

April 2019

THE HIGHER GROUND HERALD

West Newton United Presbyterian Church at 300 S. Third and E. Main Streets in West Newton, PA.

From the Pastor's Desk...

April Worship Schedule:

April 7th

10:00 a.m. Worship
with Communion
“Sensing the Season” (SMELL)
Psalm 141: 1-2
John 12:1-3

April 14th Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship
“Authority: Like It or Not”
Psalm 118: 19-29
Luke 19: 28-44

April 18th Maundy Thursday (7:30 p.m.)

“Service of Darkness”

April 19th Good Friday Community Service

Mt. Zion Church
Noon – 3p.m.

April 21st Easter

Sunrise Service (7:30-8:15a.m.)
Traditional Worship at 10 a.m.
Isaiah 65: 17-25
Matthew 28: 1-10
“The Approach”

April 28th

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon Series begins-
“A Child Shall Lead Them”
“A Picture of the Gospel”
Isaiah 53: 1-12
John 3:16-21

The Surprise Ending

In some stories, hope is wrapped up in the obvious elements of the plot, but other times hope is revealed through a surprise ending or a twist that no one saw coming — giving new life to the story. This makes me consider the Easter story. The Easter story is a vivid example that things aren't always as they seem. In a way, Easter is a celebration of the greatest story twist in history, one that's so unexpected, so revolutionary, so subversive, it changes everything for all time.

For many of us, it's easy to gloss over the Easter story — we've heard it so many times — and forget the surprise and impact of the resurrection. It's easy to read through the Gospels without that “aha” moment it really delivers. We have the privilege of reading the resurrection into the teachings of Jesus because we know how the story ends, but for the disciples, the moments before the resurrection were draped in fear, darkness and confusion. For the disciples, the resurrection provided an incredible twist to their expectations that made the story come alive in a new way ... past experiences began to make perfect sense. It changed everything.

Eugene Peterson explains it like this in his book, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*: “The Christian life begins as a community that is gathered at the place of impossibility, the tomb. The scandalous plan of God, revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus, reveals to us that what we see is not all there is. Easter tells us that a man convicted is not really guilty, that a cruel instrument of torture and death is really a symbol of remarkable hope and grace; it also tells us that an empty tomb is what we should have expected all along.”

On the surface, the story of Easter reveals a plot by the religious leaders of Jesus' day to take down a rebel once and for all. As Jesus is handed over to the authorities, the picture that's painted is that Caesar is king, his kingdom rules and the Roman cross would have the last say. Problem solved. The path to the cross was a willing conviction accepted by God in the most revolutionary act on Earth — a conspiracy to take on the sin of the world and launch a counter-kingdom that would overthrow every worldly empire. Not by violence or brute force, but by love and sacrifice — through Christ and Christ alone.

Colossians tells us that with each step Jesus was making a public spectacle out of the false powers and authorities and that, with the cross, he was triumphant. The twist, the unexpected ending -- what looked like defeat was actually ultimate victory. This story, the Easter story is also the story of our lives.

Grace and Peace

Pastor John



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

**Mark
your
calendars!**

**Apple
Dumpling
day is
Thursday,
April 25th!**



The West Newton PW Spring Gathering will be held on **Wed. April 10** in the social room. After the luncheon at noon, a representative from **Global Links** will present a program on her last trip to Bolivia and how in-country distribution works. She also will do a virtual tour of the facility in Greentree and the role of the volunteers, who include members of our church. Since 1989 Global Links has been working to redirect still useful medical supplies away from US landfills to support local and international health programs. They partner with agencies to provide hygiene products to families living below the poverty level in Allegheny County – this includes 42,000 children! PW is asking the congregation to donate the following **full-size products**:

Shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, moisturizer/body lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Collection boxes are in the narthex and the 3rd and 4th Street entrances.

Thank you in advance for support of this worthy organization. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The regular United Circle meeting will meet again on May 15.

PW Apple Dumplings -April 25: Watch for the tear-off in the bulletin to place your order for our delicious apple dumplings @ **\$5.00 ea. This is a price increase.** Orders may be picked up in the social room from 12:00 -2:30 on that day. We have ordered 400 apples. Get your orders in early so you are not disappointed! See Linda Blick with questions or if you are willing to help make the dumplings. We start at 7:00 a.m. and finish around 2:00. If you can't come early, come later and help with the clean-up. It's a great day of work and fellowship!

PW Sewing will not meet until September. If you would like to sew at home, please see Jo Lynn Lowanse for supplies.

PW Birthday Offering – May 5. Watch for announcements in April and envelopes in the pews.



2019 High School Graduates – The following High School Graduates from our congregation will be honored by PW on June 9th: Alyson Hoak and Tiana Martinelli. If you know of any other names, please give them to Winnie Davis.

Redstone PW Spring Gathering – Saturday, April 27: Brownsville, Fort Burd P.C. will host the Gathering from 9 – 2:30. Registration (includes lunch) is \$10, due **April 20**. Programming includes worship & speakers from Uniontown City Mission, Students in Action, Uniontown 3rd Mission Trip. Mission Focus will be donations to go towards digging wells in third world countries. If interested in attending, see Linda Blick.

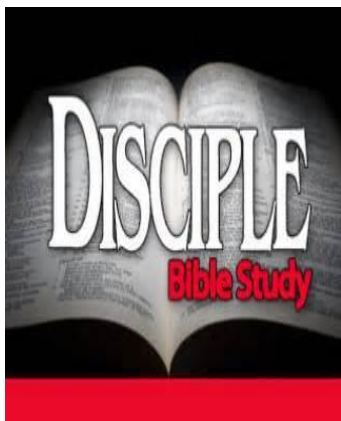
World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1 was attended by 40 people from the community at the Christ Lutheran Church. Helen Gara and Jane Medsger represented our church in the program, reading material written by the women of Slovakia with the theme “Come-Everything is Ready”.

The Bell Choir, under the direction of Joyce Pawlik, will perform on Palm Sunday. Members include Rich Sahar, Coleen Martinelli, Deborah King, Terri Day, Becky Moran, Jo Lynn Lowanse, Marcia Harris, Susan Catullo, Jane Medsger and Linda Blick.



Maundy Thursday Agape Meal will be Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 in the social room. Look for the tear-off in the bulletin to reserve your place or call the church office. The traditional beef stew will be served. Pastor John will be conducting the communion service after the meal. Your help is needed to prepare for this dinner. Come at 9:00 a.m. Thursday to help set-up the dining room and prepare the food. We will be done by noon. **And we also need volunteers to stay after the communion service to help clean up the kitchen.**

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Disciple Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

For the remainder of this Bible Study year (Jan.-May), we will be confronting many of the "Hot Button Issues" that seem to be continually at the forefront of our society, politics, and cultural landscape. While this is true, these same issues seem to go unaddressed in many churches. Perhaps this is because the topics are somewhat uncomfortable to talk about, people are unsure of what these topics are really all about, or these issues aren't readily connected to faith. We will tackle all the "Hot Button Issues" head on. Come join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the social room.

April 3 - Alcohol

April 10- Politics & Religion

April 17 - NO CLASS HOLY WEEK

April 24- Politics & Religion



The men of the church will meet once again for a time of fellowship at the men's breakfast on **Saturday, April 13th at 9AM**. This group meets every third Saturday of the month at Gary's Chuckwagon. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. This time of men's fellowship includes prayer, food, a short devotion, and a speaker. Men or young men of all ages are welcome to attend.

Session Highlights

Present: Karen Murray, Anne Hustwit, Clark Detman, Becky Moran, Colleen Martinelli, Greg franks, Michele Coleman, Amanda McMinn, Marcia Harris, Ron Chamberlain.

Excused: Annetta Carney, Harry Hepler.

- Communion on April 7th will be done by intinction.
- Easter breakfast will be on April 21st from 8-9:30 a.m., served and prepared by Session members along with Dave Murray's famous omelets.
- Memorial Day breakfast will be held on May 27th from 9-9:30 a.m. Cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. All proceeds will be for building maintenance and renovation.
- Easter egg hunt for our church youth will be held on Palm Sunday (April 14) immediately following worship.
- Continued repairs to the boiler system are needed. Approval was given to schedule and complete repairs as needed.
- Spring Clean Up day will be May 4th from 8 a.m. –Noon with lunch being provided. There is the possibility of afternoon times on that day as well.
- Discussion and approval to accept the property adjacent to the church from the state land bank.
- Approval for Pastor John to accept bids on the donated vehicle given to the church and sell it to any bid exceeding \$20,000.
- Lengthy discussion about building maintenance and renovation projects. A list of projects has been previously distributed to the congregation. Consideration for funding will include fundraising events, request for donations, and if necessary using memorial funds and/or a portion of savings.
- Renovation priority was approved for the 3rd Street entrance, old nursery area, and the Social Room.
- Approval to donate \$100 to the Rostraver/ West Newton Emergency Services.

OUR SESSION

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 2019

Greg Franks
Marcia Harris
Amanda McMinn
Karen Murray

Class of 2020

Annetta Carney
Michele Coleman
Anne Hustwit
Becky Moran

Class of 2021

Clark Detman
Ron Chamberlain
Colleen Martinelli
Harry Hepler

***Please support our session
with your prayers and participation.***



Coffee Fellowship

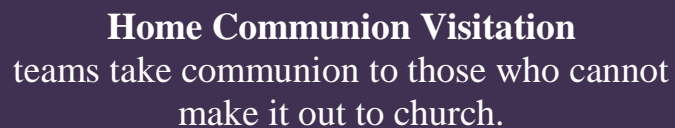
Coffee Fellowship Hour usually takes place following worship, on the second Sunday of every month, in our social room.

Hosts and Hostesses are needed
sign up in the Church Kitchen for future months
or Please see Anne Hustwit or Karen Murray



Feeding the
Community

The second Sunday of every month we will be collecting money or gift cards for families in our community that are having difficulty providing food for their families. There will be labeled envelopes in the bulletins the weeks that we are collecting. Thank you in advance for your generosity. We collected \$463 at the time of publication in the month of March. We will not be collecting for the Hunger Offering during the month of April. The next collection will be May 12.



1 member was served
home communion in
March.



The prayer room, under the bell tower, off the narthex, is available. Do you need someone to pray with? Contact Pastor John or an Elder of the church.



Chancel choir meets on
Thursdays
at 7:00pm during the school year,
and participates in Sunday
morning worship service.
*Contact Jim Sykes to get
involved.*



The bell choir
rehearses on Thursdays,
at 6:00pm.

*Contact Joyce Pawlik to
get involved.*



Orders are due back to the office no later than Sunday,
March 31.



Unified Budget _____ Total _____
 \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

West Newton United Presbyterian Church
 West Newton, Pennsylvania

Name _____

Contribution Envelopes are available to anyone regularly attending our services, even if you are not a member. Contact Linda Blick, our Financial Secretary, and she will be glad to fill your request.



Email WNUPC@verizon.net

Website WNUPC.com

	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	
<u>March</u>	<u>adults</u>	<u>children</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
3 rd	104	10	114	\$4136
10 th	84	9	93	\$2982
17 th	99	7	106	\$3633
24 th	86	5	91	\$2978
31 st	Not available at time of publication			
			4/5 week total	\$13,729



2019

Sign-up sheets for chancel flowers are now available.

Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the office.



One Great Hour of Sharing

We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on April 14, which is Palm Sunday. Don't forget to return your Fish banks that day. Envelopes for the offering will be in the bulletins that day as well.



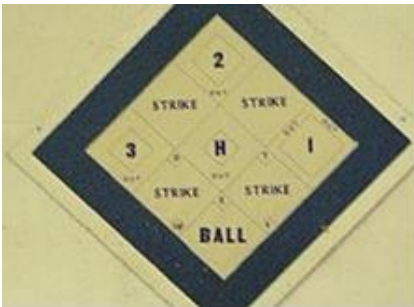
**Spring Editions
available**

In addition to the many ministries that are available here at WNUPC; like Sunday school, Bible study, and PW functions, we wish for you to continue your daily walk with the Lord in a time of prayer. To that end, we offer these free daily devotionals. Look for them on the table near the church office or in the racks in the main-entrance narthex of the church.



Mobility issues holding you back???

Wheelchairs and **Walkers** are available, on both levels of the church, as well as a **chair-lift** on the hall stairs. There is also a **ramp entryway** on 4th Street, through the chapel.

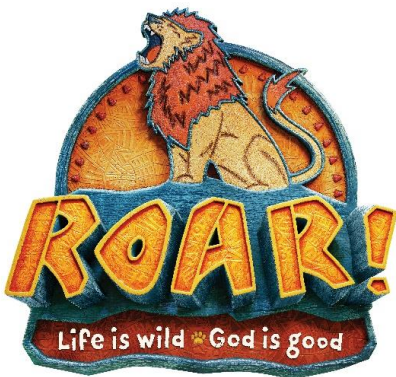


DARTBALL

Are you looking for something fun to do on Monday evenings?

Our Dartball team meets on Monday evenings at 7:00.

See Kris Edwards for more information.



VBS

June 24 - 28th

6:00-8:30 pm

Volunteers needed, please contact

Becky at 724-972-2462

Prep and Planning every Thursday starting

April 25th from 6-7 pm



An Easter Egg Hunt with Special Guest "The Easter Bunny" will be immediately following Worship on Palm Sunday (April 14). The Christian Ed Committee will be providing Donuts for Coffee Hour.



BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Anne Hustwit	1 st
Harry Upperman	2 nd
Tyler Burkett	4 th
Thomas Cole	5 th
Kathy Chojnaki	6 th
Jeanne Pocivanik	6 th
Karel Bertan	7 th
Josephine Johnson	8 th
Christine Chamberlain	10 th
Kerri Bojarski	14 th
Ryan Ulander	14 th
Blake Ulander	14 th
Dorothy Upperman	17 th
Martin Harris	18 th
Kamryn Puskar	19 st
Dee Dave	22 nd
Thomas Burkett	22 nd
Arthur Hoak	23 rd
Rodney Chew	24 th
Rachel O'Bryan	24 th
Mary Parker	27 th
Chuck Yelich	27 th
Adam Cole	30 th
Joyce Pawlik	30 th



ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

Dave & Karen Murray	3 rd
George & Nancy Molovich	3 rd
Edward & Louise Landini	22 nd
Bob & Doris Flock	26 th

We would love to announce and celebrate your birthday and wedding anniversary please let us know when it is....

Would you like a visit from Pastor John?

Or, do you know someone who would?

Please contact him at 724-872-7414 (office) or 606-261-0232 (cell).

LOOKING FORWARD:

April 14th Palm Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected. Return your fish banks.

Easter Egg Hunt following worship

April 18th Maundy Thursday

Dinner at 6:30 Social Room

Worship Service at 7:30 Sanctuary –service of darkness

April 19th Good Friday

Community Service at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 12-3 p.m.

Theme: “People Around the Cross”

April 21 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at WNUPC 7:30 a.m.-8:15 a.m.

Breakfast 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

April 25 Apple Dumpling Day

May 4 Spring Cleaning Day

Bulletin/Prayer List Changes

Please submit any announcements for the bulletin or changes to the prayer list by the **end of the day on Wednesdays each week.**

Deadline for updates and notices for the May publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be

Monday, April 22.

Contact the church office by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc@verizon.net

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7p.m. Dartball at Circleville	2	3 6p.m. Bible Study	4 6p.m. Youth 6p.m. Bells 7p.m. Choir	5	6
7 10 a.m. Worship with Communion	8	9	10 12p.m. WNPW Spring Gathering 6p.m. Bible Study	11 6p.m. Youth 6p.m. Bells 7p.m. Choir	12	13 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Gary's Chuckwagon
14 Palm Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Coffee Hour Easter Egg Hunt One Great Hour of Sharing	15	16	17	18 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship Service	19 OFFICE CLOSED Good Friday service at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Noon – 3p.m.	20
21 Easter 7:30-8:15 a.m. Sunrise Service @ WNUPC 8-9:30 Breakfast 10 a.m. Worship	22	23	24 6p.m. Bible Study	25 Apple Dumplings Pickup between 12-2:30 p.m. 6p.m. Youth 6p.m. Bells 7p.m. Choir	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship Session meeting	29	30				

Good Friday Service
April 19, 2019 Noon – 3 p.m.
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
“People Around the Cross”

Character**Text****Pastor**

Judas

Matthew 27:5,
Luke 22:3,
John 13:27

Pastor Timothy Dawes

Sanhedrin

Matthew 26: 57-68

Pastor Eileen Smith

Peter

Matthew 26: 69-75

Pastor Elizabeth Dunlap

Pilate

Matthew 27:11-26

Pastor John Manon

Barabbas

Luke 23: 13-19

Pastor Glen Richardson

Simon of Cyrene

Matthew 27:32,
Luke 23:36

Pastor Sue McMichael

The Bad Thief

Matthew 27:38-44

Pastor Randy Landman

The Roman Centurion

Mark 15:39,
Luke 23:44-47

Pastor Jesse Frost

