

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

APRIL, 2020

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”



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We find ourselves in some rather uncharted waters. It has been over a century since the United States faced a health crisis that reached the magnitude of the one facing us now.

While researching Brethren history for the heritage series we had been doing this Lenten season, I came back across a piece that had been written by Frank Ramirez titled “Brethren and the Pandemic,” about the influenza outbreak of 1918-1919, called the “Spanish flu” at the time. That global threat claimed the lives of about 675,000 Americans and 50 million to 100 million people around the world. Large cities like Philadelphia were particularly hard-hit.

As one would expect, the Church of the Brethren was not spared by the disease. Frank writes: “Churches were closed for weeks or even months. Love feasts were cancelled. Colleges were shut down. The obituary pages of *The Gospel Messenger* swelled as many died.” It was a difficult time, especially coming right on the heels of World War I, which had claimed another 40 million lives.

But Frank notes that some positives eventually came, too, as the world and the church emerged from the pandemic. Among those was a renewed emphasis on service at the heart of the church’s mission, setting the stage for what Frank calls “the Brethren Service explosion of the 1930s and ‘40s.”

It’s a reminder that even the worst of times can provide glimmers of hope, and light can shine out of even the darkest places.

We might recall that the period in which Jesus carried out his ministry on earth was a painful one for the people of ancient Palestine, living under an oppressive Roman regime with an occupation force, heavy taxation, and cruel rulers. Then those who saw hope in the coming of the Messiah saw those hopes dashed, as well, with Jesus’ crucifixion during Passover.

But then came Sunday morning—what we know today as Easter. Those first disciples of Christ encountered the empty tomb and realized that the story wasn’t over after all. Hope was blooming anew, in the most incredible of ways.

It’s painful to hear about all the deaths and the challenges being faced by our country and our world as this virus sweeps the globe. It is difficult for many of us to be limited in where we can go and what we can do. It will be hard not to be gathered with you for worship and other church activities for at least several weeks. As I write this, I don’t know whether we’ll be able to have our traditional love feast or Easter Sunday worship together.

I do know, however, that the message and meaning of Easter will endure. On whichever Sunday we are first able to gather together again, we will celebrate Easter worship and experience the true meaning of resurrection. Blessings to each of you as you seek new life in this challenging time.



Pastor Walt



OFFICE SCHEDULE

Lee Ann and Pastor Walt are keeping limited hours at the church during the shut-down, and they will check messages and mail when possible. If you have an emergency or other immediate need, please contact your deacon or Pastor Walt.

RESOURCES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

While we normally urge you to reach out to each other and the community, we encourage you to do that at a safe distance for the coming weeks! Until guidelines change, please stay home as much as possible, go out only for important needs or appointments that can't be missed, and take care of yourself physically and mentally. If you have a need that you can't meet yourself, please let your deacons or Pastor Walt know.

The director of the World Health Organization offered this advice recently on CNN: "If your local or national guidelines allow it, go outside for a walk, a run, or a ride and keep a safe distance from others. If you can't leave the house, find an exercise video online, do some yoga, or walk up and down the stairs. Get your information from reliable sources once or twice a day."

We have asked deacons to be in touch periodically with those in their care groups, and you are all urged to call, text, email, write, or otherwise connect from a distance with your friends from church and elsewhere. Be especially attentive to those who live alone and/or are homebound.

At this time, all worship services and activities at the church are cancelled at least through April 10. We will update you on dates past that time, including Easter worship, as more information becomes available.

Following are some resources you might find helpful during this time:

— Living Stream Church of the Brethren is an all-online congregation that normally helps scattered Brethren have a place to connect. If you want to connect to worship during this time, you can view their service live-streamed at 8 p.m. each Sunday evening at www.LivingStreamCOB.org. They usually have some past services available for viewing, too.

— Brethren Press has some free resources, including the Guide for Biblical Studies and this year's Lenten devotional, available during this period at www.BrethrenPress.com.

— If you have connections with younger children, the materials from Children's Disaster Services might be helpful: <http://www.brethren.org/news/2020/childrens-disaster-services-shares-resources.html>.

— As usual, Newslines and other resources are available at www.brethren.org. Additional pieces are being posted related to the pandemic.

**Current TENTATIVE worship
schedule for April (watch email
and website for changes
and updates):**

April 5

Palm Sunday

CANCELLED: No worship service or activities

April 9

Maundy Thursday

Love feast: TBA

April 12

Easter Sunday

"I Am ... the Resurrection and the Life"

John 11:25 and 3:1-17, John 20:1-18

(Sunrise service, 7 a.m. at Lyons' Pond)

April 19

"Future Perfect"

1 Peter 1:3-9, Psalm 16

April 26

"Life Savers"

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;

Luke 24:13-35



Holy Week

Palm Sunday—CANCELLED

Maundy Thursday—April 9 - TBA

Our Maundy Thursday Love Feast will take place at



6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. We would like to have a number of bread-making machines for the event this

year. If you have one you'd be willing to loan, please let the deacons know. If you don't have a breadmaker but would be willing to make a loaf of homemade bread, we'd be glad for that, too!

Good Friday—April 10

Worship service will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, April 10 at 7:00



p.m. **Cancelled until further notice from St. Mark's.**

Easter Sunday—April 12

Sunrise service will begin at 7:00 a.m. at Lyons Pond off of Schwaninger Road, Easton.



Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Worship service at 10:45 a.m.

Plan to bring in your cut flowers for the changed cross.

(Please note that the above services are subject to change. Please check your emails frequently for all updated church news. Thank you)

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
RESCHEDULED!!**

For anyone who is not a member of our congregation but would have interest in officially joining, we will be rescheduling this sometime late spring or early summer. Membership is a way to connect at a deeper level with the faith community, sharing in



its service and ministry. If you would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Walt asap.



- 1 Jordan Davis, Leslie Saulsbury
- 4 Jimmy Mattox
- 5 Karen Davis
- 6 Marlena Groves, Annabel Young
- 7 Kevin Wile
- 8 Michael Valliant
- 9 Marlee Fox, Heather Moore
- 11 Susan Sanger
- 12 Tim Young
- 13 Hutch Walbridge, Jack Wood,
Connor Crannell
- 14 Jocelyn Koenig
- 16 Chad Whitzel, James Foreman,
Karen Jo Olszewski
- 17 Stanley Morris, Diane Walbridge
- 18 Robin Lyons
- 21 D.R. Warrington
- 23 Jennifer "Regan" Fox, Shelly Milburn
- 24 Todd Butler, Logan Allen, Roger Plagge,
Bonnie Langford
- 25 Tom Brockson
- 27 Gloria Buzi
- 28 Ashley Ball
- 30 Gabriel Fluharty



- 5 Doug & Renee Edsall
- 8 Leroy & Sharon Miller
- 14 Mat & Wanda Baynard
- 27 Todd & Kelly Lyons



Leadership Team Meeting scheduled



The next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6.

"DETAILS TO BE DETERMINED."

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: The family of Doris Walbridge, John Eason, Lillian Sefcik, Ginger Brady, Beth Lockwood, Jean & Don Saballus, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, Alan Segar, Bruce Butler, Virginia Watson, Brent Spurry, Pat Saathoff, Pat Lewis, Ellen Walbridge, Pete Haynes, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, Doug Edsall, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Audrey Geib, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard, Christine & Kenny Fike. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list.



Vespers service will be held
tentatively on Wednesday, April 15
7:00 p.m.
Roundtop Church

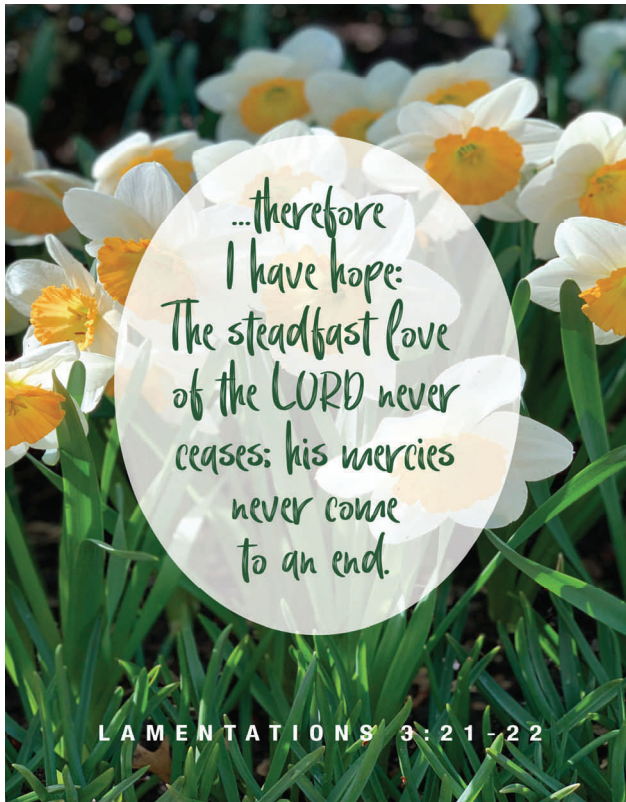


CAMP MARDELA NEWS



Camp Mardela Events, 2020 Summer Theme: "This is our Prayer"

April 24-25 - CIT Training
May 9 - Camp Auction
May 23 - Clean-up Deadline
TBA - Camp Appreciation Day
June 11 - Volunteer Staff Training (7:00 p.m.)
June 13 - Volunteer Staff Training (9:00 a.m.)
Sept. 4-6 - Family Camp
Sept. 16 - Applesauce Making
Sept. 19 - Camp Supper



Camp Mardela Auction and Flea Market

May 9, 2020

Breakfast & Browsing begin at 8:00 a.m.

Bidding begins at 9:00 a.m.

Donations are welcome. Deliver to camp or call 410-479-2861 for pick-up!

Flea Market is available. Bring your own table or tailgate, \$15 per space. Tables are provided for \$20.

Any questions, call Camp at 410-479-2861

To place an ad in this years Camp Mardela Auction Booklet, please contact Lee Ann in the office and she can give you the form to complete. Deadline for submission is April 4, 2020

Donations are needed for the auction and can be picked up for your convenience. Flea market items are also welcome. Chief Gieta will be putting some pictures of items donated in the auction booklet to create interest. Please call Robert and Judy Musch at 410-822-6925. Some donations have already been delivered to camp. If you have any personal contact with area businesses, please take a donation letter and ad notification from the Narthex to hand out. It will be helpful if you let us know who you have approached to eliminate double requests. Thank you. Judy Musch



THE PURSUIT OF EGG-CELLENCE

See how many of these egg-related trivia questions you can answer correctly. (Answers below.)

1. Which US state produces the most eggs?
2. Which of the world's countries produces the most eggs?
3. About how many eggs did the average person eat in 2019?
4. How many different large chicken breeds does the American Poultry Association recognize in the United States?
5. Which animal lays the largest egg?
6. Which bird lays the smallest egg?
7. How many eggs does the average American chicken lay in a year?
8. Which two mammals lay eggs?
9. About how many Cadbury Crème Eggs are made each year?
10. What is the most popular color for dying eggs?

Sources: American Egg Board, Statista.com, Cackle Hatchery, Iowa Egg Council, Top5ofAnything.com, Quora.com, PurinaMills.com, Guinness Book of World Records, Cadbury World, PAAS Easter Eggs.

Answers:

1. Iowa—with nearly 56 million egg-layers, more than 50 percent higher than the next-closest state, Indiana (followed by Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan)
2. China, which produces nearly 40 percent of the world's total
3. 287 (It has gone up significantly in recent years)
4. 53
5. The ostrich. Their eggs can weigh up to five pounds!
6. The bee hummingbird. Their eggs weigh about 0.0009 ounces each!
7. Up to about 250, though the number can vary widely. Most hens will lay for six to seven years.
8. The platypus and the echidna, both native to Australia
9. Around 500 million. (And Pastor Walt would eat them all if he could!)
10. Purple. According to the folks at PAAS, about 30 percent of those surveyed chose it.

Volunteers for April

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Preaching	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader	Lynn Butcher	Wanda Baynard	Jay Lister	Mat Baynard
Head Usher/Sound	Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller
Ushers	Ron & Elisa Miller	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	Leroy & Sharon Miller
Greeters	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Rick & Jane Marshall	Gretchen Satchell & Ginny Turkington	Sharon Miller & Terri Tarr
Deacons on call	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
Special Music	Paula C	Choir	Ellen Wile	Choir
Flowers		Mat & Wanda Baynard	Barbara Saulsbury	Kevin & Ellen Wile

Volunteer Opportunities

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2020 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is May 19, 2020.**

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **There is a container in the narthex to put your non-perishable items.**

Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Contact Loretta Lohr (410-822-3094). Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

Dixon House Senior Living Center

The Dixon House located at 108 N. Higgins in Easton is seeking volunteers interested in helping out occasionally with crafts projects for the residents. All supplies are provided. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Walt or the church office, or you can contact activities director Shelly Laroque directly at 410-822-6661.

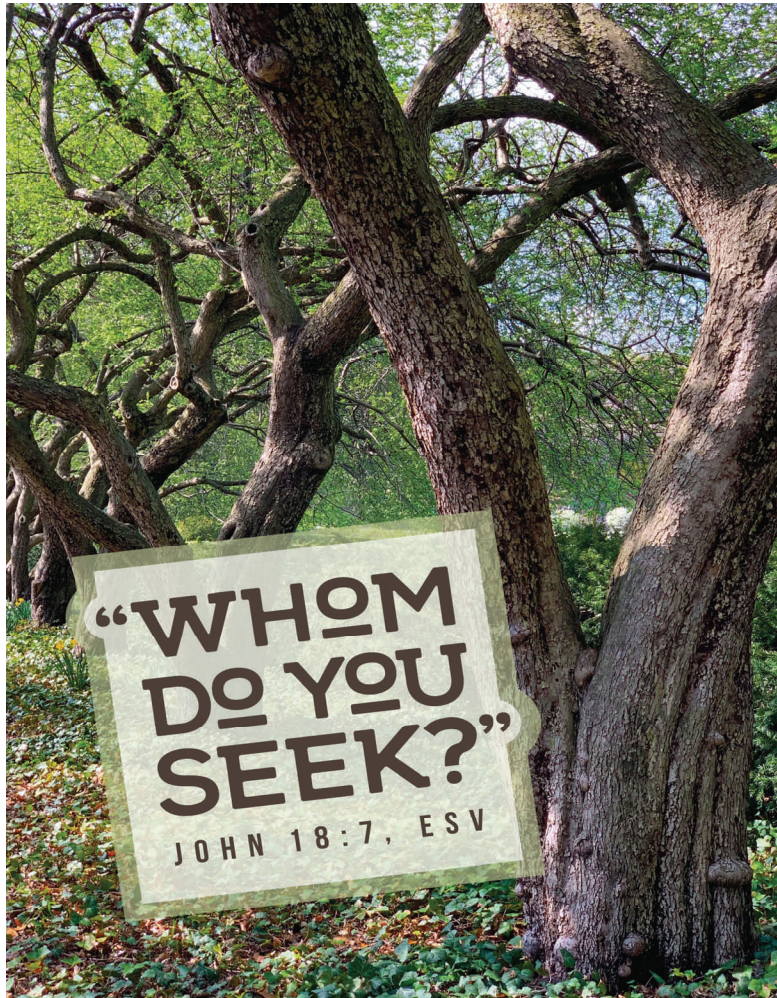


Attendance & Offering for March

	Attendance	49	42	31			122
	3/1/20	3/8/20	3/15/20	3/22/20	3/29/20		Totals
<u>Distributions</u>							0.00
<i>General (06)</i>							
Envelopes	2,884.00	2,349.00	1,750.00				6,983.00
Loose Change/Cash	1.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Total Before Prepaid Tithes	2,885.00	2,359.00	1,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,994.00
<i>Other Income (06)</i>				n			
Building Use							
Safe Harbor Rent		30.00					30.00
Dutchmans Lane Rent			1,155.00				1,155.00
Harrison St. Rent			1,155.00				1,155.00
Totals	0.00	30.00	2,310.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,340.00
<i>Special Offerings (07)</i>							
Deacon Fund		800.00					800.00
In Kind							
In & Out							
One Great Hour of Sharing		2.00	155.50				157.50
Easter Lily		20.00	30.00				50.00
Messenger Subscriptions			14.50				14.50
Ken Medema/Ted Swartz	215.00	90.00	1,250.00				1,555.00
Witness Charities	80.00		30.00				110.00
							0.00
Totals	295.00	942.00	3,790.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,027.00
Totals	3,180.00	3,331.00	7,850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,361.00

NO WORSHIP SERVICES DUE TO VIRUS ON 3/22 and 3/29





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