

APRIL 2023

The CORNERSTONE

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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church, an ECO Congregation

Mission Trip Details Finalized

This year's mission team will travel to Hannibal, Missouri on Saturday, June 10, for a great week of hands-on projects and outreach to the local community.

We are partnering with [Harvest Outreach Ministries](#) for renovation work (dry walling, painting, cabinet installation, wiring, etc.) as well as helping to prepare and serve hot meals in the evening for their Loaves & Fishes Ministry.

Join us for an informational meeting after the 11A.M. service on Sunday, April 2. In the meantime, if you have any questions or you've already decided you're on board for this mission, feel free to reach out to Matt Carran via email: matthewjcarran@gmail.com or cell phone: 724.651.7929.

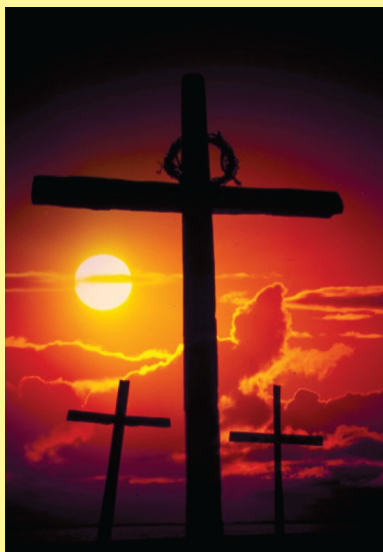
I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. —John 13:34



Not Resuscitation — Resurrection!

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This "escape tower" was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus' resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God's power, Jesus didn't merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — "Peace be with you."



Vibrant Belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.



A Fresh Start

by Pastor Bobby Griffith

Every single day brings a new opportunity, a new beginning, a fresh chance. We live in seasons and cycles, experience day and night, hot and cold, warm and cool. Seasons are God’s reminders for us that he gives us new chances, second chances, fiftieth chances even.

We just celebrated the first day of spring. Maybe you went to Dairy Queen for a free cone. Maybe you went to the hardware or garden store to prepare for your garden. Maybe you have perused the closet to put your warm clothes back into the lineup.

Spring reminds us that life wins. It reminds us that death does not have the final say, that life moves forward even when decay is all around. Spring is hopeful. Spring is vibrant. Spring reminds us of God’s promises.

Soon, we will celebrate Easter. Many of us will wear bright clothing, white, pastels, and other colors that remind us of life. We will commemorate the reality that Jesus rose from the dead. Life springs from death. Goodness has the final say.

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime.
—Martin Luther

This spring, let’s pause and be reminded of God’s mercies. They are new every morning. Let’s be reminded of God’s promises. They are true. Let’s use spring as a new opportunity to attend worship regularly if we are out of practice. Let’s use spring as a fresh start because God always invites us to experience new life.

A Journey Through Holy Week

The Mohawk Area Church Association (MACA) will gather for the annual Palm Sunday Service at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 2, at Bessemer Presbyterian.

Journey with us through the events of Holy Week according to Matthew’s Gospel, as we reflect with Scripture and song. Refreshments to follow.

Join in live at Bessemer Presbyterian Church or online on Bessemer’s Facebook Page or YouTube Channel.

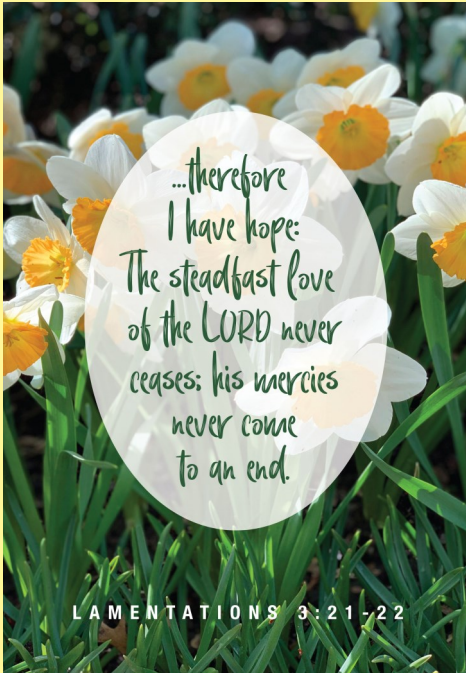


Maundy Thursday

Join us on Thursday, April 6, for dinner at 6 P.M. and worship at 7 P.M. The Path Finders Class is hosting and will provide chicken, potatoes, rolls, beverage and table setting. Last names beginning with A-M please bring a side to share and N-Z please bring a dessert.

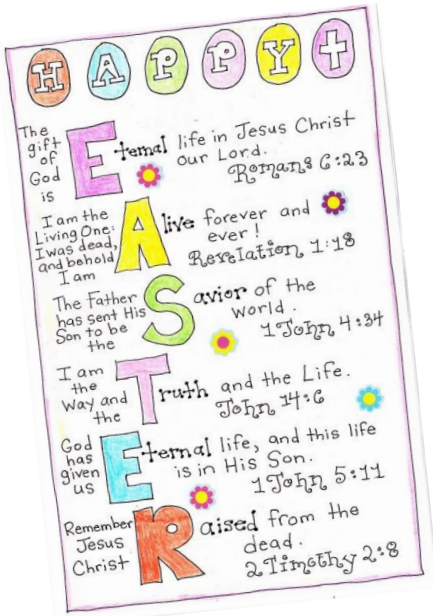


Maundy Thursday
SERVICE



Happy Easter!

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries



The month of Easter is here! It hasn't been the warmest start to spring, but not the coldest either! I hope you all have been enjoying a meaningful Lenten season so far. Our family has been going through the Lent Family Devotional Cards at dinnertime, and there has been some good discussion. A Holy Week Devotional book will be given out at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1 – if you are unable to attend, be sure to get a copy of this.

Kids will be singing (and shaking!) on Easter Sunday at 11:00 A.M. with the choir. Don't miss it!

Remember, as soon as Easter is over... prep for VBS begins! Save the dates – June 19-23, 2023!



Margie Benson
at Carriage Manor

Russ Bryan
Hazel Pence
at Quality of Life-New Castle

Janet Davis
at her residence

Pearl Jolley
at her residence

Mary Lou Trotter
at her residence



The Way of the Cross

Easter Prayer Vigil Walk

Isaiah 56:7: *for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.*

This is a call to you to come to this house of prayer for a time of worship. A sign-up poster is in the narthex to assure that there will be continuous prayer from 3 P.M. on Good Friday through sundown on Saturday. The goal is to have every hour covered by one or more people. Please consider giving an hour of your time to participate.

Here's what you do:

1. Sign up is by the showcase in the narthex.
2. Arrive at church at your chosen time. Park at the portico and enter at the front door.

3. There will be numbered stations set up in the sanctuary.
4. You will find a scripture reading and a devotional reading at each station to guide your time of meditation, reflection, and prayer.

It should take an hour if you start at number one and spend about five minutes at each station.

A prayer vigil is a time to give glory to God, remember the suffering and death of our Savior, repent of our sin, contemplate the perfect everlasting love of God for us, know that our sins are forgiven, be transformed by the truth of the Good News, and take joy in God's gift of eternal life.



Men's Breakfast and Fellowship

Every Thursday the men of Westfield meet for breakfast at Bob Evans in New Castle. You are invited to join them at 7:45 A.M. for a time of fellowship and great conversation. To find out more, please contact Ken Lytle.

On the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 A.M. you are invited to our men's prayer breakfast in Fellowship Hall which includes a hearty breakfast followed by Bible study and discussion. Contact David Clark or Justin Young for more details.



Introducing the Confirmation Class

Students Prepare to be Admitted as Full Covenant Partners

The 2023 Confirmation Class extends thanks to Pastor Bobby and our Session members. A very special thanks to Mrs. Delta Stoner for being our instructor and mentor and Mrs. Lorraine Book for being her substitute.

Students will make their public profession of faith on Palm Sunday during 11 A.M. worship.



BRAEDAN

Current age: 13, Grade & School: 7th grade @ Mohawk
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *soccer and basketball*
 What is your favorite food? *steak*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *Spain*
 What advice would you give adults? *Be happy!*



JIMMY

Current age: 13, Grade & School: 7th grade @ Laurel
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *Sports—especially wrestling*
 What is your favorite food? *steak*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *France*
 What advice would you give adults? *I would tell them God loves them.*



ADDISON

Current age: 13, Grade & School: 7th grade @ Mohawk
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *My sports—volleyball and basketball*
 What is your favorite food? *My grandma's meatloaf*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *Texas*
 What advice would you give adults? *Never give up*



BRYCE

Current age: 13, Grade & School: 7th grade @ Mohawk
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *soccer*
 What is your favorite food? *ribs*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *Montana*
 What advice would you give adults? *Be yourself*



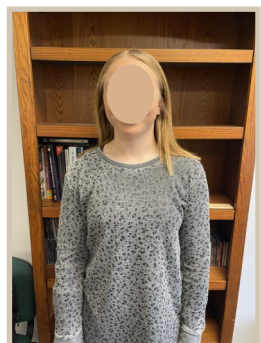
LAURA

Current age: 13, Grade & School: 7th grade @ Mohawk
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *I enjoy math and I play soccer and volleyball*
 What is your favorite food? *Chinese*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *London, England*
 What advice would you give adults? *Go to church regularly*



JASE

Current age: 15, Grade & School: 9th grade @ Mohawk
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *hiking, playing sports, biking*
 What is your favorite food? *tacos*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *Italy, Australia, California, Greece*
 What advice would you give adults? *Learn to be happy about what you have because at some point it will be gone.*



CAITLYNN

Current age: 13, Grade & School: 7th grade @ Mohawk
 What are your favorite activities inside and outside of school? *basketball and soccer*
 What is your favorite food? *shrimp*
 If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? *Bahamas*
 What advice would you give adults? *Don't be late for church*



Spiritual Milestones

Spiritual Growth

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministry

Sometimes we feel alone and that no one has our back. As humans, we get set in our own ways and become anxious when trying new things. Try them, you never know, it might be the gift you didn't know you needed or already had. In Isaiah 43:19 Isaiah is quoting God: "*I am doing a new thing.*" Let this "new thing" be a tool to help you change your perception of the world and bring you closer to God.

The self-reflection exercise can be hard at times with a new habit in our daily lives. It takes practice and discipline when doing something new and accepting what God is putting in your path. Trust in him, he knows what he's doing and he will get you to understand all you need to know at the necessary time.

Now that we are at the end of our exercise for Lent, let the seed that God has planted take root, and grow into a beautiful spiritual practice. Continue doing your self-reflection and include it in your prayer

time. I hope you all enjoyed this exercise and that you have found peace and contentment. I hope this helps lead you to a better understanding of what God is doing in your life. Take what you have learned through this 47-day exercise, and grow it into a beautiful colorful flower so that all that are around you want to be as colorful as you.

We are feeling blessed at JOY as we have 6 new members that have joined our fellowship. And we are hopeful that our ministry will grow throughout the years.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, we will not be having JOY. We will return on April 13 with exercise at 11 A.M. and lunch at noon followed by activities and fellowship.

Coming in April: Be sure to stop in at Coffee & Conversation on April 16. JOY members will be your hosts and we look forward to seeing you!

JOY

Our March Highlights

- Wheel of JOY!
- Popcorn Day: thank you Deborah Replogle for donating your time to make us delicious popcorn, we had a blast!
- St. Patrick's Day Bingo
- Seed Planting
- Great lunches prepared by our dedicated JOY cooks!

Register for MoCo's Java Jog

Java Jog 2023 will soon be here! The event will be held on Memorial Day and we hope many of our Westfield family and friends will attend. If you'd like to get in some great pre-race training, join us at the church pavilion each Monday in May from 6-7 P.M. for a time of walking (or running) and a short devotional time led by Jeanette Yorns. You can register for the Java Jog by stopping in at the MoCo House or go online [here](#).

Register by May 16 to get your free 10th anniversary race t-shirt.



Java Jog 2023
MEMORIAL DAY

Bible Quiz

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes



Answer: B (See John 13:1-17.)

Every Person Matters

by Jennifer Griffith



YO! Enjoying a game at MoCo on Wednesday (top) and stuffing eggs for the upcoming egg hunt (bottom).

From the garden of Eden to the great restoration of the last days, men and women have attempted to hide themselves from God, seeking safety and avoidance of the consequences of sin due to those who think, speak, and act contrary to God’s good design.

We first find this in the garden following the initial sin of Adam and Eve. After seeking their own pleasure, satisfaction, and authority, they felt the onset of conviction over their sin. Their solution to this sense of wrongdoing was to hide from the One who made them, loved them, and had given them the instructions they rebelled against. No surprise to us, God knew where they were. He drew them out of their hiding and confronted them in their attempts to hide their sin.

Even in the last days, this effort to hide from God won’t be successful. In Revelation 6 as the seals are being opened, verse 15 speaks of kings, nobles, generals, rich, powerful, slaves, and free people hiding in caves and among the rocks as the wrath of God for sin becomes more and more imminent. In an effort to hide from the God, they run for cover hoping they can escape the looming punishment. In the subsequent chapters of this apocalyptic letter, that coming wrath is revealed against the ungodly and their hiding proves to be to no avail.

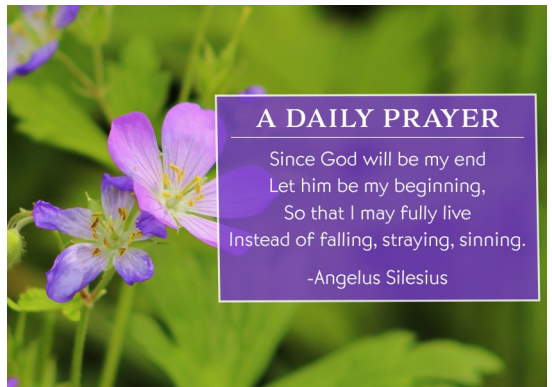
Reading these accounts of people seeking to hide from God brings to light at least two very important truths. First, we cannot hide from God. There is nowhere we can go in His creation that He will not be aware of. Second, God knows not just where we are, but every other detail of who we are as well.

In light of this, Psalm 139 provides the most freeing of assurances to our failed attempts to hide, giving the reader a beautiful understanding of the sovereignty of God and the value of every human life. Not only is there no where we can go to hide from God, but every other detail of our lives is known to Him, and even determined and directed by Him.

The next time you are tempted to hide from God because of sin, guilt, or shame, remember these central truths. There is nowhere you can go to flee from God. He knows you better than you know yourself. And He wants you to accept that, willingly confess your sin to Him, and trust that He is gracious and merciful to forgive His children because of His Son, Jesus.

Remember that every person matters. God created us and cares for us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. As we love and follow God, He calls us to love others and show respect to everyone.

(Taken from The Gospel Project for Kids)



A DAILY PRAYER

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may fully live
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.

-Angelus Silesius

Help Fill the Food Pantry

Donation requests from the Project Hope Community Food Bank for April and May are: **canned soup, crackers**
Items always needed: cereals, dish soap, laundry soap, coffee, juices.



Please leave all donations in the coat rack area in the east wing.



April Birthdays

1	Blaire Gable	13	Lee Ann Martin	20	Paula Schmolly
2	Michael McBride		Emily Van Tassel		Ellyson Burkett
4	Bob Grimm		Brooklyn Byers		Carrie Lindsay
	Jessie Yauch	15	Renee Kenny		Brad White
6	Brian Kerr		Preston Renner	23	Linda McBride
	Shelby McBride	16	Marissa McClain	25	Kathy Eichenlaub
7	Jim Trotter		David McClymonds		Brienna Thomas
	Tom Trotter		Vance Trotter	27	Vanessa Lehman
9	Nikki Burkett		Jeanette Yorns		Savannah Palmer
10	Carl Mace	17	Dawn Palmer		Paxtyn Lyons
12	Avelina Bingham	19	Denise Murphy	28	Corey Thomas
				29	Cohen Mace

Anniversaries



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

