

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717-766-7931

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AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!

Please wear a mask inside.

Live stream services on St. Paul's Facebook Page & YouTube Channel.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor.....The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Pastor/CE & Youth Director..... Allyssa A. Boyer
Administrative Assistant.....Renee E. Durbin
Director of Music.....Eric R. Dundore
Chorister' Director.....Jonneke A. Dundore
Assistant Music Director.....Mark A Dundore
Organist.....Sarah A Myers
Assistant Organist.....Patrice G. Miller
Audio & Video.....Jeffrey A. Dundore
Sexton.....Michael W. Hatz
Consistory President.....Sherry Spencer
Pastor Emeritus....The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold
Ministers.....The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Phone: 717-766-7931

Rev. John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

Eric's email: ericdundore@outlook.com

Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccmechanicsburg/>

FROM THE PASTOR

We have been on a Lenten Journey together which is finishing soon. Have we been able to reflect during this period in ways that draw us closer to God and one another?

We have encountered signs and markers: temptations faced, covenants made, promises fulfilled, forgiveness offered or not, generosity expressed, and courage demonstrated. These places along our path have focused our attention on some of the ways God connects with us and how we can connect with one another. Often our journeys are a race to get from one point to another and we rarely pay attention to what surrounds us. If we do not focus, we miss these moments, places which seek our attention and offer us insight, expand our vision, and deepen our understanding of the different ways God supports us, reaches out to us, and reminds us that Jesus walked this road before us. When we do, we are empowered by remembering Jesus has experienced life like we have, and has shown us how we can better live our lives, while understanding we do not always make those good choices. And we are told once again that we have been, are, and will always be God's Children, all of us, forgiven when we have separated ourselves from God and welcomed when we return.

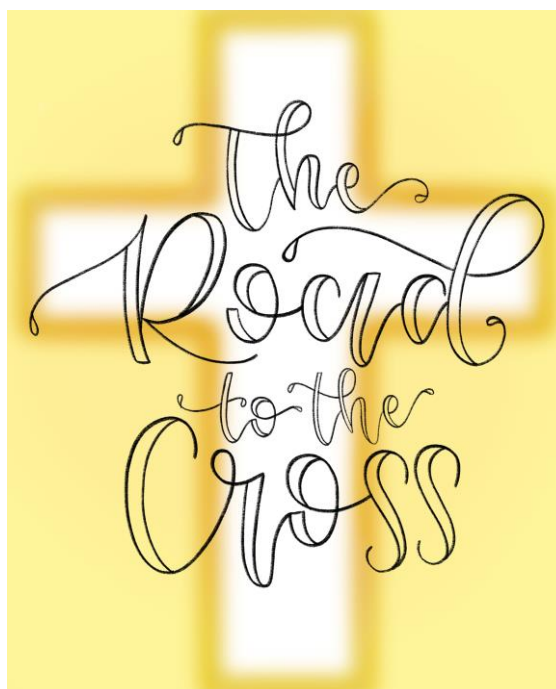
We will be experiencing Jesus' willingness to share his whole self on Maundy Thursday; witnessing the pain that can go along with such service; the ending of what had been on Friday, and resurrection, the carrying forth of who we are into new life on Easter Sunday. This Lenten Journey that ushers us into Easter is filled with opportunities for deepening our relationship with God and each other, if we take them.

There is still time to do so. There is always time to do so.

We have made this Lenten Journey together. Often, we think of our spiritual practices, our Worship, our spiritual education as solo exercises. Yet, we journey best with others, supporting, teaching, being taught, working together, playing together, worshipping together. Hopefully we have been reminded of that as well this year.

Holy Week Worship Services await us. Sunrise Service here at St. Paul's awaits us. A true breaking of a long fast, an Easter Breakfast awaits us. An Easter Service of celebration awaits us. Let us fill the time between now and these gatherings with Lenten connections, for it is not just the end point God wants us to experience but every point along the way.

Peace, Rev. John



GET TO KNOW ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY!



Consistory is the governing body of St. Paul's UCC.

In a continuing effort to get to know your consistory, please let me introduce:

Ernie Moyer



"I joined St. Paul's UCC in 1997 along with my wife Joan. Having two young daughters (Ally and Erin) at the time, it was important to introduce them to the UCC faith. As it turned out, St. Paul's was a perfect fit for our spiritual growth and needs."

Fun Fact about me: Joan and I have been residents of Mechanicsburg Borough since 1986. I retired from the PA Department of Labor & Industry after 35 years' service. I find enjoyment golfing, gardening, canning, and grilling. I'm an avid fan of Philadelphia pro sports teams and Penn State sports.

Term Started: 2019

Term Ending: 2022

Committee Liaison to: Building/Property

"Representing the Building/Property committee at Consistory is a good fit for me because of my background with facilities management of Labor and Industry statewide offices."

"As it turned out, St. Paul's was a perfect fit for our spiritual growth and needs."



Articles for the May Epistle are due to the Church Office by end of the day, Wednesday April 13th.



**THOSE IN
NEED OF
PRAYER:**

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Alex & Family; Kevin & Karen Allison; Amy & Mike (Fox); Joe Baker (W.Wentz); Barb Bell; Joanne Bender; Mary Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); George Bingaman; Aileen Blanc (Ritter Butz); Barbara Blust; Melba Bomberger; Brendan and Family (Richey); Brian (Shearer); Brian (Riesmeyer); Missy Brouch (Myers/Mihmet); Jenny & Erica Budd (Lingenfelter); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Sally Chiselko (Martek); Tom Chronister (Chronister); Cindy (Rhoads); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Rich Cowan; David (Mullin); Rita Davidson (Plymette); Hudson Davis (Riesmeyer); Evelyn Diorio; Ethan Dixon & Family; Dotty (Richey); Jim Dougherty (Ritter); Allen Dreibelbis; Richard Ecks (Plymette); Linda Eichelberger (Chronister); Harry Felton (Sponsler); Bob & Eve Fenner; David Fetterman (Aumiller); Tom Figiel (Weiser); Dawn Fox; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner (Shearer); Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Betty Goodfellow (Ritter); Tina Gordon (Burns); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Roger Grice; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Teri & Dave Guelcher; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Noah Helwig (Trout); Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Gloria Hoffman; Joshua Holbrook (Nolan); Jay Houser (Haagen); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Jane Leader Janeczek (Aumiller); Janie (Jody Biss); Joe (B. Thompson); Dan & Will Jones; Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Bob Kinkley (Fox); Glenn Kline; Sandy Kline; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Audra Kucharick (Aumiller); Jean & John Layne; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Lori (Murphy); Naomi Losch (Endy); Luca (Knox);

Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Margueritte (Myers); Martin Family (Ward-Diorio); Joe Mazzei (Mihmet/Myers); Brian Medkeff-Rose; Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Jessica Miller (Chapman); Joanne Miller; Linda Miller; Melissa Miller (Bender); Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Steve Mitchell; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Beth Myers (Richey); Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Nicole & Family (Westhafer); Bob Nies (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Ometz Family (Grice); Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Jim & Mary P. (Rhoads); Panker Family (Richey); Lynne Patton (Taylor); Pattie Poole (Fox/Holtzapple); Randy (Bender); Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Jo Rice (Rushong); Nancy, Tom & Dan Richey; Sandi Ritter-Butz; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Tom Row (S. Miller); Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Betsy & Benny Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Debbie Sharp and Family; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Conner Snow & Family; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Tom Steel & Family (Shaver-Durham); Barbara Sterner; Dory Szeles (Sterner); Wendi Taylor; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Betty Underwood & Family (Richey); Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Evelyn Warfield; Anthony Warner (Simpson); Billy Webber (Ward-Diorio); Suzy Weeks (Richey); Amy Wentz; Leita Wentz; Geri Williams (A. Thompson); Lou Ann Williams (Cashman); Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Russell Young (Rushong)

**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

**Do you have an update to
the prayer list? Let us know
in the church office.**



4/2 Taylor Garman	4/17 Heather McNeese
William Cashman III	4/19 Thomas Stavelly
4/7 Debra Kassahun	4/20 Megan Kern
Suzanne Sentman	Xavier Sufrin
4/10 Joanne Miller	4/22 Herbert Sutton
4/11 Jennifer McCorkel	4/23 Timothy Kiner
Rebecca Drazba	Victoria Velez
Kim Pirtle	4/24 Jordan Thompson
4/12 Julia Patton	4/25 Sarah Murphy
4/13 Charlotte Cashman	4/28 Ronald Gabriel
4/16 Jim Paulus	4/30 Allison Moyer
Herbert Bomberger	Krista Bensel



4/10 Douglas & Rhonda Jacobsen
 4/19 Gregory & Shirley J. Knox
 4/23 Mary & Jack Runkle
 4/24 Michael & Jennifer McCorkel
 4/26 Wesley & Amy Rhoads
 4/27 Roland & Gail Parthree
 4/27 Rachael & Myrl Hersh
 4/29 Valerie Chapman-Jones & Mike Jones

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTE

LECTORS

4/3 Mary Runkle
 4/10 Paula Boyer
 4/17 Nancy Richey
 4/24 Michael Gray

USHERS

Head Usher: Rebecca Drazba

4/3 Steven Roush, Paula Boyer,
 Wendy Hayden, Sherry Spencer, Megan
 Riesmeyer
 4/10 Chris Grice, Bonnie & Dennis Plymette
 4/17 Paula Boyer, Wendy Hayden,
 Ernie Moyer, Chris Grice, Steven Roush,
 Sherry Spencer
 4/24

FLOWER DELIVERY

4/3 Patrice Miller
 4/10 Jonneke Dundore
 4/17 Nancy Richey
 4/24 Jill Morell

COMMUNION PREPARER

4/3 Steven Roush & Nancy Richey
 4/17 Steven Roush

NURSERY HELPER

4/3 Erin Anderson
 4/9 Jonneke Dundore, Art Williams
 4/17 Becka Anderson
 4/24 Jonneke Dundore, Mary Runkle

Sign up to be a Worship Participant on the church website under the 'Sign Up' heading.

Church Calendar - The most up to date calendar is on the Church website. Help us keep it current by scheduling your meetings & other events at the Church thru the Office at stpaulstaff@outlook.com or 717-766-7931.

Thank you!



@stpaulsuccmechanicsburg



@stpaulsuccmech



@stpaulsuccmech

To my friends at St. Paul's,

I am so glad that I am a member of St. Paul's! I thank you all for being so kind to me while I have not been able to worship with you because of some health issues. You have called to check on me, kept me in your prayers, sent me cards, delivered me flowers and, most of all, offered me your friendship.

Our congregation is my example of how people of faith can live together in community by looking out for each other.

Bless you all and thank you.

*In fellowship,
Wendi Taylor*

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers that you gave us during this difficult time in our lives. They certainly brought us comfort and healing. Also, thanks so much for all the cards and good thoughts.

*Love,
Pat and Greg Miller & Family*

Dear Pastor John & Members of St. Paul's UCC:

A heartfelt thank you for the wonderful donation of snacks for the staff of Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home and Thornwald Home. It was a tasty treat for our staff who continue to provide care and services to the residents in such a challenging time, due to the pandemic and staffing shortages. Their dedication to providing a safe and secure environment for residents and co-workers is outstanding and so deserving of this extra treat for them.

On behalf of the staff, thank you for your generous and thoughtful gift. Helping people, reaching out a helping hand to someone who needs our concern is what UCC Homes is all

about. Because of your continued support in this effort, it is what you are about also.

*Sincerely,
Victoria M. Velez
Director of Public Relations
and Fund Development*

Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team!

6 of the beautiful shawls/small blankets were donated to the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) office this week. The shawls will be given to children (ages 0-17) who are in foster care and have been assigned a CASA.

CASAs are trained volunteers who are appointed to a foster child (or a family of foster children) to represent the best interests of the child in court. Most of the children are victims of abuse or neglect. May the soft blankets, which are crocheted/knitted in love, bring some comfort.

I would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers (as I know they helped), all the rides that was given to Rick to daycare and PT, the food, cards, and for Brenda for delivering the Pot Pie. Also, a big thanks for Mary for taking me to surgery and Terry being here with Rick while I was operated on. We are so thankful to belong to such a loving and caring church.

Fenton Fox and Rick Holtzapple

Heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, get well cards, phone calls and altar flowers I have received since my surgery and continuing recovery. Your kind words and caring thoughts have nourished my body and spirit. Thanks so much and God bless you all!

Kevin Allison



Thank you!

Events & Announcements

STEWARDSHIP SPRING BASKET AUCTION

March 28-April 7th 3PM



The bidding has begun! Please visit [http://sa.intpaulsucc-mech.org/stewardship-online-](http://sa.intpaulsucc-mech.org/stewardship-online-auction/)

[auction/](http://sa.intpaulsucc-mech.org/stewardship-online-auction/) to view the auction items and place your generous bids.

Stop by Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, April 3 to get a glimpse of the baskets in person, share fellowship with the congregation and enjoy some yummy snacks!

You'll find these fabulous donations ready for bidding online: A Few of Our Favorite Things, Butterhead Kitchens Gourmet Gift Certificate, Birds & Blooms, Feeling Lucky Lottery Bouquet, Totally Toddler Easter Basket, Filled with the Spirit Wine Table, Broadway Beckons, Ice Cream Dream, Quilted Beauty, Night Out! Night In!, Bouquet of Books, Paulus Farm Market Food and Fun, Chocolate Delights, Spring into Gardening.

Please enter new bids with at least a \$5.00 increase over the previous bid. The first bid should be equal to or greater than the Starting

Bid listed. To bid, click on the space beneath the words "Enter Your Own" and input your bid using a \$ in this format : \$15.00, \$50.00, etc. Hit the Enter key or click the black box at the bottom of the screen to enter your information and secure your bid. Contact Renee in the church office if you need to have your bid entered for you.

Bidding on items will close on Thursday, April 7th at 3pm. The time stamp on Time to Signup will be used to determine the winning bidders. Winners of auction items will be notified on Friday, April 8th. Items can be picked up and paid for on Sunday, April 10th in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Other arrangements for pickup can also be made. You may pay for items with a personal check (made out to St. Paul's UCC) or cash (exact change, please). Auction results will be posted online.

We offer a special thanks to our generous donors : St. Paul's Youth Fellowship, Carol Sizemore & Jason Sizemore, St. Paul's Consistory, The Velez Family, Jenn Martek, Melissa Cawley, Dale Thorpe, The Dundore Family, The Simpson Family, Joan Kraft, Leslie Hoehn, Mary Runkle, Joan Moyer, The Paulus Family, St. Paul's Adult II Sunday School Class.

Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) with any questions.

Good luck and have fun supporting St. Paul's UCC during our Spring Online Auction!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
Tuesday, April 5, 6:30PM

The Open and Affirming Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 P.M. in room 7/8. If you are wondering who is part of this committee, every St. Paul's member is part of this committee, since we all have approved our ONA Covenant. Shirley and I are hoping that many will attend, and the meeting needs to be relocated to the Sanctuary. The meeting agenda will consist of our invitation to be part of the worship service on ONA Sunday, June 26, our presence at the Central PA Pride Festival on Saturday, July 30, the Community Pride Worship Service on Sunday, July 31 and other topics that need to be presented to the committee. If you have questions, please contact Steve Roush at scroush2@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Thank you,
Shirley Keith Knox and Steve Roush, Co-Chairpersons

BAZAAR CRAFT WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 21, 6-8pm



Adults & Teens - Join us for a fun evening of making crafts to be sold at this year's Bazaar! These crafts do NOT take advanced skills. Each craft will have

a leader to guide you through the project. We will also have ideas for more crafts you can do on your own to support the Bazaar. You can check out ideas on this Pinterest Page: <https://pin.it/5y0pMNy>
Please sign-up online to help us plan: <https://www.timetosignup.com/stpaulsucc/shet/1326209>

We're also collecting supplies for these and future crafts:

- Wine corks
- Canning lids
- Fall & Winter ribbon
- Homespun fabric
- Old picture frames
- Buttons
- Scrabble tiles

If you have questions or are willing to lead a craft, contact Jenn Martek at jennmartek50@gmail.com

RECOGNIZING 50YR. MEMBERS

Sunday, April 24th, 10:30AM



On April 24, we will be recognizing and honoring our 50+ year members during the 10:30 worship service, followed by a special fellowship time. Please congratulate these

folks for their inspiring achievement and contributions to St. Paul's history:

Frank Roth, Patty Scott, Dayne Miller, Ned and Rhoda Rupp, Anna Thompson, Susan Thorn, Raymond Krouch, Tom Milletics, Shirley Grammar, Dot Miller, Carolyn Rutherford, Donna Sponsler, Al Huebner, Marshall Bender, Joanne Miller, Sandra Heckman, Craig Hershey, Jacquelyn Kreitzer, Barbara Westhafer

POLLYANNAS

Tuesday, April 26th, 11:30AM

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, April 26th at Brothers Family Restaurant on Gettysburg Pike. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL

Sunday, May 1st, 3PM

The Mercersburg Association, and the members of St. Paul's UCC, invite your participation in the Ecclesiastical Council of Allyssa A. Boyer. **The council will be held on Sunday, May 1st, 3:00 PM, in St. Paul's sanctuary.** The Ecclesiastical Council is a gathering where candidates for authorized ministry are evaluated in and on behalf of the entire UCC. You are invited to determine, with the rest of the council, if Allyssa may be ordained (pending a call) as a minister in the UCC. In preparation, you may read her ordination paper (copies will be made available in the Common, and by request via email). We encourage you to attend this Association-wide event, during which you will have an opportunity to ask questions and offer affirmation.



SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday May 7, 2022 8AM-1PM

Please let us know if you would be willing to help with this event in any way. (Call the office or let any of the committee members know).

- Spaces/Tables - \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members payable at time of reservation
- Concession stand with delicious food for sale
- Bake Sale Table with sweets and treats
- Church sponsored tables that will be managed by Yard Sale Committee members

This is a Rain or Shine Event. No refunds. Of course, we're hoping for SHINE!

If you have items to donate for the Yard Sale Committee members to sell:

- 4/17 - Drop off your clean treasures on the Stage in Fellowship Hall anytime starting on Easter Sunday
- 5/1 – Last day to put things on the stage. If you have items after this date, please contact a Yard Sale Committee member

Here are some ideas:

- **YES, Please!**
 - Holiday and General Décor
 - Linens/Fabric
 - Kitchenware (gadgets, bakeware, cookware, etc.)
 - Furniture (wood chairs, side tables, small desks, lamps, etc.)
 - Books
 - Working tools/Hardware
- **Thanks, but No.**
 - Sporting equipment, stuffed animals/toys
 - Electronics (TVs, phones, computers, monitors, printers, etc.)
 - Board games/puzzles
 - VHS tapes
 - Clothes
 - Glassware (glasses, mugs, vases), Water bottles

Have something that you think might be a sellable item (regardless of the lists provided)? Please contact a Yard Sale committee member and they'll let you know.

THANK YOU! Yard Sale Committee: Mary Runkle, Carol Sizemore, Val Chapman-Jones, Susie White, Joan Moyer, Kim Pirtle

ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

Monday, May 16th.



The Ecumenical Food Pantry is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Monday, May 16,

2022. Spots are going fast, so if you are interested in more information, see the brochure on the table in the lobby. All proceeds benefit the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

to donate, especially toiletries. All donations are appreciated.

THE BAZAAR

Craft items needed for the bazaar! Knitting, crocheting, sewing, jewelry, magnets, other craft items are wanted. Need an idea or have one to share? Call or text Betty Olsen at 717-903-5800 or e-mail: sew2am@hotmail.com

Please Note: The collection location for the Ecumenical Food Pantry and New Hope Ministries moved. It is now outside the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to remember



HOLY WEEK



SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH; 10:30AM.

PALM SUNDAY

Morning worship



THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH; 6:30PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Evening meal and worship

Sign up online or on the bulletin board in the Commons.



FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH; 7:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Evening worship



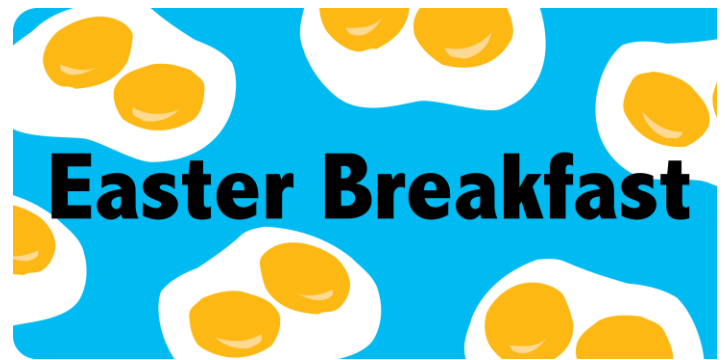
SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH; 10:00AM

EASTER EGG HUNT

All children in grade 5 and younger are invited to participate. Please sign-up on our website so that the Easter Bunny can plan ahead. If you would like to help by donating candy (small enough to fit inside an Easter egg) please place your candy donations in the box in the Commons. The egg hunt will start promptly at 10 AM, so we ask that you gather in Fellowship Hall no later than 9:50 for instructions. A parent or guardian must accompany their child to the egg hunt and children should bring their own Easter basket along to collect eggs. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Allyssa. Hoppity, hoppity, Easter's on its way!



SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH
SUNRISE SERVICE
(6:30AM)



Easter Breakfast

POTLUCK BREAKFAST

(9:00AM)

Hallelujah! We are resurrecting our Easter morning breakfast! After a long two years, we are able to celebrate. Come with your favorite breakfast casserole, fruit, breakfast meat, or pastry and join us at 9:00AM Easter morning in Fellowship Hall for a sumptuous feast and wonderful fellowship time! Remember to sign up at church or on our website.

EASTER WORSHIP

(10:30AM)

With Holy Communion



