



The Disciple

GROWING IN FAITH BY CARING, CONNECTING, AND SERVING COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM OUR
INTERIM PASTOR



“But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him” (Mark 16:6.)

Rejoice! For Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Easter Greetings to all of you from my dining room table!

When we were last together for worship on March 15, we didn't yet know what was coming. We had a hunch and so we didn't shake hands and we sat apart, but still we didn't know that we would be called to stay home in order to stop the spread of Covid-19.

And yet Easter will come, no matter if we worship together in body or together in spirit. The miracle of the empty tomb in one sense happened 2000 years ago, but in another sense it happens every day. It happens every time we say “Yes” to God's invitation to step out of our own self-made tombs, whatever that looks like for each of us. Life is a challenging journey, that's for sure. But it is rich in so many ways. The other day I listened to an interview with a middle-aged man who had just arrived in this country when he became sick with Covid-19 and was hospitalized for several days on a respirator. In the interview he talked about how differently he sees the little things in life now that he is recovering: the colors of the trees and grass, a glass of wine, a hug from his children. His life is forever changed.

And our lives are changed because Christ rose from the dead on Easter morning. Alleluia! We are a people of faith and a people of Good News. We are a people who worship together and we are saddened to be apart for this time. The session will be meeting this week (virtually over Zoom) and again in the weeks ahead to determine what needs to happen for Faith Church during this social distancing time. And John and I are collaborating on worship for Maundy Thursday and for however many Sundays we are apart. If you would like to receive my devotionals as well as links to the worship services on YouTube, please let me know and we will add you to the email or mailing list.

Meanwhile, stay well. And remember, social distancing is better named physical distancing. Now more than ever, we need to reach out to each other with a phone call or an email. We need to be socially close, but physically distant.

Lifting up prayers for our world during this worldwide pandemic and wishing you all a Blessed Easter,

Pastor Julia

Chairperson: Greg Hughes
 Financial Secretary: Don Niece
 Treasurer: Diane Grycz
 Support: Paul Brown



Finances:	February	YTD
Income:	\$11,246	\$22,293
Expenses:	<u>\$ 8,583</u>	<u>\$22,994</u>
Difference:	\$ 2,663	(\$701)

The furnaces were checked and are working fine right now. PTL!

Thank heavens for a relatively mild winter so far! This has reduced our heating and snow removal expenses.

Spring is here and that means that the grass will soon need mowing. We have contracted again with Cardinal Lawn and Landscaping.

Memorial donations for 2020 so far have been \$715. Please try to keep your pledge current if Possible.

Though church was cancelled 2 Sundays in March because of the Corona virus, the church building still has ongoing utility and insurance expenses that have to be paid.

Your continued prayer for our church’s spiritual and financial health is greatly appreciated.

Session Notes

March, 2020

Session met Mar. 12. Pastor Julia continues to shepherd our flock, looking after our members who are not able to join us on Sunday morning with visits and communion. She officiated at Ed Peck’s memorial service and held a second service with the family at Heritage Springs for Pat. Her additional activities include attending several meetings including VBS and book group planning and leading preschool chapel. In addition, Pastor and husband Dave swapped pulpits on Mar. 8. The 2019 Session minutes were approved by Presbytery without exception. Session at this meeting and in a special meeting on Mar. 15 gave considerable thought as to how the congregation can continue to worship while following the restrictions placed on us by the Covid-19 requirements. You are seeing these changes as we are no longer having Sunday services but are still worshipping through Pastor Julia’s daily devotionals and Sunday worship service. We continue to be a congregation by watching over each other and maintaining contact through email, phone calls and prayers. God is with all of us as we travel this difficult road together.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

In Isaiah 58, the author is addressing a people who have returned to Jerusalem, where the Temple—God’s house—was in shambles. I imagine it was a heartbreaking scene. In the rubble, the prophet challenges the people not to rebuild the building or to restore their religious rituals, but to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable—the prophet called the people to become the house of God.

We are called to become, as Isaiah promised long ago, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in”. Together, we become the household of God. During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of our support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve.

In the days ahead, staff of Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be working with presbyteries to identify and support essential congregational ministries, especially in anti-poverty work. The Church’s response to the present crisis will begin with the most at-risk communities across the country and around the world, as well as those facing spikes of racism in response to this disease.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat. During these uncertain times, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God’s grace to see us through. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are the Church, together.

There are multiple ways to give One Great Hour of Sharing Offering like texting SHARING to 56512. To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 P.O. Box 643700
 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

Please consider giving on Easter as you are able, If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

You shall be called repairers of the breach...|Isaiah 58



Our volunteer date on April 4 has been canceled due to COVID-19, but hungry people still have to eat. The House of Bread is Open and still serving lunch, using paid part time staff rather than community volunteers at this time. They are limiting the number of people in the dining room at one time, with the waiting line outdoors. Please pray for the House of Bread and the people they serve.



Stewardship of God's Creation

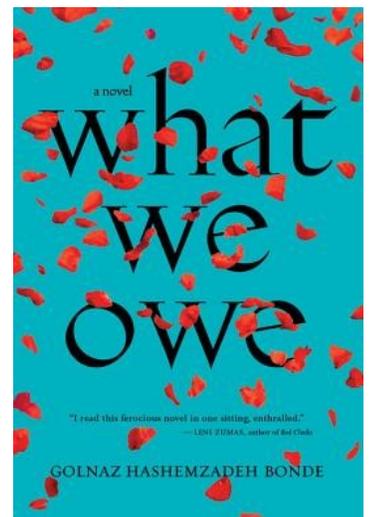
Earth Day– April 22

Our faith urges us to care for the earth: defending and healing creation for all the human beings who live in it. The annual Five Rivers Metropark Adopt-A-Park Cleanup has been canceled, but you can still celebrate Earth Day which is on April 22nd. Spring is a good time to get out and take a hike or walk in your neighborhood. Many parks are still open, as of this writing. Send us your selfies! Remember to maintain a safe distance from each other which the CDC recommends 6 feet. Do not go for a hike if you are sick or think you might be getting sick. If you are feeling healthy you should get out and enjoy the beautiful world God has given us. You can check the status of MetroParks at <https://www.metroparks.org/covid-19-updates/> and when you are out taking a walk, please be a good steward and pick up trash in your neighborhood and at the parks. Recycle! Recycle the plastics you use and no longer need. Refuse! Refuse straws. When requesting beverages at restaurants say, “No straw, please.” Reduce! Reduce your own plastic waste. Re-use!

Sweet Communion Book Club

Our Book Group is now a combined ministry of Bath, Faith, and Honey Creek Presbyterian Churches. Each month we will share a light meal and a good book. Look for more information each month in the Disciple and on our website www.faithchurchpcusa.org

If you were looking for a book to read, this novel from Golnaz Bonde is extraordinary. It is one woman's experience of what it is like to be an immigrant in our country today, as well as what it's like to be a mother and a daughter. It may help us to put our lives in perspective with others around the world and get our minds off our current reality. *What We Owe* is a story of love, guilt, and dreams for a better future.



This book is available in multiple formats including Audio, and Kindle.

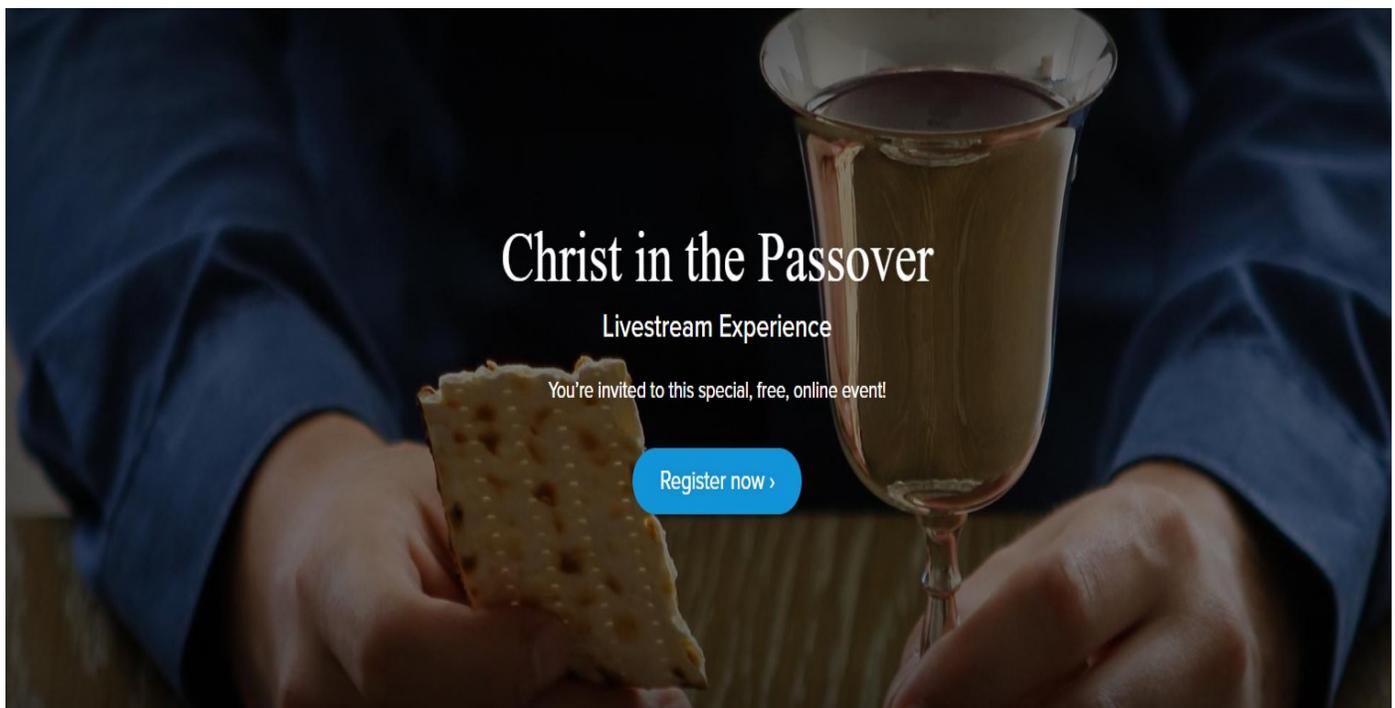
Christ in the Passover: A Live Stream Experience

Presented by Jews for Jesus

The Presbytery of the Miami Valley is sharing changes to the upcoming event, presented by Jews for Jesus, Christ in the Passover: Livestream Experience. Jews for Jesus has put together a live streaming event available March 29 through April 10th.

Starting March 29th – April 10th, we will have several options for you and your church to join us from the comfort of your own homes for a one-hour Christ in the Passover: Livestream Experience.

The story of the Exodus will be interwoven with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in a compelling tapestry of symbolism that you'll never forget. You'll get to meet some of our Jewish staff from around the world, hear their life-changing stories, and even have a chance to ask your own questions through an interactive Q&A!



It only takes a few moments to reserve a seat and join us for the powerful, thought-provoking Christ in the Passover livestream event. To see a full schedule of available times, click the picture to register.

These events are open to the public so please share them with your friends and family as well. Better yet, share them with friends around the world!

Memorial Flowers Gift



The first Sunday of each month the worship committee places flower arrangements on the chancel in memory or honor of loved ones

If you would like to provide arrangements in memory or honor of a loved one return the following form with your donation to Samantha. The arrangements cost \$18 for one and \$36 for two. Make the checks payable to Faith Presbyterian Church. Your gift will be recognized in the bulletin, unless you ask otherwise. Please check the form if you would like to pick up the arrangements after worship, otherwise it will be delivered to someone who needs a little cheer. For more information please contact Samantha Adams (937)252-7865.



Pat Peck, Mary Swartzel, Maria Beimly, Deborah Moore, Jan Schroeder, Sets Nagaoka, Norma Leshner, Beth Griffin, Betsy Morris, Bob and Emily Christian, Rick Latimer, our community, State, Federal government, and families dealing with the COVID 19 virus around the world.



Memorial Flower Gift

Please accept my donation of

\$18 _____ \$36 _____

For the memorial flower fund in Memory of/

Honor of _____

Given By: _____

I would like to pick up the arrangement



WOW! Faith you came through!

FISH food pantry (local community pantry) didn't even have to ask.

When the quarantine was announced the church office began receiving calls.

Questions like;

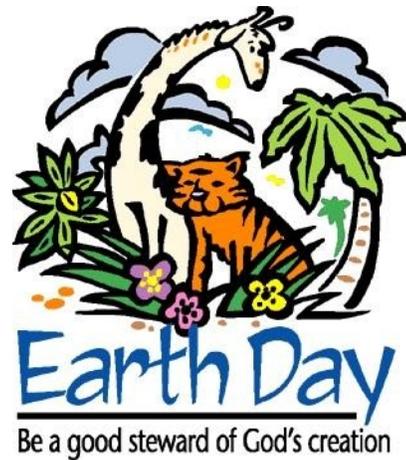
- ◆ How can we help our community?
- ◆ How is FISH going to handle this?
- ◆ What can I do to help?

Everyone came together and 112 pounds of food from our little church was delivered. They were overwhelmed with our response and so grateful. So, thank you for all your generous donations and continued support of this worthwhile ministry.



APRIL Birthdays

- 1 Sondra Derrickson
- 2 Amber Sturgill
- 3 Robyn O'Bryan
- 4 John Derrickson
Kyson Kawanishi
- 7 Dagny Fetters
- 8 Eric Mayhew
- 11 Julia Williamson
- 14 Chuck Doran
- 16 Ellen Mayhew
- 17 Andrea (Andi) Sharp
- 20 Brian Kawanishi
- 27 Diane Grycz




APRIL Anniversaries

22 Michael & Diane Grycz



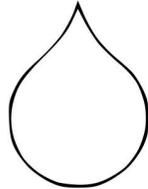
Children's Page



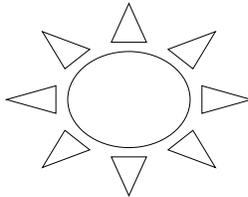
The Colors of the Earth

Color the pictures the matching colors

The water is blue



The sun is yellow



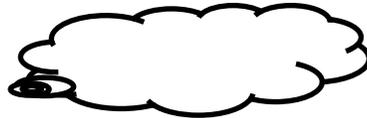
The grass is green



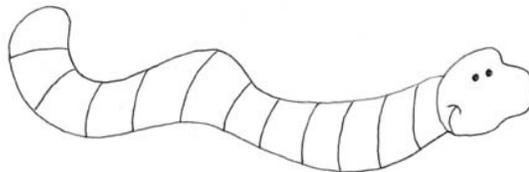
The soil is brown



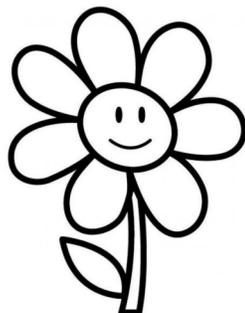
The clouds are white



The worms are pink



The flowers are red



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April Events

Thurs, April 2, 7 PM- Virtual Session Meeting

Sunday, April 5 Virtual Palm Sunday Worship

Thursday, April 9 Virtual Tenebrae Worship

Sunday, April 12 Happy Easter! (Probably Virtual Worship)

Thurs, April 16 Session meeting (Probably Virtual Worship)

Sunday, April 19 Worship (Probably Virtual Worship)

Sunday, April 26 Worship (Probably Virtual Worship)

Stay tuned for more information as we continue with the stay at home order.



LUNCH BUNCH



Due to the current stay at home order in place Lunch Bunch has been canceled for the month of April. We will send out information when and where we will be having the next lunch. In the mean time you may look for updates at



Blankets by Faith

Help us make quilts/blankets for children in need. During this time of waiting to see what is next donations are welcome: money, fabric, batting, and yarn. Once the stay at home is lifted please join us for a fun filled time. Speak with Cyndi