



Otterbein Outreach

March, 2024

Resurrection Greetings!

What a wonderful time of year! New life is “springing” up all around us as Spring begins to overwhelm the winter! Even for people in warmer areas who may not have to deal with shoveling snow or cold temperatures, there is something wonderfully encouraging about more sunshine as the days become longer.



On a far grander scale we know that Jesus Christ came to bring light and life to a world darkened by sin and rebellion for so many years. When Jesus came, darkness and despair had to flee away from His presence, and I believe He is still the same Jesus today as He's always been. He is still coming into the hearts and lives of people all over this community, our nation and planet providing tremendous freedom and light.

John 8:12 (NKJV) 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

The stone was rolled away on that first Easter Morning, yet it has been said it was not rolled away so Jesus could get out, it was rolled away so that we could look in! No doubt this is true because we know at one point Jesus simply appeared to his disciples while the Bible makes it clear the door was shut.

And after eight days his disciples were inside again, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ (John 20:26).

Perhaps doors are shut in your life spiritually speaking. There are situations that seem to be nearly impossible, yet this same Jesus still wants to speak life into what may seem like a dead situation and shine His powerful light into every area of your life.

I would encourage you to join us for worship service this Easter Sunday, March 31 at 11am here at Otterbein United Methodist Church. Even if you are one who always attends here, why not take some time to think of who you will invite for this very special day?

God Bless You!

Pastor Deb

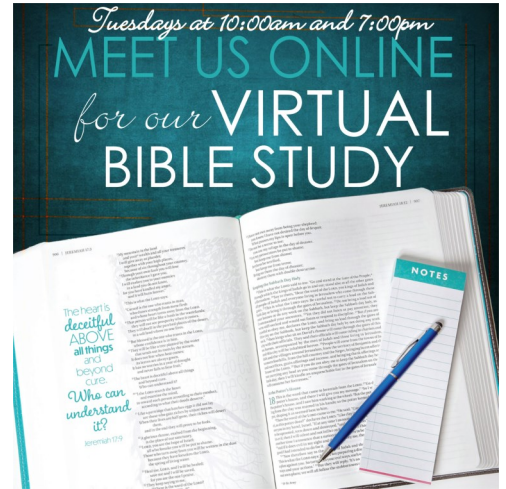
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Special dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28, 2024*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*



Mission Closet Thrift Shop

8:30am to 2:30pm



Sale Dates

March 9 and 23

April 20 and 27

(All dates are subjected to change)



United Women in Faith

Join us on Sunday, March 17 for United Women of Faith Following worship Lunch will be provided.

All are welcome



CHOIR PRACTICE

6:00pm

March 7



If you would like to be a member of Otterbein, please let Pastor Deb know



March 24-31

Palm Sunday Worship 11:00am

Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm

Good Friday

Easter Sunday Worship 11:00am



March 10th

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 Debra Stevens (C) 610-733-6204 Email: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net

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

SPRC Co-Chairmans: Vernon Readman and Dianne Maylen

Church Secretary: Mona Knauer 484-880-9001 Church Office: 610-933-8690

Church Email address: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net Church Website: otterbeinchurch.net



**ERNIE COUCH &
REVIVAL**

LIVE FROM NASHVILLE, TN!

Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024
Time: Dinner 5:00pm Concert at 6:30pm
Place: Otterbein UMC, 181 Walnut Street, Mont Clare, PA 19453
FOLLOW ERNIE COUCH & REVIVAL ON YOUR FAVORITE DIGITAL OR SOCIAL MEDIA SITE!



Easter Flower Order

Please complete the form thoroughly, exactly as you want it listed, one form per order. **Order is due by Sunday, March 10, 2024.**

In Honor / Memory of: _____

(Circle one)

_____ Lilies (4 blooms⁺) \$10.25 each

_____ Hyacinths (3 bloom) \$9.00 each

_____ Daffodils (6" pot) \$8.25 each

_____ Tulips (5&6 blooms) \$8.75 each

_____ Azaleas (8") Pink or Red \$17.00

(Circle one)

Total amount paid \$ _____

Given by: _____

Collegetville/ Trappe Ministerium

Mid-week Lenten Services 2024

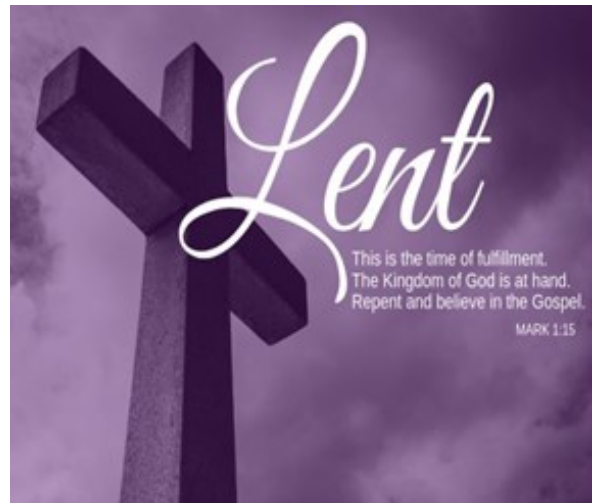
Feb. 21 - St. James' Episcopal Church –
Theme "Come and see the Triumph"

Feb. 28- Evansburg United Methodist Church –
Theme "Come and Serve"

March 6- Trinity UCC –
Theme "Come and Remember"

March 13- Thomas Paine UU –
Theme "Come to the Way of Grief and Pain"

March 20- Augustus Lutheran –
Combined CTM Choir Cantata





Resurrection rumblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the “earthshaking promise” of Jesus’ resurrection. Easter Sunday “shatters the power of fear,” he writes. “Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don’t remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and every-

thing becomes new.”

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn’t forsaken us and is present among us. “The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world.”

Jesus’ followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. “The ris-

en Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, ‘Do not be afraid.’”

Be the donkey

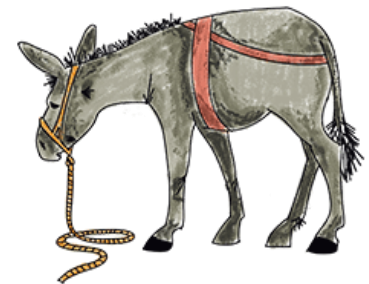
Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road

and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a

world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



Our feeble prayers, our Father’s response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond’s semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

“You don’t have to do this,” Jim said. But Derek insisted. “Well, then, we’re going to finish this together,” said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad’s assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: “What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our

prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”



Worship Helpers

Greeters

3rd
10th
17th
24th
31st

Thank you

Readers for March

(If you can not read your Sunday, please switch with someone.)

3rd Betsy Ettinger
10th Dianne Maylen
17th Dianne Fisher
24th Mel Hoffman
31st Lloyd Knauer

Attendance

February	In Church	On Facebook
4	19	5
11	21	4
14	12	2
18	18	5

Financial Report

February 4 to February 18	
Current	\$2755.00
Plate	\$218.00
World Service & Finance	\$30.00
Building Fund	\$1841.00
Mission Fund	\$70.00
Ash Wednesday Service	\$96.00

To Call for Greeters

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



We need volunteers to:

- ◆ read scripture
- ◆ lead worship
- ◆ run the PowerPoint
- ◆ pass microphone during prayer
- ◆ help with the offertory

See Mona, Dianne M. or Pastor Deb if you would like to help in anyway during worship.



God's provision while we wait

A November 2023 landslide trapped 41 construction workers in a tunnel they'd been excavating for a Himalayan highway project. For 17 days, they were stranded nearly 3 miles from freedom. When rescuers' drilling equipment broke, miners drilled through the last 2 meters of rock and gravel by hand. Finally, all the workers were pulled to safety through a 3-foot-wide steel pipe. Because they had received food, water, medicines, oxygen and even light through a narrow pipe while underground, all were in good health.

We are trapped in sin and brokenness: our sin and that of others, fragmented relationships and systems,

nearby and across the globe. Christianity teaches that God's way of goodness will win in the end. But before full rescue comes, what keeps us alive and hopeful — even healthy?

As water was faithfully provided to the laborers through that narrow pipe, God quenches our thirst through baptism. Scripture and the sacrament of communion are the food and medicine that nourish and strengthen us. Prayer — our own and others' prayers for us — along with the Holy Spirit's gifts such as comfort and joy flow into our lives like the light of hope and the ox-

xygen of life. Though complete rescue seems slow to come, God provides for us while we wait.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Take time to “examen”

I'm grateful to live in an area with distinct seasons. Each time of year has unique characteristics that give way to the next. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” says Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV).

Each change of season also lends itself to *examen*, a spiritual practice that involves reflection. Typically done daily, examen invites people to recall past

events (highlights, struggles, even mundane activities) and consider when they especially sensed God's presence or when he seemed distant.

Try a deeper examen four times a year as the seasons change. As a starting point, use your answers to these questions:

- Looking back at the past season, when did I see God at

work? What was life-giving to me?

- In what areas did I need God to work? What was life-draining?
- As I enter this next season, how is God inviting me to engage more with his presence?

—Janna Firestone





Prayer List

Prayer List

Walt
Mike
Family of Paul Wood
Families of Paula and Dana
Rick
Kids in Confirmation Class
(Katelan and Dalton)
Allison and Patrick
Margie
Sarah and baby Johanna
Claire
Bob
The Family of Tom
Dave
Chris, Nicole and baby
Mila (Traveling)
Joe
Fred
Georgy
Pastor Dan
Irene and Eric

Serving our Country

TSGT Nicholas R Wilt

In Our Neighborhood

**All Our Government Leaders
Pastor Debra Stevens and family
For those in storms, floods, and fires
Victims of Shooting and bombings
First Responders
Peace in the world**

Pray for our Homebound

Beatrice Collemacine
Pennsburg Manor
530 Macoby Street
Room 215B
Pennsburg, PA 18073
Fran Erskine
3314 Pine Forest Road
Cantonment FL 32533
Cynthia Isaacs
Betty Jaworski
233 Miami Avenue
Eagleville PA 19403
Maryjane Schum
Parkhouse
Royersford, PA 19468



If you would like to add or delete someone from our prayer list, please let Mona Knauer know.



Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn’t fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don’t succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”

Because Jesus said so

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can’t wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. “You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend,” Begg says.

“You’ve never been in a Bible study. You’ve never been baptized. You didn’t know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!”

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief’s entrance inter-



view. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, “On what basis are you here?” The thief simply replies, “The man on the middle cross said I can come.”

Transformed

Before becoming a Christian late in life, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge denied that Jesus was God’s Son and had risen from the dead. If Jesus’ body was missing, he said, someone probably snatched it and abandoned it to the vultures, leaving the bones to whiten in the sun.

For Muggeridge, the turning

point was encountering a living Lord. “If you should ask me by what authority I talk about the power of Christ to change human nature, I should reply to you simply ... because he has changed me,” Muggeridge said after discarding agnosticism. “I can look anybody in the face today — my friends, my colleagues and what, perhaps, is most difficult of all, the members of my family — and be sure that

they know, as I know, that I am really and literally a new creature in Christ Jesus since the day when he came into my life.”

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

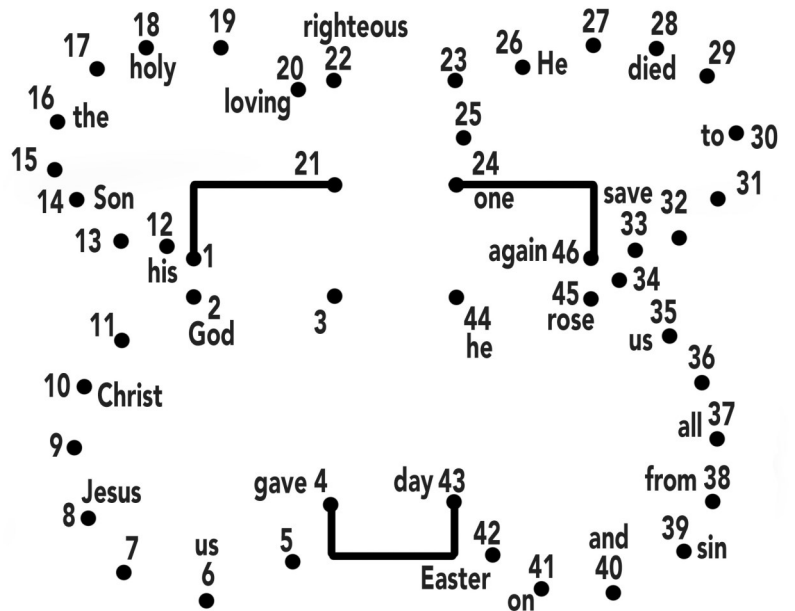


MARCH Birthdays

- 1 David Harper, III
James Fletcher, Jr
- 2 Gail Griffith
William Kunsch Jr
- 6 Nalani Pitts
Garet Rapp
- 7 Dave Hoffman
- 10 Allison Mendelsohn
- 15 James Wilkinson, Jr
- 18 Scott Beisel
Shawn Beisel
Eric Streicher Sr.

Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14	
16	18	20	22	24			
26	28	30	33	35	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	

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

Thanks
Mona

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.



Bible Quiz

The “Christ hymn” in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer on page 10

Christian Symbol

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus’ lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ’s resurrection — and ours.



By faith

’Tis by the faith of joys to come
We walk through deserts dark as night,
Till we arrive at heaven our home.
Faith is our guide, and faith our light. ...

Cheerful we tread the desert through,
While faith inspires a heavenly ray,
Though lions roar and tempests blow
And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abraham, by divine command,
Left his own house to walk with God;
His faith beheld the promised land,
And fired his zeal along the road.

—Early American hymn

Bless you!

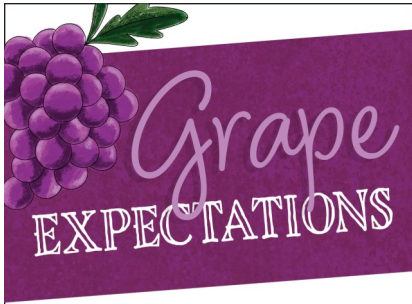
On March 17, when we remember the Christian missionary St. Patrick, Irish blessings abound. Here are two benedictions to share with friends in the faith:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



PUZZLE PAGE



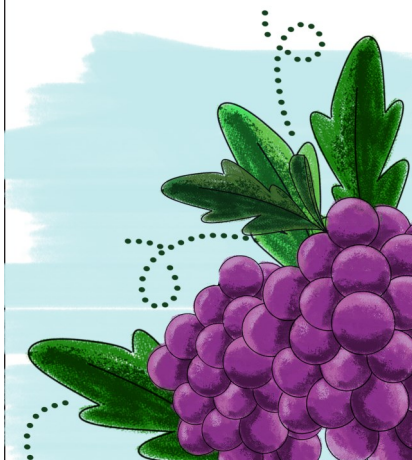
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

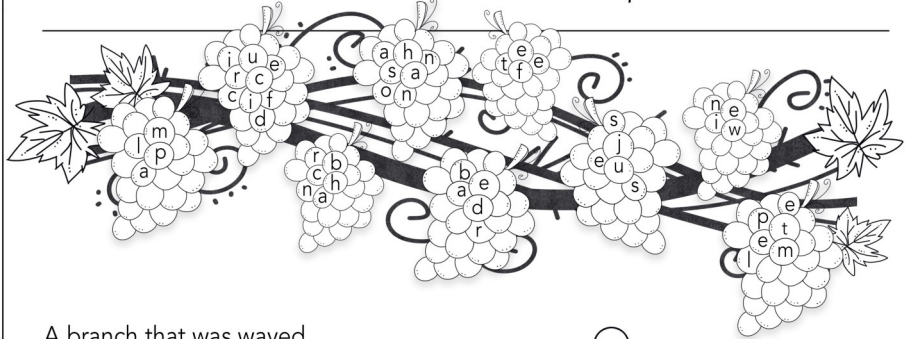
1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _ _ _ _ ○
- How Jesus was put to death _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- A stick attached to the vine _ _ _ _ _ ○ _
- People shouted this to Jesus _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus washed these _ _ _ _ _
- This was broken and eaten _ _ _ _ _
- The Messiah _ _ _ _ _
- A drink from grapes _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _ _ _ _ _

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit

Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)



COLORING PAGE





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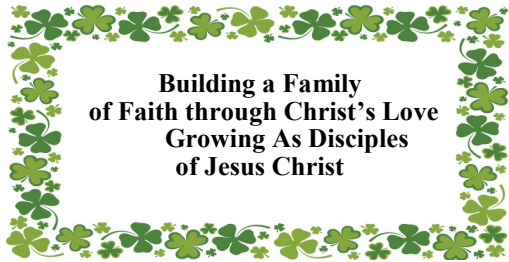
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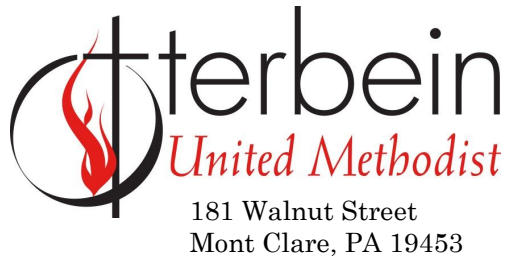
Pastor Debra Stevens

Cell: 610-733-6204

E-mail: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net



Jesus,
is alive



11:00am Worship
First Sunday of each month is Communion