



Otterbein Outreach

April, 2019

General Conference is over, what happens now?

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino

The commission did their work. A conference was held. Speeches were given. Delegates voted. Decisions were made. Now what?

In the days following General Conference 2019, the desire to move ahead is alluring. Those happy with the decisions are ready for implementation. Those grieving the results are tempted to react rashly.

At times like these, however, Scripture encourages us to pause, listen and actively wait for the Spirit's guidance. As the hymn states, reflecting Psalm 46:10, "Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future, as in ages past" ("Be Still, My Soul" verse 2, United Methodist Hymnal 534).



Pause

A good place to begin, is simply to pause.

During the Exodus, God led the people with a cloud. Some days the cloud of God's presence moved and the people followed. Other days, the cloud did not move and neither did the Israelites. "At the Lord's command, the Israelites would march," the Bible tells us, "and at the Lord's command they would camp" (Numbers 9:18 CEB).

That may seem simple enough, but the author of Numbers helps us understand this wasn't always as easy as it sounds.

"Sometimes the cloud would be over the dwelling for a number of days," Scripture continues, "so they would camp at the Lord's command, marching again only at the Lord's command."

Can you imagine? At this point in the story, the Israelites are a nation without a land. They're camping in the Sinai Desert after fleeing Egypt where they were slaves. God has promised to lead them to a land of their own, but for days at a time God calls them to camp, to sit tight, to wait.

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For those of us who are doers, these pauses are frustrating. Just think of the last time you were stuck in traffic, sitting at an airport terminal waiting for a delayed plane or placed on hold with a slow-moving government agency.

We can see the goal. We have some idea about which direction we need to go. Can't we just get going?

Listen

But this kind of waiting is different. It is an opportunity to listen to God, to hear that which we might miss in the noise of moving forward.

Scripture tells us the prophet Elijah learned that God isn't always where we expect to find God. The Lord, he says, wasn't in the strong wind, earthquake or fire. Instead, Elijah met God in "a sound. Thin. Quiet." traditionally translated as "a still, small voice" (1 Kings 19:12).

Through the psalmist, God commands, "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10 NRSV).

In the words of the prophet Isaiah, God says, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15 NRSV).

Gospel writer Mark writes, "Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer" before leading the disciples to the next place (Mark 1:35-39 CEB).

Peace, rest, trust and direction are given to those who pause, listen and wait.

Actively wait

As United Methodists, we know that waiting for God is not something we do passively.

In his sermon, "The Scripture Way of Salvation," John Wesley writes about an active waiting. As we wait for God's grace to mature us to sanctification, Wesley advises Methodists to engage in ministry. The things we do in service to our souls and our neighbors, what Wesley calls "works of piety" and "works of mercy" respectively, help prepare our hearts to hear God and follow the Spirit's direction.

"This is the way wherein God hath appointed His children to wait for complete salvation," he writes (Sec. III, ¶ 9-10).

In this season, maybe that is our call as the people called United Methodists. May we take time to pause, listen and actively wait for the Spirit's leading.

**Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at [United Methodist Communications](#). Contact him by [email](#) or at 615-312-3733. This story is also available [in Spanish](#).*

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What's Happening

Special dates

- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *April 7*
- Holy Week, *April 14-21*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 14*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 18*
- Good Friday, *April 19*
- Easter Sunday, *April 21*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 24*



Sunday, April 14th Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Monday of Holy Week
John 12:1-11, Psalm 36:5-11

Tuesday of Holy Week
John 12:20-36, Psalm 71:1-14

Wednesday of Holy Week
John 13:12-32, Psalm 70

Thursday, April 18th Holy Thursday Service at 7:00pm

Good Friday
John 18:1-19:42, Psalm 22

Holy Saturday
Matthew 27:57-66, Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16



Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays at 6:30pm

April 11

April 25

May 2

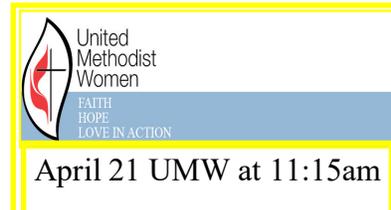
May 16

The "Mission Closet"

Next yard sale will be on April 20

from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

All items are priced to sell.



If you are in need of assistance of any kind, please contact one of the church members listed below. Be assured that your church family will support you in every way possible.

Pastor Deborah Gildart-Hanks

(C) 484-356-4888 (H) 610-518-0231

Email: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net

Lay Leader & Christ Servant Minister: Dianne Maylen 610-983-0113

SPRC Chairman: Betsy Ettinger (H) 610-933-6371

(C) 484-802-0843

Church Secretary: Mona Knauer 484-880-9001

Church Office: 610-933-8690

Church Email address: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net

Church Website: otterbeinchurch.net



Christ has triumphed!

Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
 Death is strong, but life is stronger.
 Stronger than the dark, the light;
 Stronger than the wrong, the right.
 Faith and hope triumphant say,
 Christ will rise on Easter Day.

—Phillips Brooks



What Easter does

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is life-changing and life-giving for his followers. But, as Henry Knox Sherrill notes, Easter's "joyful news ... does not change the contemporary world." On earth, we still must deal with sin, pain, death and brokenness. And "still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice," Sherrill adds. What Easter does, though, is provide Christians with "the spiritual power to do the work, accept the

discipline and make the sacrifice."

By defeating the grave, Jesus empowers us to bear our worldly troubles with joy, peace and hope. His resurrection assures us that trials, tears and suffering are only temporary, while eternal victory and life with Jesus are permanent.

Let laughter 'spring' forth!

"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush." (Doug Larson)

"Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket." (Evan Esar)

"Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade." (Charles Dickens)

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful." (e.e. cummings)

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." (Margaret Atwood)



Worship Helpers

Greeters

7th - Nancy Kukucka
 14th - Mel Hoffman
 21st - Fred and Betsy Ettinger
 28th - Vernon Readman

Counters

7th - Nancy Kukucka and Mel Hoffman
 14th - Nancy Kukucka and Mel Hoffman
 21st - Dianne Fisher and Allison Mendelsohn
 28th - Dianne Fisher and Allison Mendelsohn

To Call for Greeters

Months	Responsible for List
January & February	Vernon Readman
March & April	Kay Kunsch
May & June	Vacant-See Mona if you would help
July & August	Nancy Kukucka
September & October	Lloyd Knauer
November & December	Bill Epprecht

Reader

7th - Mila Lambert
 14th - Bill Epprecht
 21st - Betsy Ettinger
 28th - Dianne Maylen

Altar Flowers In Memory of...

7th - Mr. and Mrs. William J. Epprecht, Jr. by the Epprecht Family
 14th - Edward J. Hoffman, by Dianne Maylen
 21st - Dedicated for April Birthdays, by Mila Lambert
 28th - Dedicated for April Birthdays, by Mila Lambert

Sundays that are open for Altar Flowers

6/2/2019	8/4/2019	10/27/2019	12/1/2019
6/23/2019	8/11/2019	11/3/2019	12/15/2019
6/30/2019	9/1/2019	11/10/2019	12/22/2019
7/7/2019	9/8/2019	11/17/2019	12/29/2019
7/21/2019	9/22/2019	11/24/2019	

Cost for 2 arrangements is **\$30.00**

See Mona Knauer if you would like to put in altar flowers in memory or honor of someone.



Meanings in the meal

Jesus instituted Communion while celebrating the Jewish Passover with his disciples. The meal's ritual foods hold meaning for Christians, too, because our faith story is interwoven with that of Judaism.

Matzoh: This unraised bread recalls the Israelites' hasty departure from oppression in Egypt. Jesus used the Passover bread to symbolize his body, which delivers us from bondage to sin and death.

Salt water: It symbolizes the tears of the Hebrews and of all

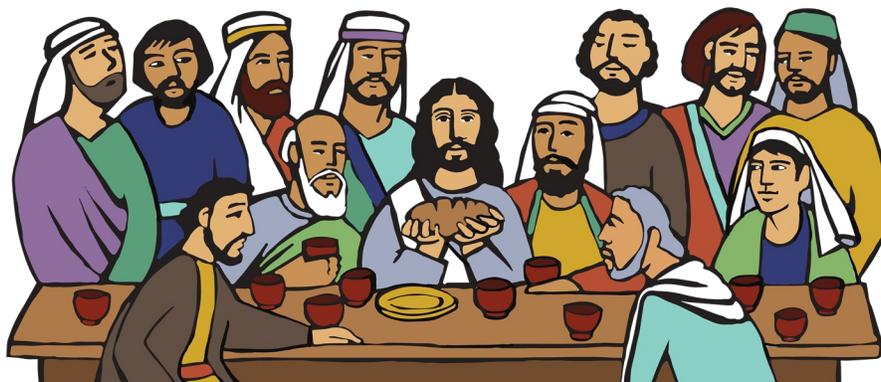
who suffer in any time and place. Christians believe that in Jesus, God embraced human suffering so we need never face it alone.

Parsley: Dipped in the salt water, this green, leafy vegetable represents the Hebrews' rebirth out of sorrow into the joy of freedom. Easter's celebration of resurrection proclaims a coming day when God "will wipe every tear from [our] eyes [and] there will be no more death" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

Shankbone: A lamb slaugh-

tered for each Hebrew household meant life for those within. The meat strengthened them for the escape journey, and the blood, swabbed on their doorframe, signaled for Death to "pass over." Jesus used wine at the Passover meal to symbolize his blood — of the Lamb of God — which he would shed for our salvation.

Egg: For Jews celebrating Passover, an egg symbolizes memory of the Exodus and renewal of faith. For Christians at Easter, eggs — especially open, empty ones — call to mind Jesus' empty tomb, renewal and abundant life.



"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

Luke 22:15, NIV

Vulnerable yet victorious

While taking boxing lessons, Timothy Keller was warned to never put his hands at his side. That position leaves one's face and torso exposed to the opponent.

In a video on ChurchLeaders.com, the pastor and author notes that Jesus' hands weren't

just out to the side on the cross; they were nailed there. "How much more vulnerable could he be?" That vulnerability, Keller says, makes Jesus' death the ultimate act of friendship, which should encourage people who feel far from God. Defining friendship as candor and consistency, Keller notes

that friends always let you in, never let you down and always have time for you. Jesus didn't let us down on Good Friday — or on Easter. Although Jesus "had all of hell coming down on him," Keller says, our Savior proclaimed to his Father, "Not my will but thine be done."



- 6 April Huang
 9 Jim Kunsch, Jr
 10 Claire Hoffman
 13 Grayson Bradbury
 14 Ryan Watt
 15 Bob Rodenbaugh
 David Knauer
 16 Janette Van Horn
 Ronald Van Horn
 18 Joe Wilt
 Margie Cook
 20 Betty Jaworski
 23 Matthew Wilt
 24 Mill Lambert
 29 Greg Wadsworth
 30 Matthew Wadsworth
 Dillon Mourar

If I have missed your birthday last year, please let me know. I am trying to update the birthday list.
 Thanks
 Mona

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Pray List

Sharon Beard
 Tiffany, Michael and Tia Berkey
 Paul Bochnak
 Dave Boljonis
 Frank Cook
 Walt and Timi Cory
 Earl Gable
 Ida Guldin
 Loretta Hanks
 Robbie and Dave Harper
 Betty Jaworski
 Kay Kunsch
 Dolores Miller
 Joanne Neitzler
 Joanne O'Neal
 Marilyn Patzuk
 Maryjane Schum
 Ben Stippich
 Jennifer Summy
 Larry Trisch
 Cathleen Warner
 Donna Warner
 Elyce Wescott
 Bobby Watts and Stacy Ettinger
 Bob Wilt
 Iona Wilkinson

Serving our Country

Scott Bowen

US Army, Afghanistan

Ronnie Brandafino

Elizabeth Stippich, PAANG

TSGT Nicholas R Wilt

In Our Neighborhood

President Donald Trump

All Our Government Leaders

Pastor Deborah and family

For those in storms and floods

Victims of Shooting and bombings

The congregation of Otterbein UMC, Harrisburg, PA.

Fire in the Sunday School wing. (home church of Allison Mendelsohn)



Beatrice (Bea) Collemacine

Pennsburg Manor
 530 Macoby Street
 Room 215B
 Pennsburg, PA 18073

Fran Erskine

Marilyn Patzuk

839 Hollow Road, RD #1
 Phoenixville, PA 19460

Janice Wood

625 Nutt Road
 Phoenixville, PA 19460





Eastern PA Conference and Local Church Events

April 13: Breakfast with Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt at Berwyn UMC

Join us on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9am – 10:30am for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt. All are invited to join us for a pancake, egg & sausage breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Bring your camera so you can get a picture of the Bunny and your little one. Bring your Easter Basket as well for our annual Egg Hunt. This is a free event for all. A free will offering will be collected for the breakfast.

Hosted by: Berwyn United Methodist Church 140 Waterloo Ave Berwyn, PA www.berwynumc.org

Royersford United Methodist Church (RUMC) is sponsoring a concert series of three (3) concerts this Spring called **CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE** (sfconcerts.org).

The concerts are free to the public (a free-will offering will be taken at each concert with all proceeds collected going to Project Outreach [<http://spring-fordprojectoutreach.org>], a local charity).

The concert dates are: **APRIL 5 and APRIL 26**. The concerts are all on Fridays at **7:30 PM at RUMC** (380 Church Street, Royersford).

The first concert on **MARCH 15th is by the ACOUSTIC COOTS**. The 'Coots' feature Ivan Stiles, a four-time autoharp champion and member of the Autoharp Hall of Fame, and multi-instrumentalist, Chuck Kupferschmidt, formally of the Tungsten Trio.

The **APRIL 5th concert features Lydia Muñoz with a concert titled: *Songs of Faith and Justice***. Lydia's voice, vision, and activism for a more just world is inspirational and well-known in regional church circles and beyond.

The last concert in the series on **APRIL 26 is a Celtic Concert by CHARLIE ZAHM** (<https://www.charliezahn.com>) with **Tad Marks on fiddle**. Charlie is an extraordinarily talented Celtic musician (28 CDs, 3 DVDs) who weaves magical moments for the listener. Joining Charlie on stage will be renowned fiddler, Tad Marks (The Del McCurry Band, Hazel Dickens, Ola Belle Reed). This concert is a must-see for music lovers, particularly Celtic music fans!

For questions, please call: 484-948-7691 or consult our website (sfconcerts.org) for more details.

Conference Save-the-Dates

- **April 5-7:** Changing Racism Workshop
- **April 9:** The Art of Preaching, West Lawn UMC, \$20 registration.
- **May 4:** UMW Conference / Spiritual Life Retreat
- **May 5:** District Conferences
- **June 1:** Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministry Workshop
- **June 13-15:** 2019 Annual Conference
- **July 19-20:** "Mission u" at The Inn at Reading
- **October 19:** UMW's 46th Annual Celebration



PUZZLE PAGE

God so loved the world

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

What you need:

- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



What you do:

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.



Jesus gives us life

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)



Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)



Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)



This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)



Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)



Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)



While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)



This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)



These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)



These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)



Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, linen, spices, silver coins

Answer: D (See John 12:1-3.)



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Mont Clare, PA 19453
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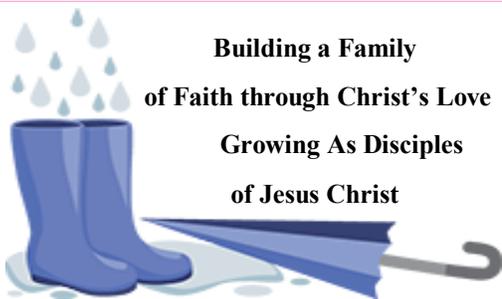
E-mail: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net

Website: otterbeinchurch.net

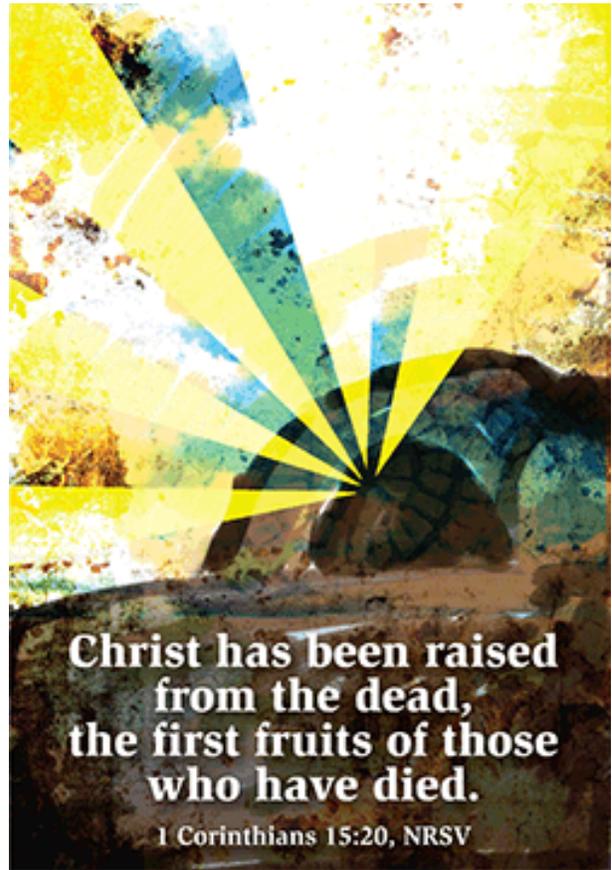
Pastor Deborah Gildart-Hanks

Cell: 484-356-4888 Home: 610-518-0231

E-mail: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net

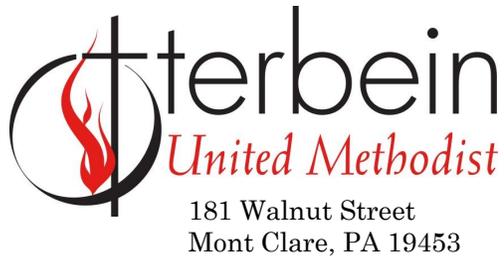


**Building a Family
of Faith through Christ's Love
Growing As Disciples
of Jesus Christ**



**Christ has been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits of those
who have died.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV



181 Walnut Street
Mont Clare, PA 19453

10:00am Worship

11:15am Sunday School

**First Sunday of each month is Communion
2nd and 4th Sundays 9:15am Praise and Prayer
Wednesday nights at 6:30pm Bible Study**