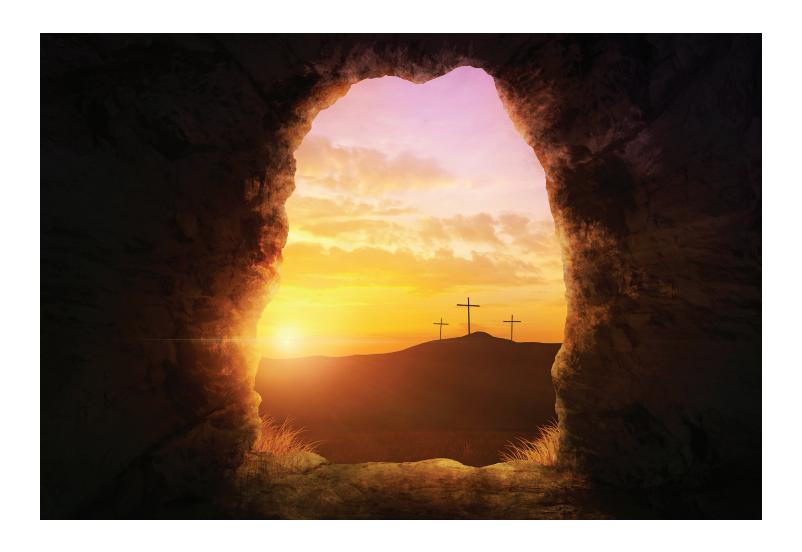
UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Serving God, Loving All.
April 2017
Embracing the Easter Story





Embracing the Easter Story

April Worship Schedule



Lenten Worship Schedule

April 2nd Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Setting John 11: 1-45 The Raising of Lazarus

Time for Young Disciples: "Jonah's Wait" Scripture Reading: Romans 8: 6-11

Morning Message: "Resurrecting Our Identity"

Featured Music Offering: Chancel Choir - Out of the Depths, K. Lee Scott

Disciple Zone Children: "I Will Remember You"

April 9th Palm Sunday

Sacrament of Baptism

Scripture Scene: Matthew 21: 1-11 Entrance Into Jerusalem

Time for Young Disciples: "40 Days for Jesus"

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Scripture Lesson Matthew 26: 14-75 Betrayal, Abandonment, and Denial

Morning Message "A Discipleship Fail"

Featured Music Offering: Chancel Choir: Draw Nigh to Thy Jerusalem - David

Williams

April 13th Maundy Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Setting John 13: 1-17 Foot Washing

Scripture Lesson John 13: 31-35 New Commandment

Evening Message "A Command Performance" Communion Scripture Corinthians 11: 23-26

Featured Music Offering: Chancel Choir - So You Must Do - David Haas

In Remembrance of Me – Buryl Red

April 14th Good Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

A Journey Unto the Cross

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April Saturday Evening Services

The Way Worship Service

The Way Worship Service is held every other Saturday at 5:00 p.m. It is an interactive worship service that includes several songs, a key scripture verse, an evening message presented through, video, drama, or reflective message, and spiritual activities to respond to the evening message. We hope you will try this new service that is intended to be casual, experimental, and spiritually invigorating.

The Way Worship Services @ 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel

The Way Worship Service is on the move! We will now gather in the Chapel for our innovative and interactive worship service. "Pop in" and bring a friend before you go out for a Saturday evening.

Saturday, April 8th "The Mark of the Cross" Sacrament of Communion

Saturday, April 22nd TBA

Visit The Way Facebook group for more info: facebook.com/groups/thewayworshipservice

Holy Week Worship



Scripture Setting: John 18: 1 – 19: 42 - Journey to the Cross

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52: 3-15

Evening Message: "Cross Contemplation"

Featured Music Offering: Chancel Choir - God So Loved the World - Mozart

Were You There? - Bob Chilicott

April 16th Easter Sunday / The Resurrection of the Lord

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Setting John 20: 1-18 In the Garden

Scripture Lesson Acts 10: 34-43

Morning Message "The Good News for All"

Featured Music Offerings: Brass, Chimes, Children, and Choir Offerings,

On the Third Day - Allen Pote, Our Risen Lord, Our King of Kings - Sally Ann

Morris, Alleluia Give Thanks, Day of Delight and Beauty

April 23rd Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture Setting John 20: 19-31 The Upper Room

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Morning Message "Unlocking the Spirit"

Featured Music Offerings Chancel Choir: Madgelene Cease

April 30th Third Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday / Youth Led Service

Scripture Setting Luke 24: 13-35 The Road to Emmaus

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 1: 17-23

Skit The Big Red Box

Holy Week at Unity Presbyterian Church

Holy Week at Unity Presbyterian Church will include the following worship opportunities that will include lots of reflective and inspiring music.

Palm Sunday, April 9th

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated at our 10:30 a.m. worship service as we embrace the Passion our Lord for his children as Holy Week begins. The Morning Message will be "A Discipleship Fail". Children will have the opportunity to make a Mini-Resurrection Garden during the Disciple Zone Hour beginning at 9:00 a.m

A Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Maundy Thursday worship will be held April 13th @ 7:30 p.m. including the observance of the Sacrament of Communion. We will focus on the Great Commandment that Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper. The evening message will be "A Command Peformance".

Good Friday Worship Service

A Journey Unto the Cross will be held on Good Friday, April 14th @ 7:30 p.m. We will focus our attention on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross through reflective music and scripture reading. The evening message will be "Cross Contemplation".

Easter Sunday Worship Service

The Resurrection of the Lord will be celebrated on Easter Sunday during our morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. on April 16th. Our joyous celebration will include lots of inspiring music with brass and choir combined. The service will include the Sacrament of Communion and the morning message will be "The Good News for All". An Easter Breakfast will be offered at 9:00 a.m. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. Reservations for the breakfast and egg hunt can be made by calling 412-561-2431.

Pastor's Corner





Le are fast approaching the Celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 16th. I hope you have been "listening for love" through the Season of Lent, through the use of the Lenten Devotional and participating in worship and other activities. It is now time to embrace the promise and hope of Easter!

The gospel story essentially begins with Easter, for without the resurrection, the life, crucifixion, and death of Jesus has little meaning. In fact, the gospels were written backwards, as a result of how events unfolded. It was only after the resurrection appearances of Jesus, that the disciples fully understood the scope of the mission of Jesus to redeem the world. The "aha" moments abound on the road to Emmaus, in the upper room, and along the lakeshore, as Jesus reveals his divinity to transform his humanity and all humanity. Jesus began this transformation with the full incarnation, as he fully aligned himself with being human and facing the same challenges that we face every day as finite beings in temporal vessels. He was fully obedient to the will and commands of God, thus making his atoning sacrifice on the cross, his death, the "trigger point" of redemption. It was only through this unique sacrifice that Jesus was able to create a new humanity to show us the Way to live forward in response to the redeeming love of God's mighty acts. These acts included the giving of the presence

"Embracing the Easter Story"

of the Holy Spirit to dwell with us as a guiding power, so we might fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus. The gift of the Holy Spirit was ignited at Pentecost; however, the preparation for the movement of Christianity began with the calling, teaching, demonstrating, and empowering of the followers of Jesus as disciples of the Way, the Truth, and the New Life of the gospel.

The word gospel literally means "good news". Jesus came to be the "good news" among God's people to show them the truth of God's Word, and to show them the way to live a new life to the glory of God, as Jesus had fully done. That is why it is important for us to know the Word of God as revealed in scripture. During the 50 days following Easter, April 16th and before Pentecost, June 4th, I encourage you to learn the gospel story. I am inviting everyone to read one of the gospels. You can choose either the gospel account of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The idea is to become familiar with the whole story of the gospel as told by the inspired words of these storytellers.

Each writer had a particular purpose in writing his account of the gospel story. Mark's account was to serve as a brief overview for forming disciples, a kind of Disciple Primer. Matthew wanted to encourage the Jewish audience to see Jesus as the Messiah, and embrace the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise of a Messiah to usher in a new Kingdom for all people. Luke wanted to put together an accurate account of the full span of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as a source of teaching people about the mighty acts of God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. That's why Luke follows up his account of the gospel with the Acts of the Apostles, taking the gospel story into the world. John

presents the gospel story from the perspective of the beloved disciple, part of the inner circle of those closest to Jesus; that is why he is chosen to care for Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the crucifixion. Each gospel writer tells various stories about the events in the life of Jesus, some are repeated in each account while other events are unique to that writer's account of the gospel.

We should not only learn what is in the story, but how to share the story with others. We are called to share the "good news" as disciples of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Each event, parable, encounter, miracle, and action of Jesus had a purpose to transform the lives of God's people. We are the "Us" in "JesUs" story. God's intention in Jesus becoming the Christ was to redeem us and transform our lives so we would daily reflect the good news in our lives to the glory of God. It begins with embracing the truth of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. I hope to see you there for the next phase of our life together in the Unity of the Body of Jesus the Christ!

Peace and Blessed Be,

Pastor Dennis

Events and Announcements

Lunch for Prospective Members

To answer questions one might have about church membership, a lunch followed by an information session will be held on Sunday, May 7, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We will begin after the worship service around 11:45. The session will be led by Pastor Dennis, Joan and Roy Humphrey, and members of the Church Growth Team. We hope all will enjoy the fellowship as well as gain a better understanding of Unity Church and its congregation.

This time is strongly recommended for anyone who might be considering joining our church. If you know of a family member or friend who would be interested, please contact the church office at (412) 561-2431 or place the reservation form below in the offering plate. Those wishing to become new members will be received at a Sunday worship service later in May.

Lunch Event for Those Interested in Unity Church Membership Sunday, May 7

Name_____

Attending _____ Phone____

The High Nooners March Event

The High Nooners traveled to Greensburg for a guided tour of the newly renovated Westmoreland Museum of Art on Wednesday, March 29. Afterwards the group enjoyed a fellowship lunch Vallozzi's Restaurant. If you would like to join this very active senior group of the congregation please contact Linda Aspinall, laspinall27@gmail.com

April Events

Wednesday, April 5th Last Dinner for Dollar 6:00 - 7:30pm Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 13th Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm

Friday, April 14th Good Friday Service 7:30pm

Sunday, April 16th Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt 9:30am

Friday, April 21st Family Movie Night 7:00pm - 9:30pm Transept and Lounge

Saturday, April 22nd Youth Ministry Sleep - Out

Sunday, April 30th Confirmation Sunday

Events & Announcements







Wednesday, May 24th, 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall Better Sleep - Better Dreams with LuAnn Cibik

Sleep is a key component of health and healing. It's also a powerful time to allow your mind to find answers to life questions. Join LuAnn Cibik, feng shui and dream coach for life changing tips on how to create a better place for sleeping, and tips for sleeping deeper. When you get REM sleep, you dream. In dream time you can get signs, symbols and messages to help you with daily life. Learn how to interpret dreams, program dreams, and understand why you might have bad dreams and what to do about them.



Wednesday, June 21st , 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall Qigong Exercise for Health with Dr. Ted Cibik

Qigong is an ancient Chinese form of meditative exercise designed specifically for healing the body. Medical Qigong is a step further in understanding the energy rivers of the body, and using qi or energy to help release blockage or balance energy that has been disrupted from accident, injury or even chronic illness or traumatic situations. Dr Ted Cibik is one of the leading Doctors of Medical Qigong in the country who's office is north of Pittsburgh . He will be teaching an easy yet powerful series of qigong exercises to help you bring better health and vitality to your body and mind.



Wednesday, July 26th, 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall Healing Properties of Essential Oils & Essential Oils of the Bible with Meredith Irwin

"And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."-Revelations 2:22

Essential Oils are "volatile aromatic compounds", which means a chemical compound "sufficiently volatile" enough to be transported by our olfactory system. These are naturally occurring compounds which are found in the seeds, bark, stems, rinds and roots. They are designed by nature (or by the Creator) to protect the plant against environmental threats. They have also been called the immune system of the plant, and are known to have healing and therapeutic properties. Did you know Essential Oils are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible? Come to this educational workshop and see what the fuss has been about for the last few thousand years!

Christian Education



Adult Education Events

The adult classes have also been busy. The Short Class finished their study of "The Cost of Discipleship" and will begin a new study on April 23rd, an analysis of the feature film "Risen." The Friday family night movie" series continued with "Risen," shown on March 17th. Our next scheduled movie is scheduled for April 21st, titled "Miracles from Heaven."

There are also continuing education opportunities in the Dinner for a Dollar series, Baptism and the labyrinth as a form of prayer. The "Dinner for a Dollar" series concludes April 5th. A special thanks to Terri Molnar for the meals.

Unity also has an opportunity to participate in two great retreats at Crestfield. The first is a women's retreat from the evening of April 21st through noon on April 23rd. Rev. Caitlin Werth is the featured speaker. Planned events include fellowship, worship, reflection and good food. The second event is a senior day retreat scheduled for May 3rd. This is a full-day retreat with hayrides, Bible study, games, and relaxing by the fire. For further information and costs contact Fred Frost at the church. (ffrost@unitypresbyterianchurch.org)

Join Us for the 2017 Soul Series

As noted on the previous page, we will once be again be commencing our Unity Soul Series in May. This is a monthly series of workshops or seminars, designed to be a "gym for your spiritual fitness", with a focus on holistic health solutions for the mind and body as well.

This year we are holding the Soul Series once a month, on Wednesday evenings, rather than on Sunday evenings as we did in 2016. We're hoping this will coordinate better with people's schedules. Child care will also be available, so this is a great opportunity for parents to get some much needed "me" time, especially since most of the speakers feature various ways we can replenish our various reserves.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Friday Family Movie Nights: A series of movies for children, families, and adults will be shared **every third Friday evening.** The movie series will run through May of 2017. We will hold two separate screenings - one

for children and one for adults. PARENTS this is an excellent "date night" opportunity, whether you decide to join us for the mature-minded film, or venture out on the town! Either way, we will entertain the kids for

free. Each film selected will be faith-based and inspirational. Activities, snacks and refreshments during and after the movies will be provided. We encourage the entire family to participate, but as stated, parents or guardians can also drop off children for the few hours, and spend some time outside of the church.

SHOWING IN THE TRANSEPT:

"Miracles from Heaven" starring Jennifer Garner Friday, April 21, 2017 - 7:00pm - 9:30pm

A child with an incurable disorder falls inside of a hollowed tree. While she is trapped and unconscious she visits Heaven. This movie is based on the real events that were lived by Anna.

Stewardship & Council



Recently Approved by Council...

- Regular Meetings of Council will be held on the fourth Monday of the month in 2017.
- During the months of June, July and August, the Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on the First Sunday of each month.
- Commissioning of the Lakota Art Mission Team will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 during the Worship Service. The Team departs for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota the following weekend.
- Commissioning of the Vacation Bible School teachers and volunteers will be on Sunday, June 25, 2017 during the Worship Service.
- The name of the Congregational Life Committee has been changed to Unity in the Community Committee. This Committee is seeking people who might like to assist with one or two of the many exciting projects this Committee is planning for the remainder of the year. Anyone interested to learn more should contact Chris Popovich.
- October will be a month-long celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Ideas for this event include the screening of the movie "Luther," a display of bibles in various languages, an art/artifacts/craft fair, music, "Coffee and Conversation," and many others. Further details will be forthcoming.
- Survey Monkey has been used to post a survey concerning online giving. The online survey is now available on the website, www.unitypresbyterianchurch.org/online-giving-survey, and in the What's Up at Unity e-mail blast.
- * Work to replace the front steps of the church will begin in May.
- * Two new upright freezers have been installed in the Wallace Food Pantry.

Important News

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has approved our name change from Wallace Memorial United Presbyterian Church to Unity Presbyterian Church. Our checking account has been updated. All checks should now be made out to "Unity Presbyterian Church".

Stewardship Snapshot

Giving was very good for the first two weeks of the month. The goal is for envelope giving to equal or exceed our operating expenses. The Stewardship & Resources Committee has created an online survey using Survey Monkey on the topic of online giving. Look for a link to the survey on "What's Up at Unity" or the church website. We currently have a small number of people using online giving. We would like to hear what you have to say about online giving and how we could entice more people to take advantage of it.

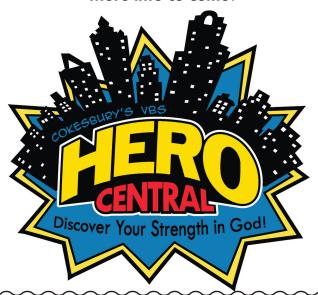
DATE	ENVELOPE GIVING	% OF EXPECTED GIVING
3/5/2017	\$10267	122
3/12/2017	\$6820	81
3/19/2017	\$2469	29
3/26/201	\$4037	48
Year-to-Date	\$70,803	65

Youth Ministry



Mark Your Calendar!!

Announcing 2017 Vacation Bible School!
(aka Summer Kids' Week)
June 26-30
More info to come!



Don't Miss Hook, Line & Sinker

A Fishing Outing called Hook, Line & Sinker will be held for members of the Kids, Intermediate, Confirmation and High School Classes on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Cross Creek County Park in Washington County, PA from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The outing will involve fishing, supervised play time at one of the park's public playgrounds, and a picnic lunch to be



provided by the Christian Education Committee. Registration and transportation details will be forthcoming.

April Christian Education for Youth

March has been a busy month for us here at Unity. Our children's classes have successfully changed to a rotation schedule where students experience 3 stations each week of 8 such as art, music, science, cooking, mission, and games.

If you are interested in being a guest instructor or want to know more about the program contact Nancy Schultz at the church- (nschultz@unitypresbyterianchurch. org.

The high school class just completed a successful service project at the Ronald McDonald House where our students and sponsors donated, prepared and served breakfast for a total of 60 people. Special events for April include the Communion Workshop and Confirmation day long retreat (held April 2 in Fellowship Hall), which was used to prepare and plan for Confirmation Sunday, April 30th. The High School Class is planning the Youth Service on that day. Easter Sunday will feature an Easter Egg hunt @9:30 A.M. for children up to the age of 12.

Youth Announcements Just Approved by Council...

- The High School Class is planning a day to grocery shop for our Food Pantry's program of distribution of summer lunch bags to the children of our pantry clients. The proceeds from our two Souper Bowls will be used to purchase these food items.
- On April 22, 2017, the teens will hold a sleep-out on the lawn of the church to raise awareness of homeless teens. The teens are seeking to raise funds for this mission.

The Wallace Nursery School will hold a Summer Nursery School Program consisting of two classes running three days a week, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., for three weeks in June and three weeks in July. Interested persons should contact Nursery School Director Lynn Wren.

Music Ministry



April / Easter Hymns for Focus and Reflection

April 2 (5th S. in Lent)

O Christ the Healer has a familiar tune ERHALT UNS, HERR, that we have sung in Lent twice already. This text takes a wholistic approach to the word, healing: body, mind, sprit and voice. We need the whole person to sing and rejoice.

April 9 PALM SUNDAY

All Glory, Laud, and Honor should not need an introduction; however is a great example for learning about our tune names. This hymn was written by Theodulph, bishop of Orleans in 820 while imprisoned in the monastery of St. Aubin at Angers, under the suspicion of treason. He was heard singing this hymn, that he wrote while in prison, and was ordered to be released; ordering that the hymn be sung every year on Palm Sunday! Hence the name Theodulph!

April 16 EASTER

The choir will sing Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded during communion and it was written in 1996, based on an old tune. Structurally, the refrain establishes the occasion, Easter as a day of delight, beauty, wonder and splendor and the stanzas indicate the appropriate response ---- singing! That point is made abundantly clear, because each of the six lines of the two stanzas begins with the imperative "Sing!"

April 23 (2nd S. of Easter)

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright is one of the earliest hymns to be written for a specific season in the Church Year. It speaks of the women at the tomb and the angel's message reported to the disciples as well as with Christ's appearance to them. The timing of such hymnody is important in strengthening ecumenical connections through the many shared hymns that transcend denominational boundaries.

April 30 (3rd S. of Easter)

Blessed Assurance is authored by Fanny Jan Crosby (1820-1915). As she recount in her autobiography, she wrote these words in response to hearing her composer friend play the melody several times on the piano. Because she had such a keen sense of the interplay between words and music, it is not surprising that this text and tune have been inseparable ever since. The opening statement of "Jesus is Mine" actually says the opposite of what singers want to affirm: Jesus does not belong to us; we belong to Jesus. As with many gospel songs, this sort of paradoxical exclamation is not unusual or likely to be seriously misunderstood.

Birthday Fund 2017:





Russell Faust Patricia Tafel

Jane Criswell

Ethan Cox Diane Ferianc

Alexander Oleksak

he Birthday Fund is an opportunity to give back for the blessing of life, and to help us save for a rainy day! This year again the focus of the birthday fund will be "Raising the Roof!" During your birthday month, we ask that you consider giving one dollar for each year of your age in celebration of your years. But it is not limited to those celebrating a birthday during any given month - not at all! Do you see a name of a dear friend on the list below, or someone who has inspired you in your faith journey? Make a gift in honor of his or her birthday.

Gifts can be submitted on Sundays, using the blue envelopes located in the sanctuary pews (please indicate "Birthday Fund" on your check or envelope), or submitted at any time in person or through the mail - simply complete the form below with your info, and return it to the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF THOSE BORN IN APRIL!

HALLIDIN	HALL BIRTHDAL TO ALL OF THOSE BORN IN AFRIE:						
4/1 Ruth Hutchison 4/2 Kelsey Kaplack Khloe Kaplack Rebecca Martinelli Kyle McCoy Marcie Neubert Aubrey Ploesch 4/4 Norene Conley Delaney Duch 4/5 Michael Wherry	4/7 4/9 4/10 4/12 4/13	Kathleen Ellenberger Sarah Harris Adele Kunz Ruth Millford Chris Volk Mike Kluczan Beverly Pini Doris Gottschall Andrew Slifko Daniel Esterly Natalie Kappers Carol Lindsay		Russell Good Joanne Olds Meredith Barrett Ian Cummins Betty Eichler Tyler Fraer Courtney Heningman Wayne Long Jason Molnar Joyce Nolte Janice Drzik Tim Schultz, Sr.			
Yes, I am grateful for the blessing of life, and am happy to be a part of the Birthday Fund! Name: Gift Amount: This is a:Gift for my birthday month Gift in honor of the birthday of:			4/20 4/21 4/22 4/23 4/24 4/26	Olivia DeWick Sierra Hayes Joyce Rossi Joseph Caruso Jr. Teegan Stewart Marguerite Canonge Luke Arch Margaret (Peg) Crawford Robert McCleery Jr. Marilyn Sproat Keith Tarbi Connor Zimmerman			



Unity Newsletter "Serving God, loving all."

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