

GRAPPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

April 4, 2023

Easter Newsletter Article for a Church

Recently, I learned about AI generated text programs. You enter a subject prompt which, through algorithms, generates a human-like response. Our office administrator, Penny, reminded me at Thursday's staff meeting that I had the newsletter cover article. So, I typed into the prompt line of chatGPT | open AI, "Easter Newsletter Article for a Church." I was surprisingly impressed by the following response (with my strike through edits),

Dear Members of our Church Community,

~~*As we approach the Easter season, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this holiday and what it means for us as a community of faith.*~~

Easter is a time of rebirth and renewal, a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by Jesus and the profound love that he showed for all of humanity. As we remember the events leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection, we are reminded of the power of forgiveness, the importance of compassion, and the transformative nature of faith.

This year, as we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be easy to feel disconnected from one another and from our faith. But Easter reminds us that we are not alone, that we are part of a larger community of believers who share a common purpose and a common hope.

As we celebrate Easter this year, let us take time to reflect on the ways in which our faith has sustained us throughout this difficult time. Let us remember the moments of kindness and generosity that have been shown to us by our fellow church members, and let us extend that same kindness and generosity to others in our community.

I encourage you to take part in our Easter services, whether in person or online, and to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us come together as a community of faith, united in our commitment to love, compassion, and service.

May this Easter season be a time of joy and hope for all of us.

Blessings to you and your families,

{Your Name} Top of Form

You will find in this newsletter a listing of our Holy Week schedule and I encourage you to invite others to join you on the journey. Whether in person or in cyberspace, the good news of resurrection promises new life and hope in ...*our commitment to love, compassion, and service.*

Blessings to you and your families,



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**The Presbyterian Women's
Spring Rummage, Bake and Food Sale will be held
Friday, April 14 from 8:30-5:00 and Saturday, April 15 from 8:30-2:00.**

Please bring all of your wonderful treasures, clean and usable seasonal clothing and shoes, (3 LARGE BAGS OR BOXES ONLY OF CLOTHING), purses, luggage, jewelry, household items, kitchen appliances, cookware, glass sets, china, bath towels, bed linens, books, records, CDs, toys and games, tools, plants, small furniture. For larger furniture, please contact Margo Har. We will NOT be able to pick up any furniture. PLEASE ONLY BRING ITEMS IN WORKING ORDER.

There will be a Boutique Table for antiques, collectibles, items of value.

BAKE SALE: cookies, cakes, pies, breads, bars, fudge, 2 large or 3 small cookies in baggies. Please deliver to church on Thursday. NO cupcakes or muffins please.



DONATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS:

Days to drop off sale items are April 11-13: Tuesday – 10-5
 Wednesday - 10-5
 Thursday- 10-noon. (No donations after noon, please.)

We ask you **NOT** to bring knives, stuffed animals, individual glasses, plastic water bottles or deli containers, TVs, mattresses, computers, printers, speakers or anything that needs special handling.

Volunteers, both women and men, are needed all week long to set up, sort, and price (Tues.-Thurs.), and particularly to man the check-outs and help bag on the main sale day (Fri.), and clean up (2-3 on Sat.). We ask sorting volunteers to come after 10 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday. We will have a sign-up table in Fellowship Hall for the Sale and Bake Sale or call Margo Har at 978-807-3750, stepmargo@comcast.net.

GREAT NEWS FROM KENYA! Your support = positive change

When we received the news of the death of the only dairy cow at the Scofield School and Orphanage in Suna, Kenya, GPC Missions started a program called "Help Paint the Cow Red" to raise funds for a replacement. Your response was an overwhelming blessing! The goal of \$500 was quickly eclipsed and total donations reached \$2,250 PLUS a special gift of \$2000 to help restore full functioning of the solar lighting system at the compound. When combine with funds raised by another supporting church in NC, the impact has been life-changing!

Ben Okello writes, "Dear friends, may we take this opportunity to thank you very much for your support. With your generous help we were able to buy two dairy cows and one bull. We also bought six chickens and two goats! This is just wonderful! Maybe God allowed our cow to die so that we could receive what he has now given us. The children prayed and fasted for three days. They cried so much that God's heart was touched to pour out blessings upon us. Thank you for supporting these vulnerable, destitute children. We currently have 41 children in different universities in Kenya [and 75 children living at the school/orphanage]. Scofield is vastly represented with very bright children! We thank God for all our supporters who have been working tirelessly toward this achievement. Your help, support and prayers are greatly appreciated."

In addition to the new residents at Scofield, Ben was able to re-hire the teachers that were not able to be paid previously, and has added two new solar panels and batteries to renew the lighting system in the compound! Thank you for your donations, your prayers and your interest in Ben and Emily Okello, their children, and their Christian witness and work in Suna, Kenya! Our gracious Lord took our humble effort at GPC to a whole new level, and has blessed the Scofield School with real change! Thank you.

GPC Missions Team

**SAVE THE DATE
on April 30**

there will a
Combined Worship Service
at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary!

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

April

April 9	No SHIP	EASTER
April 16	12:00 - 3:30pm	Pizza/Roller Skating
April 23	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Pastor Caleb speaking to the youth about Garden Theology event on May 7th
April 30	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games (youth Sunday planning)

There will be
NO SUNDAY
On Easter Morning!

Please worship
with your family.

MidSHIP Schedule

April

April 9	No SHIP	EASTER
April 16	12:00 - 3:30pm	Pizza/Roller Skating
April 23	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Pastor Caleb speaking to the youth about Garden Theology event on May 7th
April 30	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games (youth Sunday planning)

I would like to thank the
GPC family for all of the
cards and prayers for
my recent surgery and
recovery.

Thank You
Nancy Sterrett

"Calendar of Giving"

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization. Please put your donations in the bin by the elevator.

For the month of:

April

We will be collecting items for

Adams County Office of Aging

Adult pull-on briefs (not the kind with tape on the sides) in sizes M, L, XL, disposable bed pads, Ensure or Boost nutritional supplement drinks and flushable wipes.

NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you.

March 12 - April 9 please contact Patty Welles at 717-253-8686.

April 10 - May 14 please contact Mary Beth Shoemaker at 610-730-5051



MISSION PRAYER LIST

On Sunday mornings we will be praying for the following people/groups that we support:

- 4/9 Camp Krislund**
Supported by three presbyteries, including ours. Summer camp programs for children and youth, year-round retreat facilities.
- 4/16 Dori Hjalmarson**
She is serving in Honduras partnering with Presbyterian Churches there.
- 4/23 Honduras Ministry**
Tomas Ramirez helps coordinate medical mission trips and does spiritual counseling with all the patients who come.

Please consider including them in your own prayers!

SPRING GATHERING

**ATTENTION ALL GPC WOMEN
Gathering of Presbyterian Women
of the Carlisle Presbytery**

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church
300 E. Simpson St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

REGISTRATION 9:00 A.M.

PROGRAM 9:30-2

MORNING PROGRAM

Devotion

Business Meeting

Substance Abuse Disorder -

What is It? How can we help?

LUNCH

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

**Contact Rachel Parmentier if you
are interested in attending.**



Stephen Ministry

**Change: To give a radically
different position, course or
direction**

Changes can be difficult — especially when they are unexpected.

Stephen Ministers are trained to help people learn to cope with the changes that have happened in their life. If you have experienced great changes — or know someone who has — and would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, please call Rev. Nyiri at the church office 717-334-1235, ext. 4.



The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important of the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord.

John's gospel devotes eight of its twenty-one chapters to this week alone!

The week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday and ends with the "three days" (also called the *Triduum*, from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day), the period during which we mark Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection. (*Worship Sourcebook*, second edition, 2013)

While this week can cause dissonant chords to rise within our souls as we move through the week's events, may we be reminded that from dissonance comes growth and we cannot celebrate Christ's resurrection without bearing witness to his death.

Join us this Holy Week & consider who you could invite, for this journey is meant to be shared.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

7:30* p.m. "Song of the Shadows" Adult Choir Cantata with Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 7th

Community Good Friday Service – 12:00 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 30 West High Street

Easter Sunday, April 9th

6:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service at the Eternal Peace Light on the Battlefield

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:30* a.m. Contemporary Worship—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

11:00* a.m. Traditional Worship

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Continental Breakfast

* - This service will be live streamed. To view live stream, go to: www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org
Just below the announcement pictures.

Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023



LET'S GO ON A LOCAL FIELD TRIP!

Fellowship Hall will be busy with the Rummage Sale preparation and set up, so we can not hold our regular April potluck luncheon and program. So, let's take lemons and make lemonade! For those of us who would like to meet at 11:00 AM at the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Train Station (across from the Lincoln Diner), we will take a TICKET TO THE PAST Virtual Reality Experience. For less than \$10 each, the program only takes about a half hour.

When finished there, we will walk across the street to The Lincoln Diner where each person can order and pay for their own meal while enjoying fellowship together.

PLEASE SIGN UP if you would like to join us, including your email address, so we can get in touch with you for any last minute details. Penny will take any RSVP's through THIS FRIDAY, April 7, 2023 at 717-334-1235 or gpcadmin@gettysburgpresbyterian.org. Any other questions? Call Rachel Parmentier 443-994-0241 or email Rasong@aol.com

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Email address: _____

Colon cancer is also known as **colorectal cancer**. Colon cancer is when abnormal cells grow out of control in the lower part of your intestine. When found early, it can be treated often with a good outcome.

Symptoms: Usually none until after it has begun to spread. Some people complain of belly pain, blood in their stools or very dark stools. Usually, a change in your bowel habits (like frequent stools or not emptying completely).

Causes: Most colon cancers begin with polyps, small growths inside the colon or rectum. They are very common and most do not turn into cancer. Screenings are very important!

Types of Colon screenings:

- * A **colonoscopy** is a screening test that is a lighted scope that shows the entire colon.
- * **Stool tests** (checking your stool for signs of cancer including Fecal immunochemical test (FIT), and fecal occult blood test (FOBT).
- * **Sigmoidoscopy:** a lighted scope shows only the lower part of your intestines.
- * **Computed tomographic colonography** also known as a Virtual colonoscopy.

How is colon cancer treated?

Colon polyps and tissue samples are removed during a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy. Colon cancer is almost always treated with surgery. If the cancer has spread into the walls of the colon or further, radiation and chemotherapy may be part of the treatment plan.

Prevention:

Maintain a healthy weight

Eat a variety of vegetables, fruits, legumes, fish, poultry, whole grains

Limit your alcohol intake

Stay active

No smoking (people who smoke have a higher rate of cancer than non-smokers)

How often should I have a colonoscopy?

Current practice is every 10 years unless an abnormality is found during the procedure or there is family history of colon cancer and then you will be given an earlier timeframe for repeat testing .

Regular screening saves lives!!

Save the Dates:

Hearing Screenings will be completed by our GPC member, Dr. Kathy Mellott, Dr. of Audiology. These screenings will be approx. 10 minutes each with recommendations given at the completion of the screening. *Ages 5 and up are welcome. Signups are encouraged.* Questions? Contact Pam Philips RN FCN at 410-596-0777. Sign up sheets are located in GPC Fellowship Hall.

Hearing Screenings:

Tuesday, May 16th from 08:45-09:45 in Eisenhower Lounge

Sunday, May 21st 8:30-12:30 in Eisenhower Lounge



Pam Phillips FCN at 410-596-0777 or email gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

We will be hiking in the South Mountain State Park on 4/15/23. It is near Boonesboro, Md. It will take close to an hour to get there. Probably will be back around 2pm. Dress in layers and pack a lunch. We will leave the church parking lot at 10 am.

Questions contact Jen Clark at jennifermaueclark@gmail.com



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WORKCAMP:

Dates have been set for June 25 – July 1 for this year's High School Workcamp! Please encourage your youth to attend this life-changing and faith-building mission trip! For details and to sign up, please contact Rev. Lou Nyiri or the church office! NOTE: We have changed our location to Dinwiddie, VA and will be *will be serving alongside Group Mission Trips*.

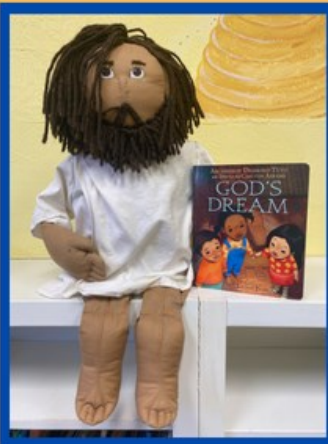


BOOK SPOTLIGHT

God's Dream

by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Learn that God dreams of us sharing, loving one another, and forgiving each other-and by doing so it brings us together and closer to Them.



Check out this and other titles in The Phyllis Dowd Children's Library

New Adult Sunday School Class

Christian Apologetics -

Case for reliability of Scripture and why we can trust the Gospel Account.

ZOOM presentation in MacSkill Room by Benjamin Kolmer

Peter exhorts believers to always be prepared to give a defense for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15)

Whether this defense of our faith takes place in a formal context or simply in a conversation between two friends, the practice of apologetics goes hand in hand with sharing the Good News. Former GPC member Ben Kolmer will facilitate two dialogues intended to introduce the congregation to apologetics, titled FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OF TELEPHONE? WHY WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE and JESUS' RESURRECTION: THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FAITH. Join us April 16 and April 23 as we explore the discipline of Christian apologetics by examining the astounding evidence for the reliability of Scripture and the reality of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST



Your Deacons invite you to the all-church
Easter Continental Breakfast Buffet
on Easter Sunday, April 9th



Serving times will be
 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.
 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
 in Fellowship Hall.

We hope you will join us for fellowship before or after the worship service you choose to attend as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

NEW SERMON SERIES

Garden Theology

<p>Potting Succulents Sunday May 7th, 5:00 - 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>Farmer's Market Trip Saturday May 20th, 9:30am Meet in GPC Parking Lot</p>
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*SIGN-UPS AND INFORMATION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



CALLING ALL “CLEAN WATER WARRIORS”!


The Central PA Walk for Water event will be held on April 29 at Northern High School in Dillsburg, PA. GPC will be fielding a team to help raise awareness and funds for Water Missions’ efforts to bring clean water solutions to rural communities around the world. You may remember that GPC worked 12 years ago with a local church and with Water Missions to supply clean water to a portion of Hidalgo, Mexico. The Hidalgo church has made this into a Mission outreach to take not only clean water, but also the living water of God’s love to their neighbors!

On April 29 you are invited to come hear about what Water Missions is doing, see and sample water from one of their “clean water systems,” and are invited to “walk a mile in their shoes” to carry water from a nearby stream to be filtered through the system for you to enjoy! This event is for EVERYONE! Youth, children, seniors, adults, students, and those with physical challenges can all participate to the extent that they are able!

Our team will be called “CLEAN WATER WARRIORS” and we encourage all participants to dress as their favorite Super-Hero for the event! Come on out for the fun and fellowship! More details will be forthcoming.



THE PRAYER PROJECT – APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Humble Jesus, we pray that we might not be the people who celebrate You at Easter, then forget You the rest of the year.	3 Great Judge, as You cleansed the temple in righteous anger, help us to cleanse our society of injustice, oppression and hate.	4 Reconciling Lord, bring peace instead of hate with those whose religions deny You. May Your love prevail everywhere.	5 Forgiving Lord, there is a bit of Judas in all of us. Keep our love burning for You and not for the things of this world.	6 Bread of Life, You gave us the mandate to remember You until You come again. May we all be caught doing Your work when You next arrive.	7 Man of Sorrows, even Your own turned against you. But You loved us anyway and died for us. May we never turn from You but be ever willing to follow You.	8 Conquering King, You defeated death and sin. May we never lose sight of the cosmic battle for our souls, but partner with You to share Your word.
9 We praise You today, our Savior, for Your atoning work on the cross and Your resurrection.	10 Savior, as You gave sight to the blind, help us to be sensitive to the needs of the blind and visually impaired.	11 Today, O Loving Father, we lift up to You the Bermudian Springs School District. Please bless staff and students in every way.	12 We thank you, O God of renewal, for those who faithfully pick up our trash each week.	13 We thank You, O God, for the ministry of the Presbyterian Women. Bless their work and efforts to better the lives of all women.	14 Lord of the elements, we pray for all who may be in the paths of floods or tornadoes.	15 Just God, keep each of us honest in our dealings.
16 Holy Lord, enable each of us to glorify You and enjoy You forever.	17 Prince of Peace, may your peace rule in our hearts.	18 Lord, we pray you bless the Adams County Planning Commission with wisdom and foresight to ensure the unique history of our area is never lost.	19 Holy Spirit, breathe on those with gambling addictions. Lessen its allure and protect all from the harm it brings.	20 Loving Father, bless all livestock and the farmers who raise them. May all animals be treated humanely, may livestock epidemics end.	21 Merciful God, we lift up High School students to you – bless and guide them in love.	22 Lord of the Universe, You created our beautiful planet, Earth. Heal it, and enable us to be better stewards of this amazing home.
23 O Sacred God, we sin so often. May we never fail to repent and ask for Your forgiveness.	24 Great healer, we are grateful for those who respond in medical emergencies wherever they are needed. Bless the work of all EMTs.	25 God who makes us whole, we thank you for the lives and ministries of those who are single. Bless them their work and their devotion to You.	26 God of abundance, we pray for the work of Ruth's Harvest to feed food insecure children. Bless it with all the money and volunteers it requires.	27 Gentle Shepherd, please bless all those with autism and those who care for them. We pray that autism rates will decrease.	28 Righteous Lord, scamming has become so common. Convince those who do it of the evil of their actions and make them stem this harmful tide of deceit and theft.	29 Humble Carpenter, we thank You for the work and faithfulness of those who participate in the Carpenter's Gift Project.
30 Lord Jesus, You gave us two ears but one mouth. Help us to hear broken people in our lives and encourage someone today who needs your message of hope.						 <p>O God who loves children, we thank you today for Kyle and GPC's youth ministries. Bless myriad children and families through this work.</p>

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

208 Baltimore Street

Gettysburg, PA 17325

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Fax: (717) 334-0666


www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly

 **Next Newsletter Deadline:**
Noon, Thursday, April 13, 2023

April 2023
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

April 6 7:30 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service

April 9 EASTER SUNDAY
 6:30 a.m. Sunrise service at the Eternal Peace Light
 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

April 16 Laity Sunday - Rev. Dr. Harry Winsheimer Preaching

To view live stream, go to: www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org
 Just below the announcement pictures.