



# UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## April 2019 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

Out with the old and in with the new! That's what Easter is all about, right? *"Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone and the new is here!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). How wonderful to be in Christ! How wonderful to know that the Holy Spirit is at work in us to make us more like Jesus as we submit our lives more and more to Him! How wonderful to know that what Jesus did for us on the cross makes a difference in our lives today as our old ways are put to death and his new ways are finding ways to burst forth in our lives, in our families, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, and in our church family! Thanks be to God!

This month, I challenge you to fully enter into what Christ has done for us through our Sunday morning & Wednesday evening gatherings, Tuesday evening Lenten services, Maundy Thursday worship, Good Friday worship, and of course, Resurrection Sunday worship celebrations! Here is the schedule:

- † Tuesday, April 2: Community Worship at Laurel Grove United Methodist, 6:30 p.m.
- † Friday, April 5: Movie Night, "Unbroken, Road to Redemption" 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. Bring a friend, and a salty or sweet snack to share. Water will be provided.
- † Sunday, April 7: Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.; small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. We will witness the baptism of Cole Timothy Vincent Daniel at 11 a.m.
- † Tuesday, April 9: Community Worship at Dry Run Church of the Brethren, 6:30 p.m.
- † Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday Worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m.; small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. New Covenant Partners will be received today! Children's Easter Party, 3-5 p.m. for pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> graders!
- † Thursday, April 18: Maundy Thursday Worship, **7:00 p.m.**
- † Friday, April 19: Good Friday Community Worship, Lower Path Valley Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m.
- † Easter Sunday, April 21: Sunrise service in Neelyton, 6:30 a.m. led by Laurie Ruby; Worship at UPVPC sanctuary, 8:30 and 11 a.m.; small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

As we did in 2018, our entire worship offering for Easter Sunday will be given away to missions in need. How can God use you and me and our entire congregation to bring forth new life somewhere in the world? This is what we are praying about as we near Resurrection Day!

... And I can't write about 'out with the old and in with the new' without sharing pictures of two new additions! God led us to take out the old stage (that was only used for storage) and put in a new storage loft and much-needed new classroom. We also finally got the Amberson Presbyterian Church 1880's chandelier hung in the new vestibule! Many, many thanks to so many who made this happen in one short month! Nothing is impossible with God! *With love and gratitude, Rev. Meagan*



## Children's & Youth Ministry



As we look ahead to April we look ahead to (hopefully) warm sunny days and the hope of new life springing up around us. Spring soccer and baseball seasons are starting and preparations are being made for class field trips and the end of the school year. Schedules are starting to fill up at home and in the life of the church community.

Our annual Easter party for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students is on Palm Sunday, April 14 from 3-5 p.m. Please pray for ways you can help make this year's party a success and bear fruit for the kingdom. We need volunteers to help with games, crafts, snacks, and the egg hunt. If you are not sure where you can help, speak with me and we will find a place for you. If you do not think you can help physically, please PRAY! Pray for the children, families, and volunteers. Pray a deepening and growing of faith for all those who attend. Pray for those who do not yet believe in Christ, that they may open up their hearts to him and believe in Him as their Lord and Savior. Your prayers are an important part of this ministry.

For me the Easter Party this year is the kick-off of our spring and summer Programming. Why? Because Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave is the starting point, the foundation of our ministry. Because of Jesus we can have new life, and from this new life we can GROW into mature and faithful disciples of Him! As we head into these spring and summer months please pray for the Lord's direction as we begin planning for Summer ministry opportunities.

Blessings, Laurie Ruby

\*\*\*\*\*

### Thank you!

Blessed are the givers ... and grateful are the receivers! "Thank you so much for the lovely prayer shawls. Tom is doing well, Britt has made a full recovery from her surgery, and my vision is slowly improving each day. I know there were many prayers and a lot of love that went into making the shawls. We have been so blessed with the love shown to us by all of you. Thanks again for the cards, prayers, and words of encouragement. Blessings, Tom & Linda Gardner

### Birthdays

- 4/4 McKenzie McGee
  - 4/5 Brett Hostler, Berk Meredith
  - 4/9 Lily Daniel, Ken Shirk
  - 4/11 Brooke Fischer, Jay Hammond, Gabe Johnson, \*Nebeyou Endale Getachew (Ethiopia)
  - 4/12 Elton Dossier (Haiti)
  - 4/14 Levi Fischer
  - 4/15 Bailee Parson, John Stewart
  - 4/16 Chris Metcalfe, \*Isaias Uriarte Martinez (Honduras), \*Andika Rohit (East Indonesia)
  - 4/18 Cohen Daniel
  - 4/19 Tammy Campbell, David Cornelious, Jen Harris, Missy Shoop
  - 4/22 Angie Ruby
  - 4/24 Mikell McGee, Kyler Rosenberry, Blake & Brock Woodward
  - 4/25 Gavin Earnest
  - 4/26 Morgan Frazier, Joni Frey, Greg Hart, Nikki Rosenberry
  - 4/29 Keith Hart, Janet Shirk
  - 4/30 Kenny Mansfield
- \*Compassion International children supported by UPVPC families

### Anniversaries

- 4/8 John & Meagan Boozer
- 4/8 Preston & Joyce Carbaugh
- 4/10 Donnie & Wilma Umbrell
- 4/21 George & Bonita Bair
- 4/21 Corey & Autumn Daniel
- 4/22 Bobby & Willa Allison
- 4/25 Jay & Cheryl Hammond

*From our Lenten Study, Pursuing Holiness:*  
"By their very nature, relationships require attention. The question we must ask is whether we're giving attention or demanding attention. Grace and holiness require us to be people who give not only attention to one another but also honor along with it. When we choose to focus on another person's needs, celebrations, and worth, we're living differently from the world's standards. Holiness that shows itself in grace-filled living makes believers stand out."

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 128  
Spring Run, PA. 17262  
www.upvpc.org  
717-349-2603

## GRADUATING?

**Are you graduating, or do you have a senior in your family graduating this spring? We want to acknowledge this milestone! Please call the church office or speak to us to let us know when you are graduating, from which institution, and with what degree! Graduate recognition Sunday is June 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

---

### Supporting our Seminarians!

We continue to pray for and encourage Laurie Ruby and Gary Rebok as they continue their seminary studies while at the same time fulfilling full-time job responsibilities. Both Laurie and Gary are highly motivated students who strive to do their best with all God has put before them. Here is a brief update of what's happening with them:

- † Laurie (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Master in Christian Leadership): *This semester my studies have focused on the history of the Church. It has been eye opening to see the working out of our faith over the centuries. As I continue with my courses this year I will be taking one class over the summer (a continuation of the history class I am in now). This will allow me to continue with my studies and focus on summer programming here. I am so appreciative of your continued support and prayers as I continue on this journey.*
- † Gary (Regent University, Master of Divinity): *I just completed two classes in Joshua-Judges, and Foundation for Biblical Mission. In the Foundation for Biblical Mission, classwork centered on understanding the mission of God with reaching the*

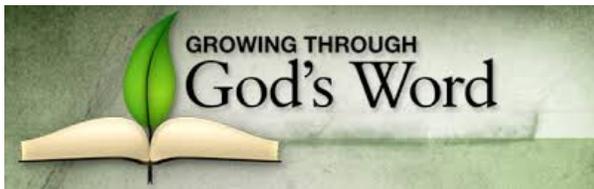
*unreached, discipling new believers, establishing the Kingdom of God, and building his church. If I were to summarize God's Mission, the mission of God is to restore what was lost in the Garden of Eden, a universal plan of redemption relayed to us through the prophetic texts, the synoptic gospels, and the gospel of John. In summary, my learning is to apply the missionary methods and principles of the Apostle Paul to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The books of Joshua-Judges brought forth some intense work, not only in the extensive reading portion, but also in examining the collection of texts that preserve the history of Israel's movement into and occupation of the Land of Canaan until the period of the monarchy. Currently, I am in the study of Luke-Acts, examining its purposes, theology, structure, and application to the same human needs in the world of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. Through this course, we are interpreting biblical texts of Jesus' teaching significant to the life of the Early Church. So far, this is a very interesting class conducted by a 35-year veteran of New Testament and Biblical Languages. Dr. Story seeks to foster a deep appreciation of the Bible and embody the unimaginable love of God through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. In all the years of attending higher education, I have never received the personal attention that Dr. Story invests into each one of his students. Two summer classes are scheduled before the long 32-week journey of Greek I & II this fall. Thank you for all of your loving support and prayers.*

## MISSION MISSION MISSION

We have a mission trip scheduled for the week of Memorial Day – May 26<sup>th</sup> with Samaritan's Purse in New Bern, NC. Many of you will remember this is where a team from UPVPC went in October 2018 to help clean up after the most recent hurricane. Now it is time to rebuild! If you want to be part of the team, please contact Emma Baker at 717-816-3265.

Over the summer, we will again ask God to help us help our neighbors. If you, or someone you know, could use some assistance with home repairs, please contact a member of the Mission & Outreach committee as soon as possible. It is our hope that folks from the congregation will be able to pitch in to help, if even for several hours in an evening. Committee members are: Elder Scott Naugle, Brenda Hart, Johanna Grove, Wally Hoffmann, Bonnie Cornelious, Pat Allison, and Brad & Becky Gerlach. Through the direction of the Holy Spirit, may the Lord direct us to minister to immediate and eternal needs for the building of His Kingdom!

### Coming to **ADULT** Small Groups After Easter:



### **Starting on Sunday, April 28**

**New Classroom – Walk through the Bible:** Joni Frey will continue her invaluable walk through the Bible for those who are both new to Bible study and those who have been at it for a while. Joni plans to stay with the book of James for a while.

**Assembly Room – David C. Cook:** This discussion class will continue based on the Bible-in-Life curriculum. The March-May quarter is entitled, “Discipleship and Mission” from the Gospels, Acts, and Romans.

**Classroom 3 - Video/Discussion:** The focus for this class has not yet been decided. Stay tuned!

**Library - Blended Families:** Led by Jen & Bill Harris, this group will connect their stories and focus on how to continue to pursue holiness in light of the challenges of two-household parenting.

**Coming this Summer:** New Covenant Partner's Class for those inquiring into making a commitment to this congregation.

## Safety and Security Team Update

On March 18 the safety and security team members met to assess our progress and plan the next steps. Following are areas of progress:

1. Our front parking lot has a new light illuminating much more of the area for safety in all the corners.
2. We have made it through 4 months of locked doors on Sunday mornings. We still have some glitches to work out, and everyone needs to help open doors for our congregants as they come in, but for the most part this has gone fairly smoothly thanks to Wally Hoffmann and his commitment to our safety.
3. One new camera has been purchased and will be installed to provide an additional view of the new vestibule for our screens.
4. Our new classroom has been completed with glass in all new doors.

New classes for first aide, CPR, and AED training or recertification have been scheduled as follows:

**First Aid/CPR:** Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person.

**AED:** Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. Cost is \$4 per person. See the sign- up clipboard on the front pew.



### \*\*\*\* FELLOWSHIP AT UPVPC! \*\*\*\*

Fellowship is important to a church family. It is intentional time together to grow in our relationships with each other and with God. It is purposeful in that the purpose is not to be too purposeful. ☺ Your Fun & Fellowship team tries to provide events that engage people of different generations and interests. If you have ideas for fellowship, speak with your team: Elders Mark Shearer & Brett Hostler, Carrie Anderson, Dawn Beaumont, Laurie Ruby, and Rev. Meagan. Here are upcoming scheduled events:

- Sunday, April 7: Group trip to see the Easter production at Christian Life Assembly.
  - Sunday, April 14: Easter Party
  - Sunday, May 5: Women & Children's Banquet
- Events being discussed for the summer and fall are: our annual kayak adventure, a father/son event, a family basketball game, our annual church picnic, a hike on the Appalachian Trail, an Amish dinner, a scavenger hunt, and a David King gospel music event. If you have ideas for ways we can fellowship together, please speak with a member of the team, or join us for our April meeting.



# **Children's Easter Party**

**Sunday, April 14th  
3-5 p.m.**

**Upper Path Valley  
Presbyterian Church**

**Easter Story,  
Egg Hunt & More!**

**Ages 3 & Up**



**Contact Laurie Ruby  
at (717) 349-2603**

**\*Please bring your  
own basket or bag**



**Upper Path Valley  
Presbyterian Church**

*Women and  
Children's Banquet*

**Sunday, May 5  
5:30 p.m.**

*Entertainment by our children & youth*

**Food will be prepared and served by the  
men of the congregation. Cost for adults,  
\$5.00; school-age students, \$3.00;  
preschoolers, free.**

**Reserve your spot by Monday, April 29.**