



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
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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!

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
Associate Pastor..... The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Administrative Assistant.....Renee E. Durbin
Director of Music.....Eric R. Dundore
Chorister's 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 Gray
Consistory President.....Sherry Spencer
Pastor Emeritus....The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold
Ministers.....The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's

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Rev. Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com
Eric's email: ericdundore@outlook.com
Web Address: saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

We are quickly approaching Holy Week and Easter. I hope your Lenten journeys will lead you to one or more of the Services we will be offering. A list of those is found later in this Epistle.

One exciting thing that will be different this year is our Good Friday Service. We will be joining eight other Congregations who are a part of the Thriving Together: Congregations for Racial Justice program. Rev. Allyssa, Kathy Aumiller and I have been a part of this group for two years, meeting twice a quarter and traveling together on the Civil Rights bus tour last summer and to other places.

The New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church will be hosting this Service. The theme is "Thriving Together to Be One: An Ecumenical Good Friday Service," centered around the seven last words of Jesus on the Cross. Choirs from the various Congregations will be singing and different Pastors will be offering reflections on the seven last words or phrases. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be offered.

The Service will begin at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 7th. New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church's address is 2339 N. 6th St. Harrisburg, Pa. There are two smaller parking lots near the Church and on-street parking. We are also arranging for ride sharing. There are sign-up sheets online and in the Common Area if you want a ride and if you can give a ride to others. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to join with other Congregations in Worship and experience traditions different than our own as well as sharing some of ours. For example, I am not sure how long the service will be. In other settings, I have been a part of Good Friday Services that have been three hours. Several different choirs will be singing, and seven different Pastors will be offering reflections, so

it is safe to say the Service will be more than an hour 😊.

While at St. Paul's, Good Friday Services are somber experiences, this Service will likely feel different. We are celebrating that different Congregations, East Shore-West Shore, primarily African American-primarily White, Baptist-Presbyterian-AME-Brethren-UCC-Christian, are all choosing to Worship together. And within the African American tradition, Good Friday is often more of a celebration, as Jesus' last words on the cross offer hope to Communities of people who have been persecuted: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do;" "Today you will be with me in paradise;" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me;" "It is finished;" "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Jesus, like many African Americans throughout our history, was unjustly persecuted, tried, and hung. The fact that he offers forgiveness, despite his feeling abandoned; that he offers the promise of life in paradise soon; that the suffering is finished and a joining with God will now result, are all reasons for hope and therefore celebration for people who similarly are suffering.

As I pondered this, it is interesting and appropriate I think, that we as mostly white folks, who have not suffered in the same way, and who have through our silence and/or inaction allowed such persecution to occur, would be somber as we reflect upon what other humans did to Jesus. By other humans I do not mean the Jewish people as a whole, but rather the authorities, the people in power, both Roman and Jewish. Our somberness reflects our understanding that some human beings can bring such suffering upon other humans out of fear, or desire to maintain place

and status. We may well have acted as persecutors, and not stood with Jesus. Good Friday is a day to remember. And our memories, individual and collective, are not the same. We bring all this to our participation in this and all Good Friday Services.

We look forward to joining with our Christian Brothers and Sisters as we remember together. If you have any questions, please ask. Peace, Rev. John

BIRTHDAYS

04/02	Taylor Garman	04/17	Heather McNeese
	William Cashman III	04/19	Thomas Stavelly
04/06	Andrew Clauser		Mike Beynon
04/07	Debra Kassahun	04/20	Megan Kern
	Suzanne Sentman		Xavier Sufrin
04/10	Joanne Miller	04/22	Herbert Sutton
04/11	Jennifer McCorkel	04/23	Timothy Kiner
	Rebecca Drazba		Victoria Velez
	Kim Pirtle	04/24	Jordan Thompson
04/12	Julia Patton	04/25	Sarah Murphy
	Solomon Chripczuk	04/28	Ronald Gabriel
04/13	Charlotte Cashman	04/30	Allison Moyer
04/16	Jim Paulus		Krista Bensel
	Herbert Bomberger		Charles Dickensheet

ANNIVERSARIES

04/10	Douglas & Rhonda Jacobsen
04/19	Gregory & Shirley J. Knox
04/23	Mary & Jack Runkle
04/24	Michael & Jennifer McCorkel
04/27	Roland & Gail Parthree
	Rachael & Myrl Hersh
04/29	Valerie Chapman-Jones & Mike Jones

**MAY EPISTLE SUBMISSION
DEADLINE**
Friday, April 21st, 2023

Dear St. Paul's Congregation,

Thank you for all the support with our spiritual and physical journey through the years. The flowers and notes of encouragement are powerful enablers of hope.

With love, Cindy Bensel and Family



Sunday, April 2, 2023 10:30 A.M. Palm Sunday Acolyte Lector Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table - Consisto Paula Boyer Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door -Consistory Chris Grice Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door -Consistory Steven Roush Welcome Team Member - Communion Server -Consistory Craig Martek Welcome Team Member - Communion Server -Consistory Wendy Hayden Altar Flower Delivery Erin Anderson Kid's Place Attendant Ivonne McFarland Kid's Place Attendant Counting Team Member Counting Team Member	Sunday, April 9, 2023 10:30 A.M. Easter Acolyte Lector Eric Dundore Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Consistory Steven Roush Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door Consistory Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door Consistory Paula Boyer Worship Welcome Team Member - Communion Server -Consistory Wendy Hayden Worship Welcome Team Member - Communion Server - Consistory Nancy Richey Altar Flower Delivery Joan Moyer Kid's Place Attendant Kim Pirtle Kid's Place Attendant Counting Team Member Counting Team Member Counting Team Member	Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:30 A.M. Acolyte Lector Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door Altar Flowers Delivery Tom Betty Olsen Kid's Place Attendant Jonneke Dundore Kid's Place Attendant Counting Team Member Martha Keith Counting Team Member Joan Moyer	Sunday, April 23, 2023 10:30 A.M. Acolyte Lector Kathy Aumiller Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door Altar Flowers Delivery Bonnie Plymette Kid's Place Attendant Jonneke Dundore Kid's Place Attendant Bonnie Plymette Counting Team Member Counting Team Member	Sunday, April 30, 2023 10:30 A.M. Acolyte Lector Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door Altar Flowers Delivery Darryl & Winnie Wentz, 2 Wentz Kid's Place Attendant Kid's Place Attendant Counting Team Member Counting Team Member
<div> Worship Welcome Team Name Change The Worship Committee has decided to change the Worship Welcome Team to Greeter. The Consistory member that is in charge each month will be known as the Lead Greeter. This change will begin on Sunday, April 2 and each Greeter will wear a magnetic name badge that reads "Greeter" and has our logo on it. The Consistory member's name badge will read "Lead Greeter". This change is being made so as not to confuse us with our Refugee Welcome Team and our work with the Perez family, through Church World Service. </div>				

Spotlight on Sacred Art

Welcome to a new feature in our monthly epistle. Here we'll highlight symbols, emblems, and other aspects of our church's art and architecture, explain their meaning, and reveal a little about their history. This month, our spotlight is on the **season of Lent**.

Lent is the season of the Christian year that commemorates the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation before his public ministry. It also marks the time leading up to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends roughly six weeks later, on the night of Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

The English word "Lent" is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "spring season." The pattern of fasting and praying for forty days is seen in the Bible, which is the basis for the liturgical season of Lent. In the Old Testament, Moses went into the mountains for forty days and forty nights



Our Lenten banner is purple in color and displays symbols of the crown of thorns and the nails used in Christ's crucifixion.

to pray and fast before receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).

The prophet Elijah went into the

mountains for forty days and nights to fast and pray until "the word of the Lord came to him" (1 Kings 19:8-9). In the New Testament, Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray for forty days and nights (Mark 1:12-13; Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). These fasts of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus prepared them for their work, and they are the foundations for Lent.

In Western Christian traditions, like at St. Paul's UCC, the liturgical color of the season of Lent is purple. Altar crosses are traditionally veiled during this period in the Christian year (thank you to Eric Dundore who hung the purple veil on our sanctuary's big wooden cross this year).



Our sanctuary cross veiled with a purple cloth in observance of Lent.

Are you curious to learn more about a particular symbol, artwork, or other feature? Let us know by contacting Pastor Allyssa or Rev. Anna Thompson. We would love to hear from you!



Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Ann; Barb; Barb Bell; Marshall Bender; Cindy & Dick Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); Barbara Blust; Braylan; Brian (Shearer); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jeff Carlson (P. Miller); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Mary Cooley (Richey); Donna D'Agostino; Rita Davidson (Plymette); Emily Degnitz; Evelyn Diorio; Allen Dreibelbis ; Nancy Dreibelbis; Richard Ecks (Plymette); Linda Felton (Sponsler); Bob & Eve Fenner; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Sandy Gordon; Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Mike Hatz; Noah Helwig (Trout); Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Janie (Biss); Dan & Will Jones; Jean and Will Jones; Josh (Ritter); Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Kathy (Simpson); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; Glenn Kline; Sandy Kline; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Jean & Craig Layne; Leibowitz Family, Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Liam (Simpson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Judy Linton & Family; Lori (Murphy); Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Joanne Miller; Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Ernie Moyer; Nicolas Murillo (McFarland), Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Jim & Mary P. (Rhoads); Potts (A. Boyer); Anne Rankin; Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Monisha Ridley; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Jack Runkle; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; Susan Shanaman; John Shandra; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Barbara Sterner; Dory Szeles (Sterner); Wendi Taylor; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Jean and David Weiss; Leita Wentz; Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).

Events & Announcements



PRISM (PEOPLE RALLYING IN SINGLES MINISTRY)

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on April 23rd. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions? Contact Carol Sizemore, 717-858-3105.



YARD SALE

Saturday May 6, 2023 8AM – 1PM This event was so successful last year, we're going to do it again - hopefully, without all the rain!

- 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. If the event must be moved inside, we will accommodate as

many reservations as possible. If your reservation cannot be accommodated, it will be refunded.

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). There are many jobs available from set up to clean up. A signup sheet will be posted in the Commons.

We are asking for bake sale donations packaged to sell for \$1, unless otherwise marked.

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

4/9 - Drop off your clean treasures on the Stage in Fellowship Hall anytime starting on Easter Sunday

4/30 - 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
- Games/puzzles/toys

Thanks, but No.

- Sporting equipment
- Stuffed animals

- Electronics (TVs, phones, computers, monitors, printers, etc.)
- 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: Joan Moyer, Kim Pirtle, Mary Runkle, Carol Sizemore, Susie White

SECURITY CORNER

Have you heard the expression, "Hidden in Plain Sight"? Did you know that Saint Paul's Church has a Automated External Defibrillator, better know as an AED, located on the wall in the common area. These are extremely important if someone has an event that may stop their heart. When the heart stops, the brain begins to deteriorate within 4 minutes making time critical. You do not have to be an expert to use these machines. The AED has sensors and a voice response system that tells you exactly what to do and how to do it. Please take 5 minutes to play the video at this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j6fVP7om7o> to familiarize yourself and your entire family with how the AED works so that it is not completely foreign in the event you need to use it.

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



YOUTH IMPACT DAY

Youth (grades 6-12) are invited for a day of fun, fellowship, and service in our community! On Saturday, April 29, we will start by working on a project with a local service organization. Then, we'll participate in the Grocery Challenge by splitting into teams and shopping for groceries, trying to get as many different items as possible on the shopping list while also getting as close to \$100 as possible without going over. The items will then be donated to a local food-aid program. We will also learn about poverty in our country and world, play games, and eat lunch and supper together. Please RSVP to Rev. Allyssa if you want to participate. We also need several adults to help supervise; please let Rev. Allyssa know if you are willing to help.

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, April 25 at Brothers Family Diner on Gettysburg Pike. We will meet in the big back room. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).



HOLY WEEK

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND; 8:30AM &
10:30AM**

PALM SUNDAY

MORNING WORSHIP W/ HOLY COMMUNION

THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH; 6:30PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Please join us for a light meal and special service for Maundy Thursday on April 6 at 6:30. So we know how much food to prepare, please sign up on our website with your name and how many will be attending by Sunday April 2. This is appropriate for the entire family! Questions? Contact Jonneke Dundore.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH; 6:00PM @
MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST**

GOOD FRIDAY

Our congregation is invited to an ecumenical Good Friday service at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Harrisburg. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church has small, fenced-in parking lot. However, it is likely that many worship-goers will need to park on the street. To help ease the demand for parking, to help cut down on emissions, and to help folks who are not comfortable driving in Harrisburg (especially after dark), we are organizing a carpool for the Good Friday worship service. To volunteer to drive, or to request a ride, please go to the "Good Friday Carpool" sign-up sheet on St. Paul's UCC's website or posted on the bulletin board in the Common. Questions? Contact Rev. Allyssa.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH; 10:00AM.

EASTER EGG HUNT

St. Paul's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 8. All children in grade 5 and younger are invited to participate. The egg hunt will start promptly at 10 AM, so we ask that you gather at the pavilion 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. After the egg hunt, children will have the opportunity to make an Easter craft. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Allyssa. Hippity, hoppity, Easter's on its way!

EASTER SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH; 6:30AM
@ PAVILION AREA**

SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH; 9:00AM

POTLUCK BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH; 10:30AM

EASTER WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Easter Breakfast

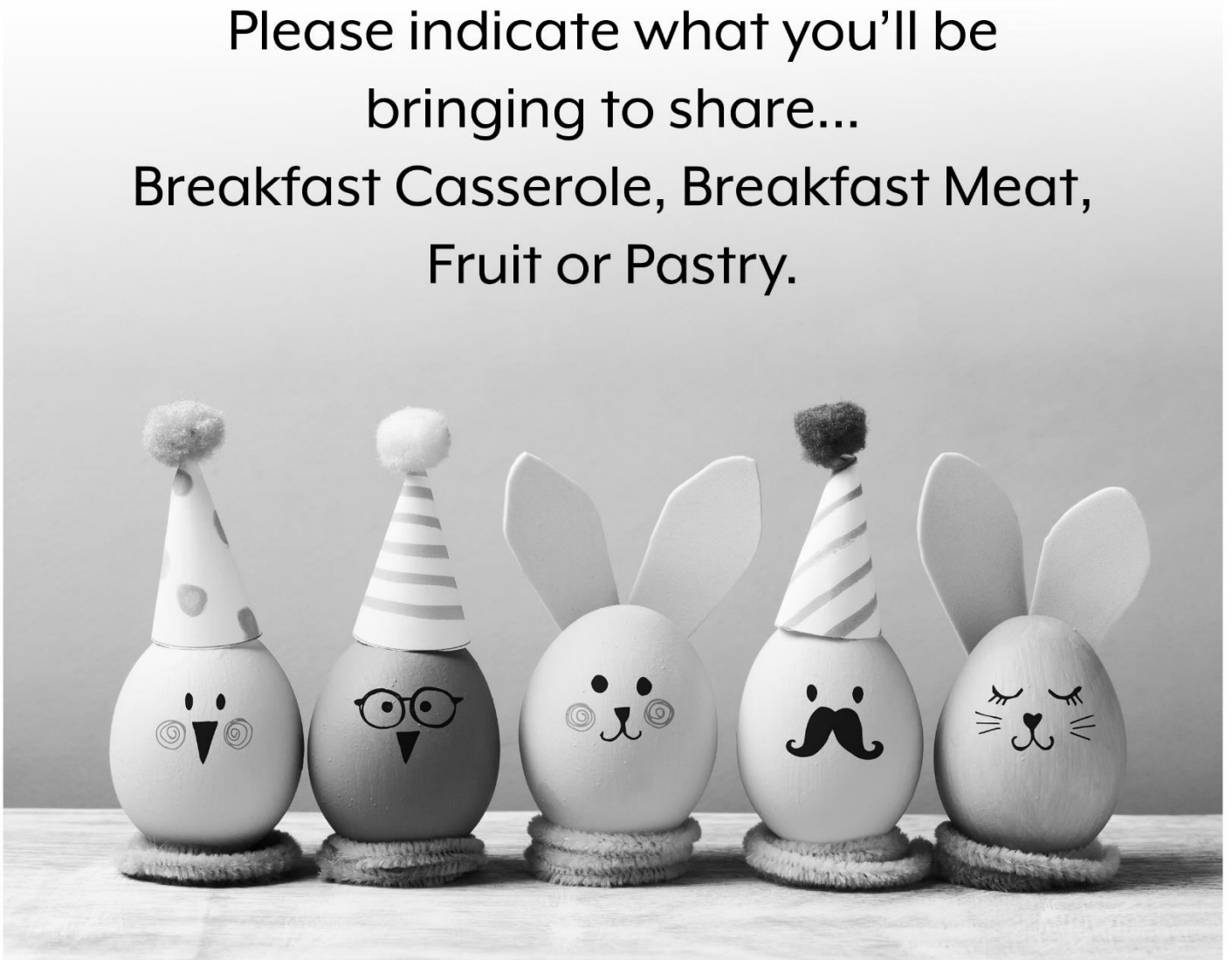
SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Begins at 9:00 AM

Sign up on our website or
use the sign-up sheet in the Common.

Please indicate what you'll be
bringing to share...

Breakfast Casserole, Breakfast Meat,
Fruit or Pastry.





GOOD FRIDAY

..... **APRIL 7 @ 6PM**

HOSTED BY NEW MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

📍 2339 N 6th St, Harrisburg 📍

THRIVING TOGETHER TO BE ONE: An Ecumenical Good Friday Service

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

New
Macedonia
Missionary
Baptist
Church

Camp Hill
Presbyterian

Bethany
AME Church

Monumental
AME Church

Harrisburg
First Church
of the
Brethren

St Paul's
United Church
of Christ

Wesley Union
AME Zion

Grantham
Brethren in
Christ
Church

Restoration
Community
Christian
Church

Join us for a 7 Last Words Worship Experience