



Conyngham United Methodist Church
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April 2024

Pastors Pen

One of my greatest joys as a teacher, person, and pastor is to watch people grow. I remember one particularly striking instance while I was tutoring part-time during seminary. I was tutoring a first grader at the local Montessori school. This first grader was dyslexic, so he had a hard time learning to read and write. When I began with him he was just barely able to do his ABC's. By the end of my time tutoring him he was beginning to read picture books. It was a long, and sometimes frustrating path getting there, but the joy of seeing him grow in his reading ability was worth it.

I'm sure that God too found a lot of joy in seeing the disciples of Jesus grow after his resurrection. Before the resurrection, they were all cowards, as I too probably would have been. When Jesus needed friends to stand by him during his arrest and crucifixion, most of his disciples ran away. Here's what they were like after the resurrection:

"They [the high priest and his family] had Peter and John brought before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?"⁸ Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "Leaders of the people and elders,⁹ are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him?¹⁰ If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead." (Acts 4:7-10)

Wow! What a difference. They went from running away, to boldly talking about the death and resurrection of Jesus, in front of the very people who crucified Jesus. How much joy Jesus must have felt looking down from heaven on his disciples who have grown so much. So, what changed? How did they grow so much? The first answer is the Holy Spirit. We're told the Holy Spirit inspired Peter and must have given him the courage to speak, and helped him to find the right words to say. We always grow with God's help. The second answer is that Easter changed things. The resurrection of Jesus was so revolutionary for the disciples, that they were now willing to even give their lives to tell others about Jesus. They truly believed Jesus died, forgave us, and rose from the dead, beating sin and death. That truth gave them hope. After all, if Jesus has beaten sin and death, that means in Jesus our wounds and our sins do not win. God is telling this story, and in the resurrected Jesus it will have a good ending. They are so convinced of that, they are willing to stake their lives on it. What growth!

This season of Easter is the season to let Easter make a difference in our lives. Easter made such a difference for the disciples because they believed it was true. And in that God helped them to grow, as they acted in that belief. If you believed that Good Friday and Easter are 100% true, what would you do? How does that hope make you want to live your life? How is God inviting you to grow in this season with God's help? Growth can be scary, just like it was frustrating at times with the 1st grader I was tutoring. But don't worry, God is telling this story. In the end, there will be joy and celebration, because God is at work in you and with you. You're not on your own. So embrace the growth God has for you and take joy with God in seeing the steps you will make. Amen.

Pastor Graham's Ordination.

Pastor Graham is getting ordained this May at Annual Conference. This year, Annual Conference is at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood NJ. The date for the ordination is Tuesday May 21 at 7pm. All are welcome to come down and celebrate with Pastor Graham. We do know that it a long drive on a weekday. That's while you should also be able to view the service live steamed on the YouTube page for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC, also starting at 7pm. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Graham.

Lectioary

07—April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133 (UMH 850)

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

14—April

3rd Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4 (UMH 741)

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

21—April

4th Sunday of Easter

Festival of God's Creation

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

28—April

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31 (UM 752)

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Kayla Baucum, Edee Boyer, Kaylee Barbush, June Blamey, Joanne Mumie, Irene and Robert Burger Family, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Arty Deis, Ron Eckrote, Mike Fellin, Pat Ferrari, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Barbara Gavel, Irene Healey, Ron Hofmann, Theresa Howley, Kelly Family, Mary and Robert Kisansky, Rose Luethy, Mark and Theresa Marinock, Cristina and David Matthey, Kim Murphy, Carl Roberts, Danny Sampson, Carol Siewell, Maureen Susa, Valerie Sutton, 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, War in Isreal/Gaza, Mary Nora Wallace, Melody, a 9 year old, Jay Wetzl, Edie Larsen, Madelyn Lawson, Fred Polmounter, Larry Generose, Kyle, Don Zufall, Edie Larsen, Madelyn Lawson, Mary Nora Wallace, Jim Fisher, Henry Parks, Amy Kock Bergstrom, Tarone Veglia, Gretchen Brightaupt, Diane Griffith, Karen Smith and Tim Harter.

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, Heartwood Center, Emmaus Road Travelers and Drivers and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection.

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
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
26 May	Chris & Bethany Gogola
27 May	John & Beverly Selby

April Worship Leaders

April 07

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok
Liturgist: Barry Jones
Singer: Les Shupp
Children's Message: Billie Shaffer
Sound Board: Joey Dretzel
Acolyte: Hazel DeBalko

April 14

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok
Liturgist: Malcolm Wiley
Singer: Denise Wetzel
Children's Message: Kate Flaim
Sound Board: Wiley Family
Acolyte: Hazel DeBalko

April 21

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok
Liturgist: Jessica Jacobs
Singer: Rena Bicking
Children's Message: Carrie Wiley
Sound Board: Nancy Stark and Jay Morgan
Acolyte: Joey Dretzel

April 28

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Sharon Kalinchok
Liturgist: Billie Shaffer
Singer: Joe Racho
Children's Message: Pastor Graham
Sound Board: Joey Dretzel and Eamon Wiley
Acolyte: Malcolm Wiley

April Altar Flowers

04/07—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

04/14—The Gogola Family will give a donation in memory of Isabell Moratto.

04/21—Pamela Croughn will have flowers in memory of her parents, Henrietta and James Yurovchak.

04/28—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.



Altar Flowers

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



PLEASE HELP FILL
OUR SHELVES!

WE ARE IN NEED OF CEREAL, CHILI
AND JELLY. ITEMS CAN BE PLACED
IN THE SHOPPING CART IN THE SO-

Secret Sisters will meet for dinner
at Booty's Place on April 16th at
6:00 PM. Please let Prudence know
if you will be attending.



We are having a Spring Rummage Sale!
Items can be brought to the church any-
time after April 7th. We not accepting
exercise equipment, magazines or
electronics. All items must be clean
and in good shape. This is a great time
to do some spring cleaning. *Please sign
up to help set-up, work during the sale
and clean-up.* Sale will take place on
Thursday April 18, Friday April 19 and
Saturday April 20 from 9:00-3:00 each
day.



Ladies and Lassies Tea

All women of the church are invited to an
afternoon of tea. Hosted by the Secret
Sisters. April 28th beginning at 2:00 PM.

Please sign up in the Narthex, sweet and or
savory treats are needed.

Invite a friend!



Our Valley Community Meal

Friday, April 26th from 5:30-7:00 PM at Black Creek United Methodist Church. If you would like to help with this event or you need a ticket for the meal, please see Pastor Graham or Heidi. A free will offering will be accepted.

Please come out and enjoy a meal with your neighbors!



HEARTWOOD CENTER NEWS

We go to the center every 4th Sunday to serve a hot meal and have a brief Bible Study. Would you be willing to help this ministry by making food for us to serve? We are always in need of a main dish, side dishes or dessert. There is a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall on the bulletin board. Please help if you can!

It truly is greatly appreciated.

LEILANI CHESONIS CONCERT

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

2:00 PM

LEILANI WILL BE PERFORMING LIVELY RENDITIONS OF BELOVED COUNTRY CLASSICS, SPIRITED SOUTHERN GOSPEL AND CROWD FAVORITES. ALL AGES WILL ENJOY THIS ENERGETIC, ENGAGING, UNIQUE SHOW!

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE SHOW.

Community News:

Saint John Bosco Bereavement Ministry: Non-denominational 7-week session open to all who are grieving the death of a loved one and having a difficulty in their grief. Beginning April 1st from 6:00-8:00 PM. Call 570-455-3874 to register.

St. John's Lutheran Church Sausage Supper: Saturday, April 20th. Sausage, pancakes, baked potato, green beans, applesauce, coleslaw and dessert! Cost is \$13.00 Pick up from 1:00-5:00 PM. Drive thru.

Black Creek UMC: Election Day Food Sale, to go style dinner, pork chop/parmesan crusted chicken strips, ham and bean soup, chicken noodle soup and homemade baked goods. April 23 starting at 7:00 AM.

Freeland Area Community Choir
presents

Our Father

A Journey through the Lord's Prayer



Sunday April 14th, 2024 3PM
Faith UCC, Hazleton, PA

Sunday April 21st, 2024 3PM
St John's Reformed UCC, Freeland, PA

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm Zumba 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	2 10:00am Sisters 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	3 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Book Group for Church Health	4 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	5	6
7 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	8 6:00pm Zumba	9 10:00am Sisters 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	10 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	11 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry	12	13
14 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	15 9:00am Rummage Sale Set Up	16 9:00am Rummage Sale Set Up 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Secret Sisters Dinner at Booty's	17 9:00am Rummage Sale Set Up 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Book Group for Church Health	18 9:00am Rummage Sale 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	19 9:00am Rummage Sale	20 9:00am Rummage Sale
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28 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Ladies and Lassies Tea	29 6:00pm Zumba	30				

The Conyngham United Methodist Church

Inspiring People to Love and Serve God

Pastor:
Lay Leader:
Secretary:

Graham Truscott
Kate Flaim
Heidi Klein

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.
Our Worship Service begins at 10:30 am**

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