



Conyngham United Methodist Church
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April 2023

Dear church friends and family,

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Death has been conquered! The night has faded, the day is here!

What is your favorite experience of Easter? For me it was when I was in seminary. At one of the churches I was interning at we had an Easter sunrise service. It was a cold 35 degrees. But the hymn we sang at the end will forever stick with me. It's called Because He Lives. The chorus goes like this: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future. And life is worth the living
Just because He lives.

What about you? What has been most memorable about Easter? All four gospels of course have an account of that Easter story. And what they actually write down tells us what was most memorable for them about the experience of the risen Christ.

Here's Mark's version: Mark 16:4-7. When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) 5 Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. 6 But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. 7 Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you."

Two things stood out to them. First, that Jesus has been raised from the dead! Christ has risen! He has beaten death and sin and evil. Because those things could not kill him, they cannot truly kill us. Because Jesus was resurrected, we will also be resurrected from the death. A future hope

The second, that Jesus has gone off to meet with his disciples in Galilee. The disciples are going to meet the risen Jesus! He just doesn't resurrect then disappear. He goes to meet his disciples so the story of his resurrection becomes part of their lives.

Jesus' resurrection promises for us a future resurrection. But Jesus going to meet the disciples means that his resurrection becomes part of their lives now.

That's our theme for this Easter season. The resurrection of Jesus is part of our lives now. It is a future hope of life after death. But just like the disciples got to see the risen Jesus, we get to experience the power of the resurrection right now.

We see it when we eat a meal together, when the hungry and weary are fed and God is present at the table. We see it when tears are dried and the mourning are comforted. We see it when we feel like we can't keep going, but God gives us the strength to. We see it when God helps us to be a more loving person than we were yesterday, giving us a second chance. The risen Jesus did all of these things with his disciples. Through it all they felt they were being resurrected to a new kind of life. Jesus is resurrecting us still in the same kind of ways. How do you need to experience God's resurrection this Easter?

Amen.

Lectionary

02-April

Passion/Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

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

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16 (UMH 764)

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

03-April

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 36:5-11 (UMH 771)

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

04-April

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 71:1-14 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

05-April

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 70 (UMH 793)

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

06-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 13:1-7, 31b-35

07-April

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

08-April

Holy Saturday

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

09-April

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

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

Colossians 3:1-4, or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

16-April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16 (UMH 748)

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

23-April

3rd Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

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

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

30-April

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Kayla Baucum, Edee Boyer, Kaylee Barbush, Gil Bittenbender, June Blamey, Lois Ann Earley, Joanne Mumie, Irene and Robert Burger Family, Carol Chyko, Marie Collhan, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Arty Deis, Janette Eckrote, Ron Eckrote, Collette Eskin, Mike Fellin, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Barbara Gavel, Irene Healey, Ron and Connie Hofmann, Theresa Howley, Glen Kirshner, Mary and Robert Kisansky, Aggie Kisenweather, Rob Lockwood, Rose Luethy, Mark and Theresa Marinock, Cristina and David Matthey, Kim Murphy, Carl Roberts, Danny Sampson, Carol Siewell, Maureen Susa, Valerie Sutton, Frank Tarselli, Marilyn Tedesco, Jacqueline Walker, Marie Waschko, all cancer and COVID patients, our military personnel, as well as leaders of our country, the Russia/Ukraine Situation, families of addicts, Clyde Van Horn, Pat Ferrari, The Hawke Family and the Kelly Family.

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, Hazleton Enlarged Ministry and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection.

April Birthdays

01-Apr	Beverly Hilliard
01 Apr	Joyce Boyle
01-Apr	Joann Mumie
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

23 Apr	Carl and Kate Flaim
30 Apr	Rich & Paula Piacenti



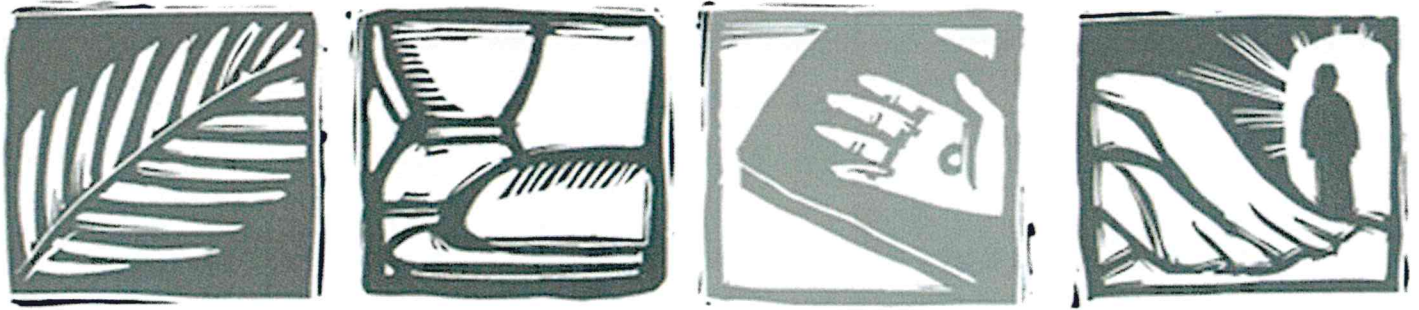
May Birthdays

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

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dates and Times to Remember

April 2nd—

10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship Service

April 5th—

5:30 pm Our last Dinner/Devotion "The Thief and Stand By Me"

April 6th—

6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service at Black Creek UMC
w/Pastor Graham preaching and there will be communion.

April 7th—

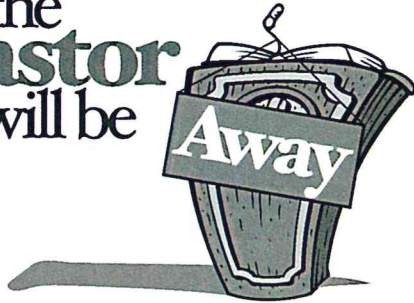
6:00 pm Tenebrae Service here at CUMC with Black Creek UMC

April 9th—

10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service

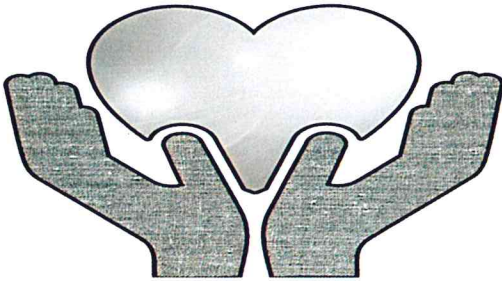
NEWS FROM THE PEWS

the
Pastor
will be



Pastor Graham will be on vacation from April 10th through April 16th

Heartwood Center Ministry



Hi friends,
We are going to see our friends at the Heartwood center every 4th Sunday of the month for lunch and Bible study. What is the Heartwood center? It's the local day shelter for our unhoused neighbors in the city of Hazleton. They do meals, laundry services, a food pantry, community events, literacy training, substance abuse support, support with finding a home, support in finding jobs, and more. It's a wonderful place where people from all walks of life can find community, love, support, and a second chance. And we're a part of making it that kind of place. Our ministry is part of what makes that a loving community. Our ministry is part the love people feel there.

So I want to extend the invitation. Will you join us on the 4th Sunday of each month to love our unhoused friends together?

May God's love fill all our lives,
Pastor Graham

MEALS

Hi everybody,

It seems like only a week ago that we were beginning our Lenten meals this year. It's hard to believe that Lent has already drawn to a close. By the response we've had to our meals, it seems like everybody has really enjoyed our time of fellowship and worship together. It seems like everybody really has grown closer to God and each other through our meals. Since that's the case, I wanted to ask you a question. What do you think about continuing these meals? Would you like to keep doing these meals every week? If they have become something valuable to you, would you like to continue these meals even beyond the season of Lent?

If the answer to that is yes, then we will need a few things to do that. The first is more people to prepare the meals and the kitchen. Our kitchen workers are tired after doing it for 6 weeks straight. The second is for other people to lead our devotion and worship time. Your pastor is tired after doing it for 6 weeks straight. We will also change the style of our devotions going forward. It will simply be a time to share a favorite or loved Bible passage, and what it means to you. Then we will sing and pray together with songs either the devotion leader picks out with the pastor. If any of this sounds like something you would like to do to continue these meals, please let Heidi or I know.

Thank you and God bless,
Pastor Graham



SECRET SISTERS LUNCH

This month our Secret Sisters will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, April 19th. 12:30 pm at the Freeland Diner.**

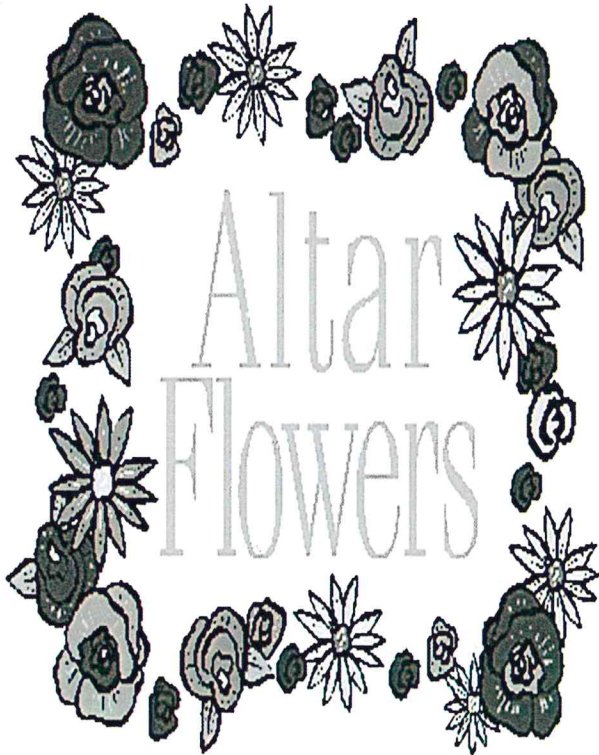
All Secret Sisters are welcome!

Block Party: Our 2nd Annual Block Party will take

place on June 11th! 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



FLOWERS



04/02: John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

04/09: Easter Flowers

04/16: John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

04/23: John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

04/30: John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.



Freeland Community Choir will present an Easter Concert "Hallelujah" What a Savior! Sunday, April 2nd @ 3:00 pm at Faith UCC and Sunday, April 16th 3:00 pm at St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ.

Conyngham Valley Historical Society is hosting a Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, Sunday May 7th at 2 pm @ the Conyngham Borough Building. Tickets are \$15.00 and must be purchased in advance. Please call 570-582-9028 and leave a message.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order a flower for the worship service on Easter morning, please complete the order form below and return it, along with payment (checks made payable to the Conyngham United Methodist Church) to Isabel Kinsler (570-956-9452) by **April 6, 2023**. This year there is **NOT** a choice of flower but it will be one of these: Tulips, Daffodils or Hyacinths. Price is \$5.00 each.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Number of flowers _____

Total Amount Due _____

Please write your name as you would like it to appear in the church bulletin (in Honor, in Memory, etc.):

