

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Yoke Newsletter ~ April 2017

### Church Calendar:

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/page/calendar>

### Prayer Concerns:

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/prayer.php>

## From Pastor Andrew :

### Seeing Grace

Each of the gospels tells us how Jesus healed the blind man, but it is The Gospel of John that goes into great detail about what happens afterwards and in doing so reveals Christ is much more than just a divine healer. The Pharisees were looking for ways to discredit Jesus. They interrogated the man, his family, and the man a second time before they judged him a sinner and drove him out of the community of faith. Jesus had something to say about that in the last verses of the chapter:

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. (John 9: 39-41 NRSV)

Sin is discussed several times throughout this passage. When Jesus and his disciples first came upon the blind man the disciples questioned the cause of his blindness. According to their ancient understanding of the causality of sin the man's suffering must be caused either by his own sinful ways, or as a carry over of the sins of his ancestors. For the same reason the Pharisees feel justified to drive the man out since they believed he was born entirely in sin since he was born blind. We often think of Sin as a list of moral judgements, a list of wrongs that can be counted. However, in the Gospel of John Sin is not a moral judgment but rather a theological understanding that refers to the relationship one has with Jesus. John uses Sin to identify someone who doesn't believe that God is present in Jesus.

The Pharisees proclaim they can see, but they do not recognize the divine son in their midst and so Jesus proclaims that they remain as sinners, as unbelievers. This story is the revelation of Christ as the one who has come into the world as Light amongst the darkness of our human sinfulness, and that those who are open to recognizing his divine purpose are the ones who truly

see. The Pharisees don't realize this, they were focused on Jesus' actions and the man's physical blindness. They lack understanding which the blind man demonstrates is the key to recognizing Jesus faithfully. They are holding on to the facts, and are closed minded to the witness of divine power that the healing of the blind man reveals. In John's account of this healing miracle the blind man and the pharisees are judged by their faith in God's presence with Jesus and not by their actions; that is Grace.

The blind man's journey from darkness to light was not an easy one. He was challenged yet remained faithful and Jesus rewarded him with Grace. The world is a broken and messy place and we are challenged to keep our faith in the face of tragedy, conflict, and doubt. Thankfully, we are not judged by our actions, but by our faithfulness in God's presence with Jesus and God's power to empty the tomb and raise Christ to new life.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Rev. Andrew Black**

#### Worship Schedule

April 2nd — 5th Sunday in Lent  
Sermon: "Out of the Grave" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11:1-45

April 9th — Palm Sunday  
Sermon: "Making Joy Complete" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by

April 13th — Maundy Thursday  
In the Upper Room

April 14th — Good Friday  
Service at Central Presbyterian Church 12:00

April 16th — Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service  
Easter Meditation

Easter Service 10:30  
Choral Cantata

April 23rd — 2nd Sunday in Easter  
Celebration of Earth Day  
Led by Unity's Green Committee

April 30th — 3rd Sunday in Easter  
Sermon: "Their Eyes Were Opened" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Andrew will be attending the Credo Conference from April 18th until April 25th.

### Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry

Can we rise to the challenge and can we do a little bit more? Last year we did an amazing job as a congregation helping stock the pantry's shelves each week. Just one extra item per person per week added to the one item we already bring can make a world of difference. By just adding a few more items to your weekly shopping list and dropping them off on Sunday morning we can greatly increase the efforts to feed those of our community in need. Keep watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions on the items the Food Pantry needs most.

The Food Pantry currently serves about 12 families along with several emergency need bags each month and there is an ever increasing need in our community. Imagine the difference Unity could make if it could double the number of families we assist on a regular basis. With some creative thinking and your help in 2017 we might be able to do that. The pantry not only needs donations, it needs YOU. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into operating the food pantry each month. There is food to purchase, stock, pack, and distribute. Our current dedicated group of volunteers are amazing, but they need YOUR help. I hope each of us can spend some time discerning how they might be called to help support the Food Pantry with our time and talents. Please let Pastor Andrew, Dawn Chapman or Jan Buffington know if you are interested in doing more to help us continue to answer Christ's call to care for and love our neighbors.  
~Pastor Andrew

### **NEW DIRECTORY ~ Corrections for the directory:**

**Please add Cheryl Hamilton, daughter and caregiver of Wilber Ellis.**

**Rev. Gregory and Christine Moore's address is: 3226 Pomeroy Dr., Louisville, KY 40220.**

### **Earth Sunday**

**On April 23, we will celebrate Earth Sunday during our worship service. This year the emphasis will be on the animals that share the Earth with us. Please plan to join us for this special celebration!**

### **GRADUATION SUNDAY, MAY 21**

**If you know of someone who will be graduating from High School or College in 2017, please let the Deacons or Pastor Andrew know.**

## EASTER FLOWERS

Those who wish to bring flowers to decorate the sanctuary or Easter Service may bring them Easter Morning before the service or order them from Cowan and Cook (812-232-9606) who will deliver the flowers on Saturday.



The flowers will not be planted in the landscape this year so please take your flowers home with you after the service.



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### Morning Glories

The Morning Glories will meet Tuesday, April 11th, at 10:30 am at the church. We will study lesson eight, "According to the other Abramhamic Faiths". Join us for Bible Study and fellowship. Remember to bring a sack lunch.



Save the front of your greeting cards as a mission/recycling project. There is a box in the back of the church where you can leave your cards.

***ACCEPTABLE CAPS FOR BENCH PROGRAM  
SEE THE LINK BELOW***

***<http://www.greentreeplastics.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Acceptable-Caps-List-1.pdf>***

## View from the Inside by Camille Church Mouse



**It's been another strange year! Although Spring is here, as usual the magnolias are brown after the really cold nights!**

**The Pancake Supper was great again! Thanks to our cooks for the delicious food.**

**Our Progressive Dinner is near and the Spaghetti dinner will be in April. Lots of good eats!**

**The Easter season is almost here. Be sure to read the newsletter and bulletin for all the Easter activities. The choir cantata will also be soon.**

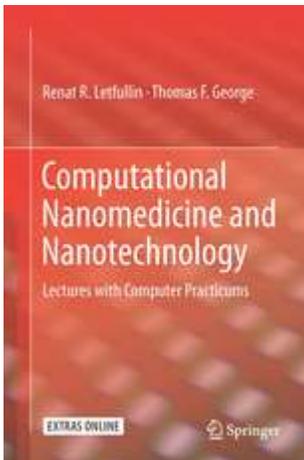
**Enjoy the spring weather and let the sun brighten your days!!**

**God's blessings and joy to all of you. Peace and love!!**

**Alla is Mary's big sister and Tanya Letfullin's oldest daughter.**

Here is the link to Alla's YouTube video where she and Taylor are discussing their research project in Nanoscience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSed8UkKgJk>.

### TANYA'S HUSBAND, RENAT'S, LATEST BOOK



The textbook specifically discusses the combination of science and technology at a seriously tiny scale and how that combination targets cancer cells. While cancer is the main concern, the methods can also be used to treat other varieties of tumors as well.

One such nanotechnology explored in detail is called “nanophotothermolysis,” which means the selective killing of cancer cells by means of nanoparticles heated by radiation.

Just how does that work? A patient receives a shot of small particles that can be selectively delivered to the cancer cells and then heated by light until the cancer cells burn out. The combination of the nanoparticles and radiation technology offers benefits to patients beyond the possibility of killing their cancer.

“This promises to be fast and painless selective treatment at the molecular scale,” Renat says. “Nanomedicine will fix all sites of the human body at the atomic and molecular levels like we are fixing conventional machines today.”

Besides nanophotothermolysis, the textbook also covers nanodevices, nanodrug design and the emerging fields of nanophotonics and nanoplasmonics, which deal with the nanoscale confinement of radiation and the study of optical interactions on a scale much smaller than the wavelengths of light.

Clocking in at 700 pages and 100 figures and illustrations, Renat says the material best suits advanced undergraduate students and graduate students.

## Green Corner

Spring is finally here!! With the warmer weather and sunshine comes outside chores and thinking of getting the yard and garden ready for summer. Here are some tips to help you get ready in a green way from earthshare.org. Enjoy getting outside!!

### Mowing and Fertilizing

Many local utilities offer discounts on new, electric powered lawn care equipment to businesses and homeowners who trade in their gasoline-powered appliances. Contact your power company to find out if they offer such a program.

Mow only as often as you need to keep your lawn in good shape. For most lawns, that means cutting your grass no lower than 2.5 inches; keeping many grasses as long as 3.5 inches is ideal for crowding out crab grass and other weeds. Longer grass retains water better.

Use natural fertilizers or compost. They release nutrients slowly throughout the year, won't leach away, and support the variety of soil organisms that combat diseases.

If you're in the market for a lawn care company, seek out one that uses "natural" management practices as opposed to heavy chemical treatments. For more information about the hazards of lawn pesticides, see [this Lawn Pesticide Fact Sheet](#) from Earth Share Member nonprofit Beyond Pesticides.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn after you mow to provide your lawn with a natural (and free) source of nutrients, or compost the clippings for use in your garden. Create healthy soil. Earthworms and other soil organisms keep the soil healthy. By moving through the soil, they allow water and air to penetrate, and they recycle thatch back into nutrients that the grass can use.

### Using Less Water

The City of Boulder calculated that more than 50% of the city's drinking water is used for landscaping. The best way to conserve water is to reduce the amount of landscaping required to maintain your yard.

Xeriscape Given how labor and water intensive maintaining a lawn can be, why not opt for a yard that's grass free? Some alternative ground covers that require little mowing or watering include Yarrow, Alyssum, Thyme, and Sweet Woodruff. Before planting, check with a local nursery to make sure the option you choose can tolerate your local climate conditions.

Water deeply but infrequently. Grasses do best when the whole root zone is wetted, and then dries out between waterings. Avoid frequent shallow watering that causes poor root development. Overwatering also promotes lawn disease. Water in the early morning, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.

Check your sprinkler system regularly and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

Collect and use rainwater for watering your garden with a rain barrel or direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubs or trees.

Install a drip irrigation system around your trees and shrubs to water more efficiently.