

Grace Notes

April 2019

"Come Home to Grace"

From the minister:

The Excitement of Easter "But Peter got up and ran to the tomb . . ." -Luke 24:12a

Easter is an exciting time for many people. Easter egg hunts. Coloring Easter eggs. Easter breakfasts. Easter baskets. Chocolate Easter bunnies. Easter candy. Many of these activities seem like they are for the little ones. "Easter, it's really about the children," is a phrase I don't often hear, like I do hear quite often the corresponding phrase for Christmas: "Christmas, it's really about the children." Neither holy day is about the children. Yes, children are invited to enjoy it, but these days are *for everyone*. Christmas is not about the children. It's about *the child*, baby Jesus. Easter is not about the children. It's about *the man*, Jesus. As an adult, please do not discount or write off your involvement in Easter.

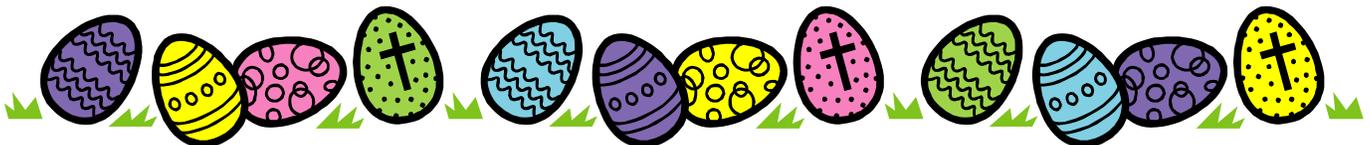
Notice, dear reader: at the first Easter there is not one child mentioned. The adults (women) in the story were first grieving, then unbelieving, then terrified, then proclaiming. The other adults (men) in the story were first grieving, then unbelieving, then running, then astonished. It was an emotional roller coaster, from one extreme of emotion to the other: from profound grief and hopelessness, to astonishment and excitement. What did they think? I'm not exactly sure, but I believe it was something like this: "This changes everything! I don't know what this means, but this changes everything!" It was news too good to be true. It couldn't be true, but there it was before their eyes. Actually, what they *wanted to see* was not before their eyes. They wanted to see Jesus, alive, walking about, talking. But on the first Easter, in Luke's account (24:1-12) nobody saw Jesus. What did they see? They saw emptiness. They saw an empty tomb. They saw empty grave clothes. The women, who were there first, did see two men in the tomb, who were probably angels, but they did not see the One they wanted to see, so they had to take the men at their word, that *Jesus was risen*. They chose to tell others the same words.

We, several millennia later, have a similar experience. Most of us, I believe, have not seen with our eyes, the physically resurrected Jesus. We can only go on the words and eyewitness accounts of others: the women, the men, the apostles, the gospel writers. We face a choice: do we believe what they say, or not? For myself, I choose to believe. For me, as crazy as it is to say that someone came back from the dead, it makes the most sense. There were at least hundreds, if not thousands of witnesses who saw Jesus in the 40 days after Easter. It would have had to be an enormous cover-up and conspiracy that would likely have been impossible to pull off, if Easter was all a big lie. We don't have any reliable historical witnesses countering the recorded eye-witness accounts of the followers of Jesus in those days after the Resurrection.

So, color some eggs, have an Easter egg hunt, celebrate the Easter bunny (all pagan customs by the way). That's OK. I don't believe God will judge us too harshly for doing those things and I do some myself. But if I was you, I would not neglect to do the most important thing that honors God: *I would choose to believe what happened on the first Easter*. Even if it is a bit confusing and the details are not all clear in your mind, overall, it just makes sense.

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Grace and Peace and Faith on Easter! -Pastor Rob





Holy Week Schedule of Events

Palm Sunday, April 14, traditional Palm Sunday service with palms

Maundy Thursday, April 18, service in the dining hall with holy communion and Hand Bells playing. (If you would like to be a reader, please let Pastor Rob know.)

Good Friday, April 19

Easter Sunday:

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with holy communion



Easter
Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

GRO will be joining the Youth Committee to serve a *continental-style breakfast* after the Sunrise Service. We will serve fruit, beverages, bagels and the kids will be coloring eggs to eat too! Please bring a pastry to share.

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Sunday school

10:45 a.m. Traditional Easter Sunday service with holy communion



The Caim Prayer (The Circle Prayer)

The Prayer to Pray in a Crisis When You Don't Know What to Say

Folks often say to me they have a difficult time praying because they don't have the words to say. They don't know what to say. It could be the person is not accustomed to praying. It could be the situation is especially tense or tragic, maybe overwhelmingly emotional. In any case, the Caim Prayer can help. Pronounced "came," this prayer is an old Celtic prayer pattern asking God to encircle someone with care and protection. This can help put "voice" to your prayer. Just insert the name of the person. Use "him" or "her" if you don't have a name. You can use or substitute descriptive words, if you wish, in the other spaces, or use as is. This should help you give voice to your heart's need to pray. Repeat as needed or necessary. You can divide it up as you feel led, but I prefer to just do it all as it is not long. Once you are used to the pattern, you can be more creative and use other phrases. The idea is to get praying. It seems I have had lots to pray for recently and some of it is emotionally draining. At times, I haven't been able to put my feelings and thoughts into a prayer. I can tell you this prayer helps me. Maybe it can help you too. –Pastor Rob

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep (*comfort*) near and (*discouragement*) afar.

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep (*peace*) within and (*turmoil*) out.

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep protection near and danger afar.

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep healing near and illness (*or injury*) afar.

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep hope within, keep despair without.

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep light near and darkness afar.

Circle (*name*), Lord.

Keep peace within and anxiety without.

The eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit shield (*name*) on every side. Amen.

Calling All Bibliophiles!

(Note: A "bibliophile" is a lover of books!)

You Are Invited to a

"Somewhat Random Fellowship Opportunity"

When: Thursday, April 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Where: Starbucks, in Barnes and Noble in Boardman

Do you love books? I do. Maybe you want to discuss what you are reading, or find out what others are reading? If so, then I have an activity for you! How about we meet at Barnes and Noble on 224 in Boardman? I will be there on Thursday, April 4th, starting at 6:30 p.m. and invite you to join me, find a book you want to read, or magazine you like to read, or bring a book you are currently reading, and we'll gather in the Starbucks Cafe right there in the bookstore to talk about what you found, or what you are reading and maybe share a refreshment. I want to know what you are reading, be it Christian literature, or secular, I don't care. I want to know what interests you and why. And I'll share what I'm reading and why I like it (or don't)! This is for any age. It may take as long as an hour, or maybe just half an hour. Bring a friend or two!

Consistory Meeting of March 2019

Members Present:, Steve Barnett, Matt Bell, Brian Cope, Logan Cope, Kim Davis, Chris Eisenbraun, Mark Frost, Bill Greenawalt, Alex Heintzelman, Jerry Hughes, Cindy Perorazio,

Excused: Patty Lanterman, Logan Cope, Mark Frost, Jerry Hughes, Rob Joy

I. Devotions – Alex

Next Month: Chris

II. Duty Roster: March: Elevator – Alex Usher – Jerry Communion – Logan, March 10th, 2019

April: Elevator – Brian Usher – Matt Communion – Maundy Thursday - Pat

III. Informal Discussion/Goal Setting: Motion that Matt Bell and Pat Lanterman be designated to have access to the Grace Church safe deposit box. 1st: Alex 2nd: Kim, motion carries.

Discussion of historical sabbatical funding and preparing for future sabbatical funding – discussion of possible need for increase from current \$250 yearly. No Action.

IV. Communications: National NACCC meeting at CLE Airport Marriott – Delegate and alternate, App deadline April 12th. Meeting is June 22nd-25th, 65th Annual Meeting.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from February reviewed. Motion to accept minutes, with correction that Kim was present at the Feb meeting 1st: Brian, 2nd: Bill, motion carries.

VI. Financial Secretary Report (M. Bell):

Financial report from February 2019 – Current Fund Revenue: \$12,373. Received 92% of budgeted (\$13,380). Current Fund Expense: \$13,238. Spent 99% of budgeted (\$13355). Motion to accept the report. 1st: Steve, 2nd: Kim, motion carries.

VII. Financial Committee Report (M. Bell): No Report.

VIII. Pastors Report (R. Joy):

Funeral for Anna May Duffy on February 11th, passed 2/5. Jon McMaster's service will be 3/8 at WKR. Rob attended Connie Bricker's memorial on 2/23.

Baptism of Emily Jane Whitfield, daughter of Mike and Geri Whitfield.

GRO bought a new HDTV and Blu-ray Player for Church movie nights – First to be held 2/24/19 at 5PM. Annual Congregational Meeting is 2/24/19 and we will have a Pot Luck following the meeting. February attendance down 6.75 congregants compared to last year.

IX. Unfinished Business:

No organ updates have been completed yet. Heaters/fans are ready to be installed.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Committee Reports:

-GRO – Rigatoni Dinner starting up 3/12.

-Property – Met with Coon Restoration and they will complete the job as originally agreed and then they will be paid the full agreed upon amount. Landis Flooring to start on renovations soon, rescheduled due to recent events at church.

-Elders – Steve and Meta Cramer will cover 4 of Rob's 6 weeks of sabbatical.

XII. Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting April 8th, 2019 at 7PM.





- 4/1 Parker Cline
- 4/3 Walter Burkey
- 4/4 Wayne Bonsall
Abbey Griffith
- 4/7 Alan Bott
- 4/16 Stanley Yeager
Ben Joy
- 4/17 Carolyn Roble
Robert Hoskinson
- 4/18 Amanda Roble
- 4/19 Rick Weber
- 4/20 Jon Duffy
- 4/21 Anita Smith
- 4/25 Dinah Sitler
- 4/26 Blanche Lanterman
- 4/30 Joel Keylor



Gary & Connie Scullion
April 4, 1970



Hop into Youth Club
Tuesday, April 2
4:30 p.m.

Come have fun with our Easter theme afternoon! Make crafts, sing songs, hear a message and play a game! The menu is bunny shaped pancakes, chicken sausage, strawberries, bananas, blueberries and red raspberries, a bunny cookie, orange juice and milk. Of course there will be plenty of maple syrup and whipped cream!

This is the last youth club for the 2018-19 school year. We will be back again in the fall!

Those Ministering This Month:

Greeters:

- 4/7: We need Greeters!
- 4/14:
- 4/21: Easter Early:
Easter Late:
- 4/28:

Liturgists:

- 4/7: Cindy Perorazio
- 4/14: Debbie Rohm
- 4/21: Easter Late: Diane Barnes
- 4/28: Brenda Hanna

- Usher:** Matt Bell
- Elevator Attendant:** Brian Cope
- Candles:** Brenda Hanna



Grace Notes

Grace Church of Columbiana
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Pastor's Home Phone: 330-892-0512
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.

