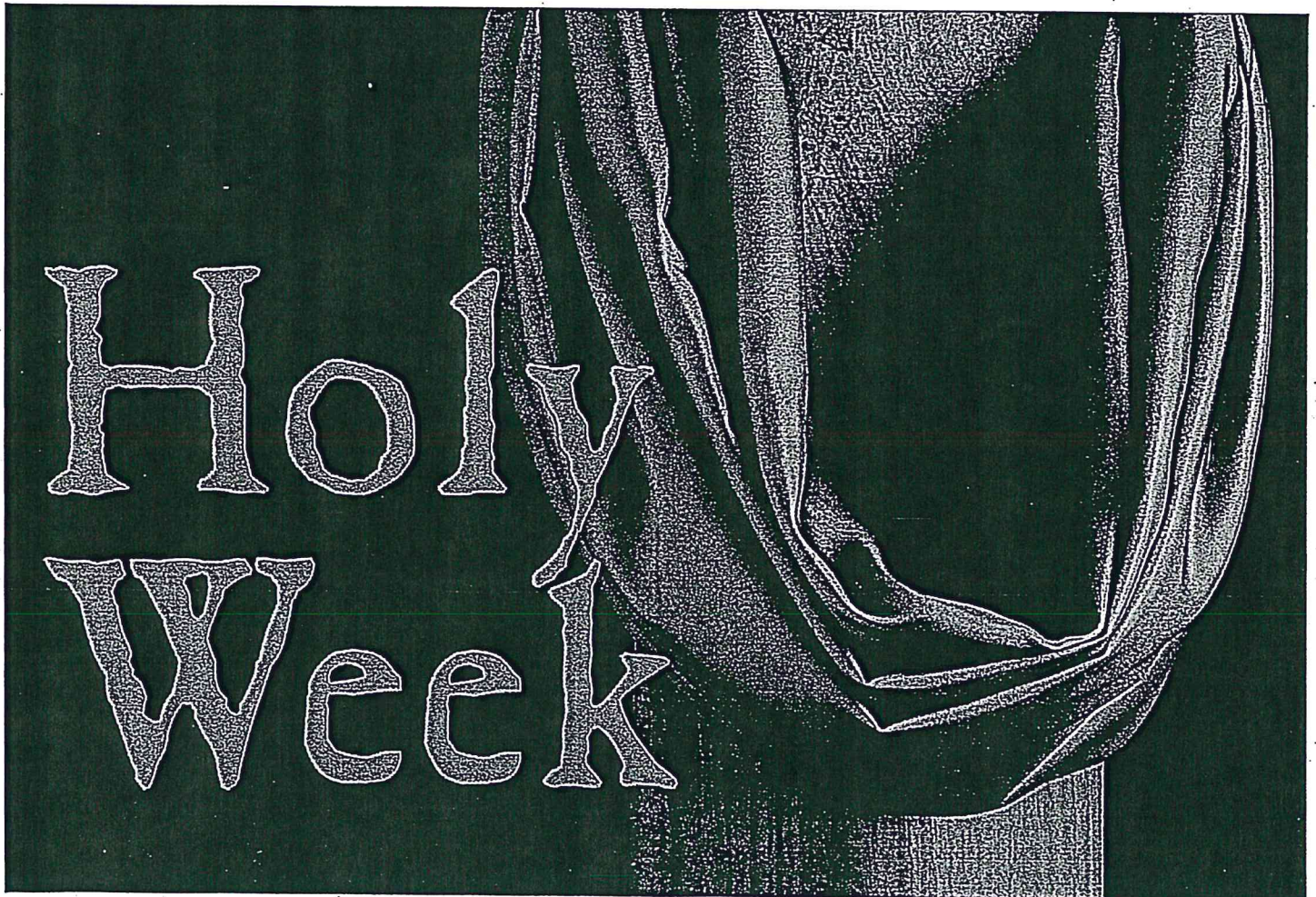
5:00 pm Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Dinner here at CUMC,
Bring a dish to share with everyone!
6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service w/Pastor Scott Kuhnle
from Black Creek UMC preaching.

April 15th—

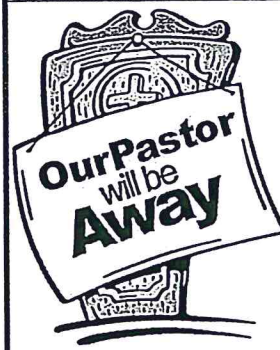
6:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service at Black Creek UMC
w/Pastor Graham preaching.

April 17th—

10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service



NEWS — from the — PEWS



Pastor Graham will be on vacation from April 20th through April 26th

**Do you want to talk to your kids and Family about God, faith, the Bible, church, or religion more?
Do you want to have these conversations but don't know where to start?**

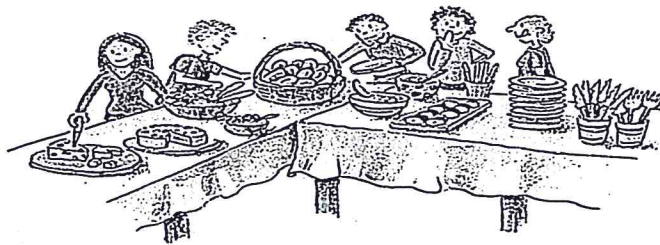
**Then join us for a new short-term small group called
Families Growing Together.**

In this short-4 week group we will practice having these kinds of conversations with your children and family through reading the Bible, praying, and doing creative and spiritual activities for the whole family. The practices we do in each session you'll be able to take home and continue to practice with your family. So bring your family and join us.

****Sessions are Tuesdays at 6:30 April 13th and April 19th***



Block Party: We are looking to throw a block party here at Conyngham UMC. We have often thought it is a shame that we don't know many of our neighbors directly around the church building. After all, how can we love our neighbors if we don't know them? And we have often lamented that loss of a sense of community these days. But to get to know people, and to rebuild community is tough. This block party is the first step in that direction. We want to be intentional to invite our neighbors, and our church's neighbors to this block party to have some fun and to get to know each other, and build up that sense of community. And of course, this party is open to the whole town and valley as well. We need your help to do it!. If you like to get involved in planning this party and outreach, then please contact Bob Kalinchok @ 570-710-9268 or Pastor Graham @ 267-421-2606



April Flowers

04/03 Pamela Croughn will have flowers in memory of her mother, Henrietta Yurovchak.

04/10 Open

04/17 Easter Flowers and Pamila Croughn will have flowers in memory of her father, James Yurovchak.

04/24 Open

THANK YOU



**American
Red Cross**

Thank-you from our
Hearts!

Thank you so very much. We collected 28 units of blood during a national blood crisis. This will assist up to 84 patients in need!

Deepest Gratitude,
Jacque and Staff.

Dear Pastor Graham, Heidi and the Conyngham
United Methodist Church Family,

Thank you for entrusting me with your beautiful space to share my love of Zumba. Everyone left last night with huge smiles! You have been so wonderfully welcoming and I truly appreciate it!

Alyson, Healthy Rhythms



Christ UCC Easter Crystals pick up is on April 9th between 10am and noon in Smith Hall. Call Barbara @ 570-788-3246 or Rosemary @ 570-454-3018.

Lenten Retreat: You are welcome to participate in any or all of the Retreat that will be held at St. John Bosco Parish in Conyngham on April 2-6. The Lenten spiritual exercises are being conducted by Fr. Pio Mandato, a noted Franciscan Retreat Director. He will be assisted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth. The principal services will be conducted on Sunday at 6 PM and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7 PM. The theme is: "A contemporary look at the Four Last Things - Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell." Check St. John Bosco's parish web page for the full schedule. www.stjohnboscochurchconyngham/home.

The City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine is collecting items for Ukraine which can be dropped off at **Blaise Alexander Car Dealerships (either location in Hazleton or Hazle Township) Monday through Friday from 9AM to 8 PM (except Wednesday and Saturday to 5 PM)**. They are not collecting clothing at this time although new underwear is a much-needed item as well as socks. Drug Store items are badly needed such as toothpaste, soap, and other toiletry items. Larger items such as tents as well as camping items, yoga mats, and blankets are also requested. Nonperishable food is also accepted. Information will be updated on Facebook. Search for The City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine.

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00am Homeschool Group	2
3 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Confirmation Class	4 6:00pm Zumba Class	5 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	6 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Lenten Lunch 6:30pm Christian Conversations	7 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm ICS Play Ragman 4:00pm Confirmation Class	11 6:00pm Zumba Class	12 10:00am Sisters 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Families Growing Together	13 10:00am Religious Studies 6:00pm Lenten Dinners	14 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 5:00pm Maundy Thursday Dinner here at CUMC 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	15 Good Friday 6:00pm Good Friday Service at Black Creek UMC	16
17 Easter Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	18 6:00pm Zumba Class	19 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Families Growing Together	20 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	21 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	22	23
24 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Confirmation Class	25 6:00pm Zumba Class	26 6:00pm Zumba Class	27 10:00am Religious Studies	28 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry	29 9:00am Homeschool Group	30

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Change Service Requested

The Conyngham United Methodist Church

Inspiring People to Love and Serve God

Pastor
Graham Truscott
Lay Leader
Kate Flaim
Sunday School Superintendent:
Heidi Klein
Administrative Assistant
Sunday School Worship Team

Vision Statement

Conyngham United Methodist Church is a Christ centered, warm and caring congregation which welcomes, nurtures, and equips people to follow Jesus Christ. As servants of the Gospel, we value the essentials of Holy Scripture, joyful praise, prayer and worship and developing personal faith in Jesus Christ. We accomplish this through a dynamic musical ministry, exciting youth programs, inspiring young adult and adult programs, fellowship of small groups, outreach to the community, strength through personal support, and the shared ministry of our laity and its pastor. We realize all this by being a church where God's Holy Word is a source of nourishment and strength.

You are cordially invited to worship with us.
Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:15 am
Our Worship Service begins at 10:30 am.

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