

THE RESPONSIVE READER

APRIL 2018

PASTOR'S PAGE

Church Family,

Easter season is a season in the church year that is the most joyous season of them all. During Easter season, we focus on the resurrection of Christ and the giving of the Holy Spirit.

Just as the Spring season is a time of new blooms and new beginnings, so too does Easter represent this as well. There is no resurrection of Christ without first there being suffering and death. We all experience suffering, it is not optional in this fallen world, we will go through pain. However, what we as Christians get to proclaim continually is pain is not the end because of what Jesus our King and Master has done and encourages us to do.

Jesus said, "I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be as a single seed, but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24 CEB). Jesus died and was raised from the dead, so that we too may rise above any sufferings in this world and follow the example our Lord Jesus taught us.

As Believers, we are so empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate in God's Ministry that Jesus began. That is bringing the kingdom of God here upon the Earth as it is in heaven as we pray in the Lord's Prayer. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, so too does our heavenly Father raise us up to show the world the glory of God.

I want to encourage us all this Easter season, that even though we are not fasting anymore as we do during Lent, we continue in a spirit of giving. God brought the kingdom into this world in a giving and purposeful manner. God gave Jesus to redeem the world. As we live with a spirit of giving, let's do it purposefully, so too provide for people's needs on this Earth and share the same love that Christ shared with us.

I know that you all are so empowered by the Holy Spirit to share this love, because I have experienced all of you have shared this love of Christ since I've been here, do so more, share the love of God by giving of yourself, your time, and your assets for others. Pray about who God would have us serve so that your serving may be done with a purpose, because God has called us to do so.

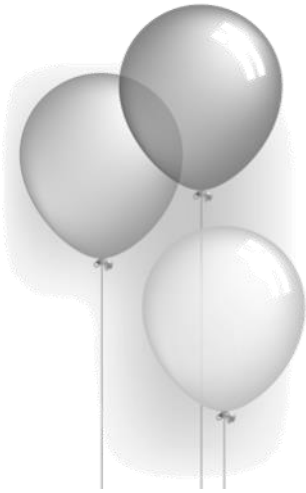
Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Daniel Eplee



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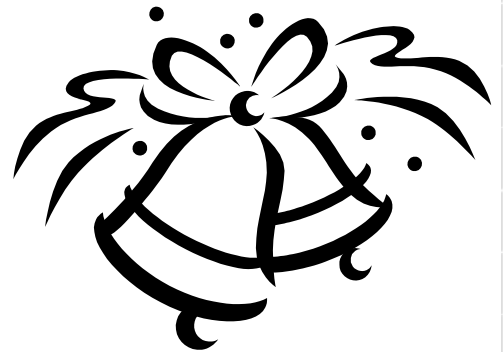
BIRTHDAY WISHES



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 3 Penny Nichols
Todd Sanders
Kelly Donkle | 21 Makayla Kern |
| 8 Joel Yarborough | 25 Joyce Berry |
| 12 Corey Hall | 26 Allie Davis |
| 19 Casey G. Kosiring | 28 Jessica Hesson
Samantha Graham |
| 20 Donnie Black | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Billy and Penny Nichols
- 15 Danny and Jenny Stone
Chad and Brandy Davis
- 23 John and Judy Amick
John and Lori Frampton
- 25 Evan and Rebecca Pitts
- 27 Jonathon and Jennifer Brunson



FLOWERS

- 1 Easter Lilies by the congregation
- 8 Janet Livingston in memory of Edward "Smiley" Livingston and Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Livingston
- 15 Chris & Marianne Carlisle and Linda Halfacre in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Perry Halfacre
- 22 Shane and Linda Livingston
- 29 Billy and Brenda Waites



COMMUNION STEWARDS

Aaron and Shannon Livingston

USHERS

- 1 Lee Bedenbaugh / Aaron Livingston
- 8 Marty Livingston / Russell Hawkins
- 15 Billy Waites / Buddy Livingston
- 22 Terry Rawls / Lee Bedenbaugh
- 29 Michael Davis / Kurt Long

GREETERS

- 1 Ann-Marie Carlisle and Jennifer Brunson
- 8 Danny and Jenny Stone
- 15 Terry and Marilyn Rawls
- 22 John and Judy Amick
- 29 Shane and Linda Livingston

ACOLYTES

- 1 Kursten Long
- 8 Bridger Boulware
- 15 Emily Hawkins
- 22 Kaleb Hesson
- 29 Kursten Long

YARD MAINTENANCE:

- 3/31 ——— Robert Davis/
Michael Davis
- 4/14 —--Shane Livingston/
Eric Huffstetler
- 4/28 —- Derrill Graham /
Josh Graham

“Backpack Ministry” — This food is sent home with children from Pomaria-Garmany Elementary to ensure they have food over the weekend.

April needs: Lance Crackers

Matthew 25:37

Also, remember the **Pomaria Community Food Bank when doing your grocery shopping.

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE Sunrise service will be held at 7am on Easter Sunday. The worship service will be followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall.

LIVING CROSS..... We will once again have the “living cross” in the sanctuary on Easter morning. Please don’t forget your fresh cut flowers to decorate the cross that morning.

LENTEN CHALLENGE..... Don’t forget to bring your Lenten challenge donations to church Easter morning. All proceeds go to the building expansion fund.

5TH ANNUAL EARL A. GRAHAM JR. MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.....The golf tournament will be held this year on Saturday, May 12th, at the Country Club of Newberry. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 each. Teams are needed to play that morning also. Help is needed to solicit door prizes for the golfers, as well as the day of the event. Look for sign up sheets soon on ways you can help out or ask Elaine. We hope to make this the best one yet!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VBS will be held June 10-14th. The theme this year will be “Rolling River Rampage”. If you’re interested in volunteering to help in any way please sign up in the vestibule or get in touch with Aaron Livingston. Another planning meeting will be held soon — look for details to come!

MEN'S CLUB

- The men's club will not have a regular meeting during the month of April. Next meeting will be on 5/6 @ 8am in the fellowship hall.

UMYF

- Check the bulletin for upcoming events/meetings.

SOC GROUP

The SOC Group will meet on Sunday, April 8th @ 7pm in the fellowship hall. Stephanie Graham will have the program. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- Women's Prayer Breakfast — is held the Thursday after the third Sunday each month at 8:00am. This month it will be held on 4/19. This is open to all women of the church. Come and bring a friend for fellowship to start your day!

KIDS IN CHRIST

- Check the bulletin for upcoming events/meetings.

"GO" GROUP

The "GO" Group will meet at noon in the fellowship hall on Thursday, April 5th in the fellowship hall.

WORDS OF WISDOM.....

IF FEAR KNOCKS AT THE DOOR, LET FAITH GO ANSWER IT

..... AND NO ONE WILL BE THERE.

Human/Sex Trafficking Presentation

Sunday, April 15 at 4pm — Bethlehem Lutheran Church women will host a program on human/sex trafficking presented by Lighthouse for Life. Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world — more than 27 million victims — a number that is growing by the seconds. Cases reported in South Carolina to the National Human Trafficking hotline alone have been growing every year. Lighthouse for Life is a non-profit organization that is seeking to combat sex trafficking through **Education, Restoration and Empowerment**. Your support and prayers are needed. This program is not just for women and there is no age limit imposed. (a love offering will be taken to support Lighthouse for Life)

A meet-and-greet will begin at 3:30pm and the program will begin promptly at 4pm.

SPRINGTIME PRAYER

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

FOR FLOWERS THAT BLOOM ABOUT
OUR FEET,
FOR TENDER GRASS, SO FRESH, SO
SWEET,
FOR SONG OF BIRD, AND HUM OF BEE,
FOR ALL THINGS FAIR WE HEAR OR
SEE,
FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE THANK THEE!
FOR BLUE OF STREAM AND BLUE OF
SKY,
FOR PLEASANT SHADE OF BRANCHES
HIGH,
FOR FRAGRANT AIR AND COOLING
BREEZE,
FOR BEAUTY OF THE BLOOMING
TREES,
FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE THANK THEE!

SPRING

FLY A KITE

Jump in puddles

Wish on dandelions

Lie in the grass

Run barefoot

Reach for the stars

Imagine

Tread gently

Sleep soundly

Dream big

New Hope UMC Administrative Council Meeting

March 4, 2018

Attendees: Terry Rawls, Trey Simmons, Gary Graham, Daniel Eplee, Robert Davis, Zalia Hawkins, Elaine Bedenbaugh, Melanie Wyatt, Lee Bedenbaugh

Welcome and Invocation : Terry opened the meeting and Pastor Eplee began with prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Committee reports

PPRC- Next meeting will be at Capers Chapel on Thurs. March 15 at 7pm

Trustees- ladies room door repaired, kitchen circuit breaker has been checked, back step nails hammered down, 2 programmable thermostats installed (Trey plans to post instructions), electrical faceplate at picnic area replaced, hex keys for sanctuary door replaced, upstairs molding tacked down

Parsonage- Will meet Sunday March 11 at 5pm

Finance- Met income requirement last month of \$7,200 to meet regular expenses

Building- Architect has been to the site and is working on preliminary plans for expansion, the Shealy's BBQ and bake sale raised \$668.14 for the Expansion Fund, golf tournament to be held May 12

Nurture- Completed meal list for grieving families and distributed to all, the Prayer Room has been set up at the rear of the church

Worship- Meets March 13 at 7pm

Education- Committee to meet Thur March 8 at 7:00 to discuss VBS

Family Ministries- On Sun. March 25 there will be an Easter egg hunt and hot dog lunch for all following church service

Outreach – backpack ministry for March is applesauce

GO group- will meet Thur March 8 at noon in fellowship hall

SOC- Planning Easter bags for seniors for Palm Sunday, next meeting March 11

Men's club- Will be cooking breakfast for congregation after Easter sunrise service April 1

UMW- women's prayer breakfast Thur March 22 at 8am in fellowship hall

Youth- Last meeting was March 4, next meeting in April will be at Bojangles on a Sunday morning for "Bovotions" prior to church service

Middle agers- Adopt-a-Highway will be on Sat, March 10 at 8:30am

Pastor's report

Church member Loretta Livingston passed away on February 16

Daniel would like to do an audit of the membership list to assure we are reporting an accurate number to the conference since that number determines yearly apportionment payment.

Old business

vinyl siding cleaning- Trey plans to clean in March
several members are now receiving The Advocate

New business

A program about human sex trafficking will be presented on April 15 at 4 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Elaine is taking a count of those interested in attending.

Terry would like the administrative council to focus on ministry and nurture programs. He would like the council members to think about ways to improve /support these programs.

Daniel is getting information about "Prayer at the Flagpole" program in our local schools.

Adjourn

APRIL 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Easter Sunrise Service @ 7am followed by breakfast	2 PPRC mtg @ the parsonage 7:30pm	3	4	5 "GO" group @ noon in the fellowship hall	6	7
8 Trustees Mtg. @ 4pm SOC Mtg @ 7pm	9 Fundraising Committee Mtg @ 7:30pm	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Women's Prayer Brekafast @ 8am	20	21
22	23	24	25 Family Ministries Mtg. @ 7pm	26	27	28
29	30					

Happenings at New Hope

- ◆ 4/1 — Easter Sunrise Service @ 7am followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall



New Hope United Methodist Church
Established 1795
Pomaria, South Carolina



New Hope United
Methodist Church

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