

# The Good News April 2023

## *Pastor's Pen*

If there ever was one affirmation considered more important than any other in the Christian faith it would undeniably be the claim we make on Easter: "Christ is risen!" If it could be said that the whole of the Christian faith could stand or fall with one teaching or doctrine, it would be the resurrection of Jesus.

It was not Jesus's teachings which transformed the Mediterranean world. Emperors did not stop and take notice of a peasant carpenter because of what Jesus stated in the Sermon on the Mount or his parables, or even in the miracles he performed. The world was changed, people were transformed, principalities and powers stopped in their tracks, because of the news that Jesus, the man who had been dead and laid in a tomb, had been raised to life.

The story is that one morning some women went to a tomb, with heavy hearts and tear streamed faces, and discovered that the stone in front of the tomb of Jesus had been rolled away from the entrance. And when they stepped inside the tomb, they saw that it was empty. They reported this news to the disciples who ran to the tomb to see if what the women had told them was true. Later it would be said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Then it was told to them that this man Jesus was alive, that he was going on ahead of them. And it was to these that the risen Christ appeared. The too good to be true message of Easter is that Christ is alive. The center of our faith is not a dead sacrifice, but a living Lord.

We can say without question the resurrection transformed the behavior of Jesus's disciples. When Jesus was arrested, they abandoned him. Yet, these same frightful followers would be transformed into the boldest of witnesses for Jesus. They could do this because they had encountered the risen Christ. They knew that with the power of the risen Christ there was nothing in this earthly life which could defeat them and no obstacle in their lives too great to overcome.

And we are the ones who keep the Easter story and message going! We are the messengers of life in a death-filled world. We speak love in a world bent on hatred. God sets his people apart to be the resurrection and the life for other people. The Easter story continues wherever the story is told wherever faith is lived so that others see it, and hear it, and are claimed by it.

See you in Church,

*Pastor Peter*

### **APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY**

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. In addition to commemorating Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem, we will also examine the trial of Jesus which occurred five days later. The message is called *Pontius Pilate On Trial*. This first day of Holy Week will also include the partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

### **APRIL 6: MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:30 PM**

On this evening we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as we recall the events of the Upper Room when Jesus gathered his disciples and offered them the bread and the cup to remember his sacrifice. Our worship will also include a *Service of Tenebrae* (Service of Darkness), to commemorate how when Jesus died it appeared the darkness had prevailed over the light. There will be a special emphasis on the symbols of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of Matthew's account: The thirty pieces of silver, the towel and the basin, the nails, the crown of thorns, and the purple robe.

### **APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY**

On this Easter Sunday we affirm the declaration which is central to our faith: "Christ is Risen; He is Risen Indeed." Our focus will be on the Gospel of Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus, with specific attention to this verse: "So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples" (Matthew 28:8).

**APRIL 16:** Rev. Luke Choi will be bringing the message this Second Sunday of Easter.

### **APRIL 23:**

The season of resurrection continues, recalling the encounters of the risen Jesus. We will look at the response of Thomas the disciple, who when the other disciples told him they had seen the risen Jesus, he responded, "Unless I see the mark of the nails on his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails, and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

### **APRIL 30:**

On this day of worship we will look at three different gardens described in the Bible. Each one of them represent something of great significance in terms of God's plan of redemption. These are, The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15-17), The Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-36), and the Garden of Christ's Tomb (John 19:38-41).

## FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in person at the Northfield Church in the church library. Session actions/discussion included:

1. Mission and Evangelism Committee: NPC will be providing a meal for North Church in Cleveland on April 23. Plans are being made for mission representatives to speak at NPC during worship. Session approved family support of military personnel at Fort Drum.
2. Christian Education: Will be providing an after-worship study on the movie *The Jesus Revolution*. There were over 20 people from our church who went to see the movie on February 26, and this Provides an opportunity to reflect and discuss its meaning.
3. Property and Finance: The committee had their March meeting at which they prioritized the work projects for the year. Session approved the costs for replacement of the platform railing at the entrance of the daycare and the painting of the interior railing in stairwell.
4. Presbytery: Next Presbytery meeting is March 27.
5. Daycare: The search for the Daycare Director continues.
6. Session approved recommended revisions to the scholarship application form.

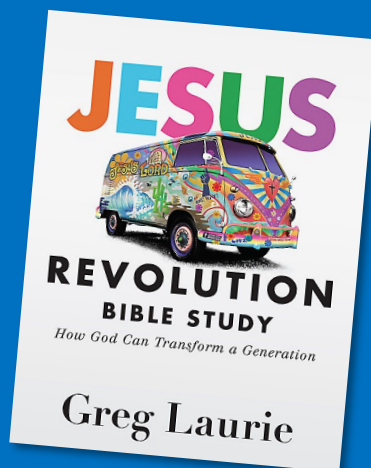
**PASTOR AWAY:** The Pastor will be away from Monday, April 10th through Sunday, April 16. You may call the church office if there are pastoral concerns and one of the coverage pastors will be contacted.

### New Sunday Bible Study: The Jesus Revolution

Beginning the Sunday after Easter, April 16, will be a six-week "Lunch and Learn" class On the Jesus Revolution.

It will be held in room 201-202 at 11:30. A simple lunch will be served, and the class will last about an hour.

If you enjoyed the movie, this Bible study is an inspiring reminder of the times and people that shaped the lives and faith of those who lived through the revival of the 1970s. Participants will discover a forgotten part of recent American history and, along with it, a reason to believe that God is not finished with today's generation.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

The NPC Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications for awards for tuition assistance.

Criteria for candidates has, with Session's approval, been changed to include those students pursuing graduate degrees.

In addition, student loan assistance will also be considered for those who have graduated within the last six years and have not previously been awarded an NPC scholarship.

**Please note: Completed applications are due April 30, 2023.**

**Finance / Building & Grounds Committee**

NPC has entered into new fixed Gas (3.99) and Electric (.066) rates which begin by late 2023. Chriss Burdis contacted TPI, our utility broker, and negotiated these fixed rates for 2 years.....Now THAT is great news and news that you can use too. Review your current utility charges and check “Apples to Apples” for rate comparisons. You never know what you can gain until you investigate and compare rates.

Church envelopes are coming. YES, they are coming. A new vendor was contacted and we are purchasing April 2023-April 2024 envelopes that should arrive by Easter. And YES, we are getting a full refund from the previous vendor who just could not get our envelopes to press this year. Many thanks to everyone who has been using previous years’ envelopes and yellow pew envelopes.

Please remember to consider paying the 2023 Per Capita. The 2023 cost to the Presbytery of WR is \$36.50 per person.

Building/Grounds has gained Session approval for a necessary safety issue. M & M Welding of Macedonia is fabricating and will install a new railing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor outside entry to the daycare building. This entry is used daily by parents and children. The installation is expected within the next 3 weeks. Gil Polcen and Alan Gruber have secured the existing railing for safe access pending the new install. \$5,840 was approved for the expenditure from the Capital Improvements budget. If you have any questions, please speak with Gil Polcen or Karyl Neubauer.

We hope you have noticed the new, safe stair covering installed in the education building. Stayed tuned for more as the railing gets a fresh coat of paint this Spring.

**INCOME AND EXPENSES**

	<b>Jan-Feb 23</b>	<b>Jan-Feb 22</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$27,872.00</b>	<b>\$38,793.58</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>28,621.18</b>	<b>35,055.84</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-749.18</b>	<b>3,737.74</b>

**Easter Blessings to all of you,  
Members of the Finance /Building Grounds Committee**

*April Birthdays*



Cindy Maxhimer	1-Apr
Richard Enczur	1-Apr
Irene Peters	5-Apr
Gail Burdis	5-Apr
Tom Hall	13-Apr
Ron Buddie	15-Apr
Chriss Burdis	15-Apr
Marcia Alcorn	16-Apr
Brooklyn Scott	17-Apr
Renell Noack	17-Apr
Chris Louis	18-Apr
Travis Scott	26-Apr
Jennifer Fox	29-Apr
Jim Anderson	30-Apr



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**Feb 22—April 9**

There are millions of people who need help with safety, sustenance and hope. One Great Hour of Sharing supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People.

To date we have received \$1213 toward this offering.

**EASTER BREAKFAST APRIL 9th 9-10am**  
Easter morning before worship.  
There is a sign-up sheet on the table





# April 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

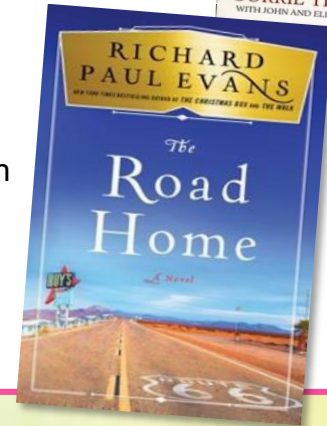
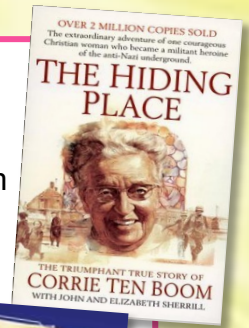
						1
2 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship Coffee Hour  12:30 VBC Worship	3	4	5  10am Property & Finance meeting  1pm Adult Study	6  <b>7:30pm Maundy            Thursday Service</b>	7	8
9 <b>EASTER</b> 9am Breakfast 10:15 Worship  12:30 VBC Worship	10  10am Women's Association  7pm Session	11	12	13  8pm AA	14	15
16 10:15 Worship Coffee Hour 11:30 Jesus Revolution lunch & study  12:30 VBC Worship	17	18	19	20  6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	21	22
23 10:15 Worship Deacons Meeting 11:30 lunch & study 12:30 VBC Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:15 Worship 11:30 lunch & study 12:30 VBC Worship						

## COMFORTING WORDS Women's Book Club

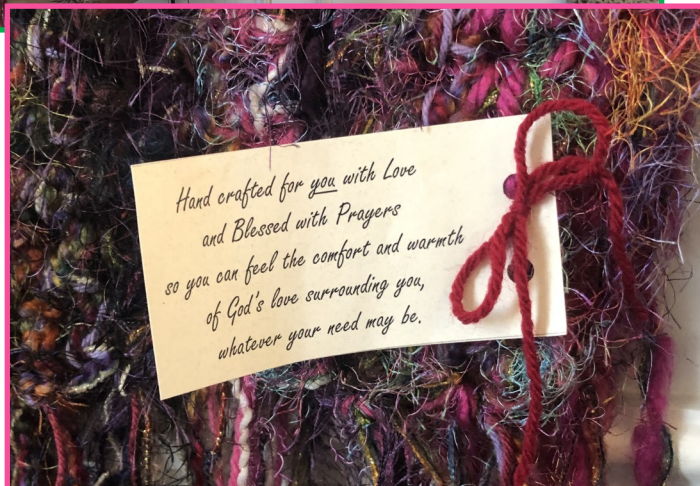
Discussion of **The Hiding Place** is set for **Tuesday, April 11, 5:30**, in our Living area. **The Hiding Place** is an auto-biography of the life of Corrie ten Boom centering around her Holland family's experiences through both World Wars, and demonstrating "how faith ultimately triumphs over evil."

Looking forward to the following discussion on **Tuesday, May 30**, we will be reading **The Road Home**, a heartwarming novel by Richard Paul Evans. After destroying his own marriage and having had a close-call with death, Charles James has a dramatic change of heart. He will impart on a life-saving path of redemption on "The Road Home."

The New York Journal's review of Evans' books says, "His books are the ones you can't wait to finish, but when you do, you wish you hadn't."



**Community Bible Study: meets via zoom every Tuesday evening from 7-8pm. Please email Tom and Mary Beth William: [tw@aol.com](mailto:tw@aol.com) for the zoom link. They also meet in person quarterly.**



**Knit.Crochet.Pray.**

Several people in our congregation have been participating in for the past months through the making of prayer shawls and distributing them to our homebound members and others.

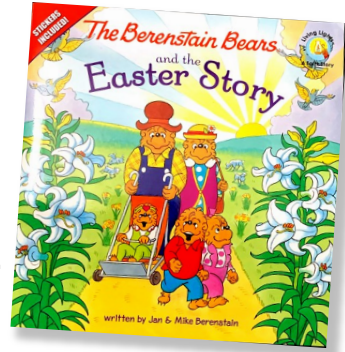
Some shawls were displayed in the Sanctuary on March 26th. Each shawl carries a tag with a message of hope and encouragement.

Those who have received the shawls have been so appreciative and are happy to have someone thinking about them.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this ministry of comfort!

## Welcome to the Missions Page!

NPC is gift giving an Easter story/sticker book to all 132 of our daycare children. We are sharing the love of Jesus as children take home this Berenstain Bears story-book for the parents to read and enjoy with their children.



Did you worship with us on Sunday March 26? On that morning we shared a letter from Reverend John McCall displaying Holy Week celebration in Taiwan.



NPC supports the Taiwan mission of Reverend McCall. If you missed this; please go to YouTube and watch our worship service—you will learn about Presbyterian Holy Week in Taiwan.



Reverend John McCall

### Upcoming in April:

The mission committee members are going to North Church on Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> to worship and break bread with our partner congregation at North Church. If you can join in this fellowship, please contact Don Davies.

April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Celebration luncheon at Nordonia High School. NPC is a member of the Nordonia Hills Community Connection and we will be donating cookies as dessert for all the students. We also have church members volunteering to serve the students and join in fellowship with them. If you have time to volunteer for set up or serving the students on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm; please contact Karyl Neubauer.

Peace and Easter Blessings to all,  
Members of the NPC Mission Committee

# At the DAYCARE: Green was the theme for Saint Patrick's Day...

Miss Mary Jane's class made crazy Leprechaun hats with attached red beards and paid a visit to the office! It's rumored that there was also a mischievous Leprechaun playing tricks on their classroom!



## The expiration of SNAP Benefits and our TEAC families ...

TEAC is seeing a surge in need: in February 2023, TEAC served 139 more individuals than the same month in 2022, and for March 2023, are on track to DOUBLE the number of clients served over just one year ago.

People receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits will experience a decrease in the amount they receive at the end of March.

**We expect April to bring even greater demand for our resources.**

**The Women's Association is sponsoring a collection of personal care products for the Emergency Assistance Center, and invite all members of the church to also bring in items. Please put them in the box in the Narthex. They are collecting things like shampoo, lotion, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, shaving cream, and liquid soap.**

**TEAC is always collecting items on the list at right as well.**

You can sign up for their newsletter and stay informed on what they are doing in our community at:

<https://teacenter.org/home.aspx>

**Thanks for helping!**



**MOST  
NEEDED  
ITEMS**  
food & hygiene

- Canned Spinach
- Knorr Rice & Pasta Packets
- Egg Noodles
- Canned Pineapple
- Canned Fruit - Mandarin Oranges
- Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- Brownie Mix

- Liquid Dish Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent

