

APRIL 2024

The CORNERSTONE

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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church (ECO)

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This Month!

Family
discipleship 101

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Building Disciples

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

My goal for this year is to help families teach, grow, and share their faith at home, and eventually with others. I think most of you will agree that it's not that we don't know WHAT to share with our kids, but HOW to start talking about faith in a way that builds relationships with each other and with God. This will not be a one-time learning experience, but we have to start somewhere. So where? And how? Great questions! Join me (and others) on Sunday nights in April as we begin **Family Discipleship 101**.

Before I move on, let's talk about that title because maybe the word discipleship is intimidating or confusing. In the Christian sense, discipleship simply means to follow Jesus Christ. Everything involved in discipleship is spelled out in the Bible. But in today's world, that path is not always an easy one.

In March, I mentioned that there are practical ways we can begin to teach our kids about Jesus using simple faith tools. Some of those include daily quiet time, obedience, trusting Him, worship, reading His Word, tithing, fasting, and showing His love to others.

I previously highlighted daily quiet time with Jesus, so this month let's focus on

loving others. There are a lot of verses that tell us that Jesus calls us to love one another. 1 John 4:7-8, John 15:12, Luke 6:31, 1 Corinthians 16:14, and Proverbs 17:17 are a few.

There are several ways we can take action to show Jesus' love. First, be the example. Kids are always watching, so they will learn how to love others by observing you. Random acts of kindness go a long way, as do family service projects. Help a neighbor, a grandparent, or a friend. If you need ideas, let me know. Finally, there are simple actions that kids can do to show love to others – say kind words, open doors, pray for someone, give a hug, come to church! There are so many ways to show the love of Jesus, and it's a good idea to talk with kids to reinforce the concept and discuss the impact of their actions.

In conclusion, I really want to encourage you to sign up to attend 1, 2, or all 3 sessions of *Family Discipleship 101*. If you have any roadblocks keeping you from coming, please let me know if I can assist. This is not to place an extra burden on you, but instead is going to help you with the most important thing we can do as parents – share the love of Jesus Christ with our kids.



Helping Project HOPE

The community food bank continues to help people in need. If you know of anyone in the Mohawk community that may need assistance, including the elderly, please contact Bethel Church at 724.667.8031. **In April and May please donate peanut butter & jelly.** For monetary donations, make checks payable to Westfield Church and indicate "Project HOPE Food" on the memo line.



Blessed be the
God and Father
of our
Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy
he has given us a

new birth
into a
living hope

through the
resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV



Renewal and Anticipation

by Pastor Bobby

As we bask in the joy of Easter and the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, we are reminded of the beautiful parallels between this season of renewal and the profound hope we have in our faith. Spring, with its blossoming flowers, longer days, and the vibrant return of life to the earth, mirrors the spiritual truth of new life and hope that we find in Jesus.

Spring is a season that symbolizes hope and renewal. After the barrenness and dormancy of winter, the earth awakens with new life. The buds on the trees, the blooming flowers, and the chirping of birds all proclaim the arrival of a new season. In a similar way, the resurrection of Jesus brings new life and hope to our spiritual journey. Just as spring follows winter without fail, so too does the hope of Christ's resurrection follow the darkness of sin and death.

The connection between spring and the resurrection is deeply rooted in the symbolism of nature. The blooming of flowers reminds us of the beauty and splendor of God's creation, pointing us to the promise of new life that comes through Jesus. The cycle of life and death in nature reflects the cycle of death and resurrection that Jesus underwent for our salvation.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). This promise of eternal life is at the heart of our faith and is the ultimate source of our hope. Just as the earth is renewed in spring, so too are our lives renewed by the power of Christ's resurrection.

Spring is also a season of anticipation. As we witness the gradual transformation of the world around us, we are reminded of the promise of Christ's return. Just as we eagerly await the full bloom of spring, so too do we eagerly await the fulfillment of God's kingdom and the restoration of all things.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope not only for our own lives but for the entire world. It is a reminder that no matter how dark the winter may seem, spring will always come. Similarly, no matter how hopeless our situations may appear, the hope of resurrection is always present.

As we move forward from Easter into the season of spring, let us carry with us the hope and joy of Christ's resurrection. Let us be mindful of the beauty and symbolism of the world around us, and let us be a reflection of the new life and hope that we have in Jesus. May this season be a time of spiritual renewal and a reminder of the promise of eternal life that is ours through faith in Christ.



Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- "Love one another as I have loved you."
- "Peace be with you."
- "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- "I am risen!"

Answer: (See John 20:19, 21.) B



Ask and You Shall Receive

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries



the guidance we've received from the sermons. It gave us insight into where we need to meditate and how to ask God to give us strength for what we have ahead of us. We should keep these discussions in our thoughts and remember that God is always there waiting for us to come and invite him into our heart and home.

In March at JOY (Just Older Youth) we enjoyed helping with preparations for the Easter Egg Hunt. We had a fun day cross-stitching crosses that were donated by Jan Hazelton. Lorraine made our day special with pies for π Day, 3-14. Check out the photos of a few of her delicious creations!

We have spent a lot of time in discussion about Pastor Bobby's upcoming sermons and it has been nice to put into practice

In April, we have the excitement of the Solar Eclipse, and we have planned some game play and springtime planting along with some artwork. Remember: Every Thursday for those 50 and older we have exercise with Jan and Jean at 11 A.M., lunch at noon followed by activities and fellowship.



Palm Sunday/Easter Event Photos



HALLELUJAH!

SOMETHING OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

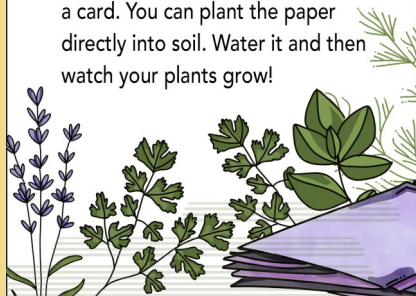
What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.



This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

Food and Fellowship

by Lorraine Book

The free community meal starts up again on the last Wednesday of the month, April 24. We have a lot of people who truly enjoy coming to the meal and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Our volunteers also enjoy this time of getting to know each other better as we work together. If you would like to be part of this mission by delivering meals to the homebound at 4:00, setting up tables and chairs and setting tables on the morning of the meal at 9:00 A.M., serving food or clearing tables from 4:45-6:30 P.M., or cleaning up from 6:20-7:00 P.M., please contact me to sign up and join the team. jfbook@verizon.net or 724.944.6982.



GraceFit Yoga Returns

Christian yoga classes taught by Janette Marnik continue at Westfield this spring. A 4-week session begins April 16 and continues every Tuesday from 6:00-7:00 P.M. Register now for this time of worship, praise, and connection to Christ. Registration fee is \$ 32 and due by the first class. Please scan the code at right to register.



Superimposed Love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing

morally. Amid Satan's attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."



When it Rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

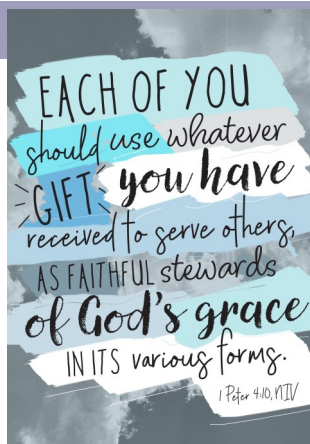


When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to

know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone



Trustworthy Stewards

We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them.

—Albert Schweitzer

Join Our Spring Gathering

by Pastor Bobby



APR 20th | 2024

Please register by April 18, 2024

Childcare Provided

- 8:30 - Registration (coffee & donuts)
- 9:00 - Worship & Communion with a message by Pastor Keon Abner
- 10:15 - Session 1 - Keon Abner
- 11:30 - Business Meeting
- *Vote on Synod Overtures
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - Session 2 - Keon Abner

Westfield Presbyterian Church
1363 Mt. Jackson Rd., New Castle, PA 16102



[Register Here](#)

On Saturday, April 20, we host our presbytery's Spring Gathering. I hope you will attend. There will be a time of worship, two seminars—one on marriage, the other on AI and ministry. It is also a time to see how business gets done in our presbytery and denomination.

I'd also like to add that our speaker for the meeting is my friend, Keon Abner. He's the planting pastor of Bridge City Church in Cleveland. He served as President of ECO, which is our Moderator, from 2021-2023. He's a powerful speaker, leader, and all-around great person.

Worship is at 9 A.M. Lunch at noon. Seminars are 11:15 A.M. and 1 P.M. Use the code at left to register. Lunch is catered so please register by April 18.

MoCo House Fundraiser

11th Annual Java Jog 5K Run & 2 Mile Walk

Memorial Day—May 27, at 8:30 A.M., participants will line Main Street in front of Bessemer Presbyterian Church for this annual fundraiser for Mohawk Coffee House. New this year is a Kids Fun Run (age 8 and under) before the race starts!

You can walk ... run ... or just donate to the cause. If you can't be there in person, be a virtual runner/walker. This event helps fund MoCo House internships, student scholarships, and to help

with the general shortfall for this non-profit.

\$30 registration fee with a free t-shirt if you register by May 12.

Be sure to watch for details coming soon about a Westfield Team!



SCAN ME



Margie Benson
Carriage Manor

Ann Fox
at her residence

Janet Davis
at her residence

Bob Kenny
at his residence

Bonnie Ernst
Masternick Memorial

Hazel Pence
Quality of Life



RISEN JESUS,
as spring blossoms
around me,
MAY YOUR LOVE
BLOSSOM IN ME,
that I might share its
fragrance and brilliance
WITH OTHERS.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Blaire Gable	15	Renee Kenny	25	Kathy Eichenlaub
2	Michael McBride	16	Marissa McClain		Brienna Thomas
4	Bob Grimm		David McClymonds	27	Vanessa Norco
	Jessie Yauch		Vance Trotter	28	Corey Thomas
6	Brian Kerr		Jeanette Yorns		
7	Tom Trotter	17	Dawn Palmer		
12	Avelina Bingham	20	Paula Schmolly		
13	Lee Ann Martin	21	Brad White		
	Emily Van Tassel	23	Linda McBride		
	Brooklyn Byers				

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

9	Ali & Nic Ciavarino	22	Karen & Paul Matsukas
16	Jamie & Andrew Good		Nicole & David Spurdute
17	Justin & Megan Young	23	Lisa & Tom Bekoski
18	Ashley & Joel Hopper		Naomi & Monas Cunningham
	Bonnie & Gordon Stewart	24	Becky & Ray Summers
19	Marcia & Paul Votaw	30	Kerri & Grant McKinley