

APRIL 2018

Worshiping God With Joy.

Serving Others.

Embracing All.

April 2018



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS ...

I wanted to share the following article with you from an on-line publication which I receive weekly called “Abbey of the Arts,” written by Christine Valters Paintner, PhD, REACE. I hope what she has to say about the Easter season speaks to your heart as it did to mine. I do not consider it to be a coincidence that what she says was exactly what I needed to hear the day after the Easter ‘*high*.’ I know it is a little long – but I think you may find it well worth your time. Enjoy, reflect and continue to celebrate the resurrection ...

“Lent is a powerful season of transformation. Forty days in the desert, stripped of our comforts, and buoyed by our commitment to daily practice so that we might arrive at the celebration of Easter deepened and renewed.

But often, we arrive at the glorious season of resurrection and celebrate for that one day, forgetting it is a span of 50 days, even longer than the Lenten season through which we just traveled. Easter is not just the day when the tomb was discovered empty, but a span of time when days grow longer in the northern hemisphere, blossoms burst forth, and we are called to consider how we might practice this resurrection in our daily lives.

The soul's journey through Lent is like a pilgrimage exploring inner desert places, landscapes, thresholds, and the experience of exile. Ultimately, pilgrimage always leads us back home again with renewed vision. Resurrection is about discovering the home within each one of us, remembering that we are called to be at home in the world, even as we experience ourselves exiled again and again...

The Gospel readings during the Easter season are about the resurrection appearances of Jesus, and many of them have to do with the life of the body: Thomas doubts and needs to touch Jesus' wounds; the nets are pulled ashore overflowing with fish; the disciples on the road to Emmaus recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread; Jesus breathes on them the gift of the Spirit; and of course there is the celebration of breath and fire at Pentecost. In all of these stories, there is a sense of generosity and abundance, of caring for physical needs, and of finding solace and assurance in the wounds.

Beyond bunnies, baskets, chocolate, and jelly beans, Easter calls us to the profound practice of resurrection of the body. Lent calls us to the simplicity of ascetic practices like fasting with holy purpose. Easter calls us to the generous celebration of these bodies, which are such faithful companions.

Resurrection is about entering the fire of our passion and letting it burn brightly. It is about what enlivens us and makes us feel vital—releasing fear and anxiety over what is to come, and embracing this moment here and now. Resurrection calls us to experience the full weight and lightness of our physical being, to claim the beauty of our embodied selves, and to let gratitude for these vessels of aliveness overflow.

Imagine if, during the Easter season, we each took on practices like these:

- **Make a commitment to move slowly through the world, resisting the demand for speed and productivity that is tearing our bodies apart and wearing them down to exhaustion.**
- **Reject compulsive "busyness" as a badge of pride and see it for what it is—a way of staying asleep to your own deep longings and those of the world around you.**
- **Pause regularly. Breathe deeply. Reject multitasking. Savor one thing in this moment right now. Discover a portal into joy and delight in your body through fragrance, texture, shimmering light, song, or sweetness.**
- **Let yourself experience grief for the vulnerabilities of your body. Be exquisitely tender with yourself and all of the aches and pains and limitations of embodied life. Make a space within to welcome in the sorrow of difficult memories...**

- **Play some music you love, and dance. Be present to the body's desires in response. Perhaps just a finger tapping at first. Then slowly let the impulse travel up your arm and across your chest, taking root in your heart, so that your dance might emerge from this place. Even just imagining yourself dancing can bring you alive...**
- **Every day, at least once, say thank you for the gift of being alive. Every day, at least once, remember the One who crafted you and exclaimed, "That is so very good."**
- **Allow a day to follow the rhythms of your body. Notice when you are tired, and sleep. When you are hungry, eat. When your energy feels stagnant, go for a long walk. In truth, it often takes several days to sink into this kind of attunement, but begin to consider how you might invite this awareness into your daily life.**
- **Be present to the earth-body, which is the matrix of our own being. The earth offers herself so generously for nourishment. Remember that earth-cherishing is intimately connected to cherishing your own embodied being.**

What does it mean for us to not just say we believe in a resurrected life, but to truly practice resurrection? Do you breathe in the gift of the Spirit? What will your practices of resurrected life be?"

"The fertility and flowering of spring speaks of an abundantly creative God who is at the source of the potent life force beating at the heart of the world. Created in God's image, we are called to participate in this generous creativity ourselves. Our own flowering leads us to share our gifts in service to others."

In what ways do you share the gifts of your creative life force with others?

-- Christine Valters Paintner, PhD

Pastor Kathi

Worship at Ogden – April

Sunday, April 8

	No Ensembles
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Deacons

Sunday, April 15

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Musicians

Sunday, April 22

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Musicians

Sunday, April 29

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music
11:15 a.m.	June's Farewell Lunch and Party

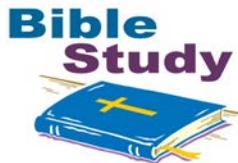
“In Memoriam”

Barbara Snyder

December 6, 1927 – March 3, 2018

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Mt. 25:23)

You are invited to attend a Memorial Service to honor and to celebrate Barbara’s life Saturday, April 14, 2018, 11:00 am, here at Ogden. Following the service, the Deacons will host a reception.



Our next two gatherings will be held on Tuesday, April 24, and Tuesday, May 22, 10:30 am, in the Library. We hope you’ll join us. No preparation is necessary – just come, relax, and share your thoughts.

MARK THE DATE!

**JUNE’S FAREWELL LUNCH/PARTY –
Sunday, April 29 - 11:15 am.**

After faithfully serving Ogden for over 28 years, June has decided to move on to the next chapter of her life and is looking forward to spending more time with her family, especially her granddaughters. She will be greatly missed here at Ogden. Please plan to join us on April 29, after the church service, at which time we will celebrate her time with us, enjoy a delicious lunch, and wish her well in her next adventures. **RSVPs requested but NOT required.** Please RSVP to Pat cell: 973-714-5312 (leave message) or customcakesbyPat@gmail.com



♪ NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ♪

As we look ahead to what April and indeed Spring will bring, it is wonderful to think back on our journey and varied music during Lent and into the Easter season. This couldn't have been done without all of our ensembles. I greatly appreciated such wonderful participation from many Ogdenites. Also, many thanks to all who attended and helped with our March 16 Concert on Main.

Please see the monthly calendar for an outline of key details for this month's rehearsals and ensemble Sundays. Youth Musicians and Chimes Ensembles will next add to worship at the start of May and, pending finalizing singers' individual weekend schedules, Chancel Choir will sing many Sundays this month.



Kids Activities and Youth Group

Following the joy of our annual Easter Egg Hunt, we're also exploring the possibility of an additional Youth Group activity later this spring.

NEWS FROM SESSION

At its last meeting, the Session:

- expressed their pleasure with a lovely Easter worship service, and the children's egg hunt thereafter;
- voted to hold Holy Communion at the Sunday worship service on April 8;
- considered the problems of heating all areas of the building, and discussed ways of alleviating them;
- learned that we have had some promising applications for assistance after June Jeannette's retirement;
- discussed moving to a different bookkeeping system;
- discussed creating a safety plan for the building which will include activities of the congregation and visitors, and the safety policies of all three schools.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING was a great success. Thank you to all who donated money for this worthwhile mission. To date, we have collected \$188.

New Directory Available

New Ogden directories are still available with all of the latest contact information for our members and friends. You can pick one up in the Narthex (please sign on the sheet provided that you have received it). Or contact June and arrange to have it mailed/emailed.

MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH

The Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center
(sponsored by the Mission & Outreach Committee)

The Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center located in Morristown provides nutritious meals in a warm, safe and caring environment, free of charge, no questions asked, to anyone who comes seeking nourishment. The Kitchen's hospitality program includes encouraging and assisting guests in accessing community resources, services and educational programs.

www.cskmorristown.org

To assist with these efforts, Ogden is collecting the following four items:

- Flashlights
- Rain ponchos
- Hand sanitizer
- Low cut socks for men & women
-

Please consider donating. **A collection bin will be available in the narthex until Sunday, April 29.** Our own Ginnie Trowbridge is personally very involved in this community mission effort in a hands-on way. Ask her about her service there...

And ... Thanks to those of you who contributed to our March Mission-of-the-Month which benefitted *St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center*.

Camp Johnsonburg Scholarships

Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, offers summer programs for children and youth entering 1st through 12th grade. Camp brochures will be available soon. Camp Scholarships are available through our church. Please speak with Pastor Kathi if you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.

Camp Johnsonburg is holding an **Open House** on Sunday, April 29, from 2:00 – 5:30 pm. It will be an opportunity for you to visit Johnsonburg and learn all about what the summer has to offer.

GRACE COUNSELING CENTER

The psychotherapists of Grace Counseling Center, Madison, NJ are offering a series of free programs for 2018, entitled “How to Create a Healthy Life.” The next topic is **“Infant Massage”** and will be held on **April 9**, from **10:00-11:00 a.m.**. Parents, grandparents and caretakers are invited to bring their babies up to one year of age as they are taught the many benefits of infant massage. The program is given by **Gabrielle Marshall-Salomon, M.D., DLFAPA**

This program is held at Grace Counseling Center, 16 Madison Ave. Madison, NJ. Space is limited, and RSVP is required. Please call us at **973-822-0707** or send an email to **info@gracecounseling.org**.

Youth Interfaith Potluck

(Muslim/Jewish/Christian Interfaith Dialogue)

April 22, 4:00-6:00 p.m. for teens ages 11 – 18.

Bring a dish to share (vegetarian only). Please RSVP to Leif McLellan at lmclellan@drew.edu by April 6th.

You are invited to a community interfaith dinner for youth and their families hosted by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 300 Shunpike Road, Chatham Township. There will be a Q&A session with youth from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. After the Q&A, stay for a potluck dinner that will include small-group, interfaith discussions about the value and role of faith communities in our lives.



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the April birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all! If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the “Birthday Corner.”

Chris Masson	2
Rae Crescas	3
Allan Paradise	4
John O’Gorman	8
Joseph Cullen Tivade	8
Debi Masson	10
Winston Roos	14
Colette Crescas	17
Gianna Parlavecchio	19
Leah Knoll	29
Colton Walter	30



Let Us Pray...Let us pray for our members...Marcia Casais, Martha Kiff, Alice Loeser, Barbara Molitor, Ev Stanert

Let Us Pray for those serving our Country...Scott Armstrong, Kenneth Casais, James Glendening, Morgan Glendening, Corey Laurenzi, Robert Traver, Doug Verblaauw

Let us pray for...

Kevin Boettger	nephew of Pat Hammeke
Tom Boland	friend of Sandy Roos
Betty Anne Champion	Mark Knoll's mother
Carol Dill	friend of Janice Parcels
Ed Dunn	great-uncle of Casey Molino Dunn
Kathy Dunn Flechler	cousin of Casey Molino Dunn
Josh Fernandez	12 year old neighbor of the Roos family
Auriel Gonzales	mother of Sandy Roos
Paul Horgan	friend of the Crescas family
Christian Isola & family	friends of Cindy Parlavecchio
Chris Keri	friend of Bob and Colette Crescas
Sharon Kern	friend of Miss Trudy
David Knoll	father of Mark Knoll
Patricia Maher	friend of Marcia Casais
Denny Mayer	friend of Marcia Casais
The Mears family	our missionaries in Haiti
Kian Musgrove	friend of David Molino Dunn
Clark and Jean Paradise	parents of Allan Paradise
Dennis Paradise	brother of Allan Paradise
Genesee Parcels	granddaughter of Balcom and Janice Parcels
Gloria Rodgers	cousin of Ginnie Trowbridge
Lucinda Rodrigues	mother of Sophia Hannay
Frank Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Mark Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Emily Takada and family	friends of the Knoll family
Solomon & Sunita Tivade	Joe's mother and father
Woody Woodruff	brother of Sally Laurenzi