

## Thoughts from Rev. Mary

*Jesus...having loved His own...loved them to the end. John 13:1*

The Swiss have built the longest tunnel in the world. Running from Zurich, Switzerland to Milan, Italy for 35 miles, the tunnel cuts through the solid rock of the Swiss Alps. Travelling at speeds up to 155 mph, passengers reach their destination in about 20 minutes! Whether you bravely speed through this express tunnel or drive through a shorter one, a few things are certain: Getting distracted or going back isn't an option. The only way out is through. Truly, a person needs determination, faith and constant focus on the light at the end to even enter one.

The tunnel is a metaphor for Jesus' last days. Soon, churches all over the world will end the period of Lent, established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and remember with sorrow and expectant joy of the final week of Jesus' earthly life. How does it do so? By praying the stations of the cross, or with silent meditation? The Puritans, the forefathers of the Baptists, believed that worship services should be celebrated simply. All days had the significance of Easter and Lent to a Puritan. So, in their zeal to reform Catholic churches, Puritans abolished the liturgy, banned images, art, organ music and Holy Days.

Despite varying views about the pageantry of Easter, richness of the liturgy of methods of keeping Lent, all Christians, reflect anew on the personal meaning of the last events of His life. By so doing, Easter Sunday morning takes on fresh joy and meaning.

**Palm Sunday:** Crowds of Jews flood the city of Jerusalem at Passover. Expectantly, along with Jesus' own disciples, they awaited, the foretold prophet and Messiah, Jesus who would usher in God's kingdom on earth, overthrow the Roman government and take His rightful place on the throne of David. [Jeremiah 33: 17] By spreading their cloaks on the ground and waving palm branches, they acknowledged the new royal king who rode into the city on a humble donkey. [2 Kings 9:13; Matthew 1:6,16 ] *For reflection: When Jesus does not meet your expectations, how do you respond?*

**Monday and Tuesday:** Jesus, as the promised prophet and powerful rabbi teaches in the temple about the end times and judgment on the nations who will reject Him. But for believers... He will be a ransom for many. [Mark 10:34] Other events: Many of Sunday's worshippers desert Jesus and Judas prepares to betray Him. *For reflection: What thoughts do you think Judas had before he betrayed Jesus? What are the seeds of betrayal?*

**Wednesday?** At a thank-you supper, Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus with faith and loving gratitude for bringing Lazarus to life. She believes Jesus is the Resurrection and Life. *For reflection: How does belief in the resurrection change your life? How could it?*

**Thursday:** In the evening, Jesus celebrates the last supper with His disciples, promises the Holy Spirit and prays for the disciples. [John 13-17] Despite the example of Jesus humbly washing their feet, the disciples argue over who is the greatest. After Judas' betrayal, they scatter and Peter denies Jesus three times. *For reflection: What*

*impresses you, a modern disciple, about the matters He prayed about? [John 17] How do you feel about Jesus praying for you?*

**Friday:** On Jesus' last day, the gospels record His many trials, crucifixion, last sayings from the cross and burial. ] During Passover, the Jewish nation remembered their deliverance from Egypt with a Passover meal. The priests killed a lamb as a sacrifice for the sins of the nation. John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Now, Jesus as the Lamb would be sacrificed for our sins by His death on the cross. [I Corinthians 5:7; John 1:29] *For reflection: What difference does Jesus' death on the cross make in your life? Which spectator at the cross or which disciple do you identify with and why?*

**Saturday:** The disciples are overcome with despair, mourning and hope. *For reflection: In what ways has death affected you or someone you love? How can the Saturday before Easter give us hope?*

**Sunday** God the Father resurrects Jesus from the dead and Jesus appears to Mary, the disciples, and the women. The angel announces: "He is not here. He has risen! *For reflection: How would you have responded to the angel's announcement at the tomb? [Matthew 28:1-8] What new meaning does the resurrection of Jesus bring into your life? [I Corinthians 15]*

With love, pain, and hope, Jesus persevered through the dark tunnel of His last week. As we reflect on the path He willingly took, our own personal 'tunnel' of spiritual growth takes on new meaning. It symbolizes our walk in faith as we trust Jesus's loving sacrifice for us and His victory over death. [II Corinthians 5:21] Though we may walk through darkness and pain, we're never alone. The Holy Spirit walks alongside us until we see the Risen Christ, the Light of the World, who awaits us at the end.

"It's Friday now, but Sunday's coming!!"

—Tony Campolo, associate pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

### CHOIR

The annual Choir Fest will be held on Sunday Evening April 14 at 7 PM at Union Presbyterian Church. Three choirs are participating, with each choir doing one number and all choirs doing several numbers together. There may even be a few surprises!! Offering will be going to New Hope. Won't you join us for a great start to Holy Week. You can even participate by singing the congregational hymns. Fellowship time will be following this in their social hall.

### DEACONS

We prepared a total of 17 cards. Five birthday cards, 1 anniversary blessing, 6 sympathy and 5 thinking of you.

### SILVER SISTERS

Silver Sisters Widows Group had a grand time on Saturday with lunch and the Promise Players Program called "Mobile Home Sweet Home". Lots of laughing was done by all!! Our next get-together will be Tuesday May 7 at 3 PM at the church. We will play a game and go to an early dinner at a local restaurant. All widows are invited to join us. We are always open to new ideas of things to do.

### MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Spring is a busy time at Middle Octorara for all. MOPW will be participating in the following ways:

- Estate Sale for Sue Boyd in Georgetown, April 13. We will be setting up Friday, April 12. The sale will be all morning on the 13<sup>th</sup> and we are providing food for the Boyd family and buyers.
- Estate Sale for George Crouse at the corner of Mt Pleasant Rd and Rt 372 is April 20. Again, we will be setting up Friday, April 19. We will once again be providing food for the family and the buyers.

Anyone who would like to help at either of these sales should contact Shirley Miller.

**Celebration of Mothers Banquet** – May 11 at 6 PM. We are looking forward to, and thanking the men of the Congregation for cooking and serving the meal that evening. Entertainment following the meal will be Elva Hurst, chalk artist. Please respond to Shirley Miller or Boni Henry if you plan to attend. We want to make sure we have a place set for all at the banquet.

## TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees have been busy, busy!! There have been several obvious things going on. Have you noticed the new semi-circle in front of the church? And drive around to see the back porch up to the kitchen door that has been redone. There are also things unseen that have been in the works. Always something going on. There has been logs in the cemetery that are being cut for firewood by one of our church members. And it won't be long before the mowing starts again!! Most of these jobs cost money. Just a reminder to keep donating to the building fund.

## MISSIONS

**YARD SALE** – April 20 from 8 AM to 1 PM. We will be asking the Boy Scouts to carry the items upstairs from the basement on Monday, April 15. Then, we will need many folks to help price the items Tuesday – Friday, April 16 – 19. Helpers may come any time during the day or evening to price. Anyone with questions should contact Dan Henry. This is a fund raiser that supports the Mission Fund. The Mission Committee was just newly restructured and will be actively participating in making decisions about where and how to direct donations for Missions.

### PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FLOWING OIL CAFE

April 13- At Middle Octorara  
May 11- At Memorial UM  
Served at 5:30 pm

April 27- At Faith Reformed Pres  
June 1- At St. Catherine's

**Solid Rock invites you to our 1st ever Farm to Table Dinner and Celebration on May 17, 2019.** Come and join us as we celebrate the work that God is doing through Solid Rock Youth Ministries through your support.

The Farm to Table Dinner Celebration will take place at the King Farm and will feature menu items provided through local farms and markets. The evening will feature live music and include outdoor yard games.

It is your contribution and heart for the community that allows Solid Rock Youth Ministries to continue building authentic relationships with kids and youth introducing them to the love of Christ. With the free after school and summer programs, we have the opportunity to not only support the students, but to encourage, connect, and offer support to the whole family.

If you would like to join us, you can get tickets on our website listed below or call Solid Rock at 717-786-8007. Tickets are \$30 each or \$50 per couple. Sponsorship opportunities are available at <https://www.solidrockquarryville.com/farm-to-table> and if you're a famer we are looking for fresh produce, meats, dairy, and more. All donors will receive sponsorship recognition at the event and online. If you're interested in these opportunities please contact Raeanne Nixon at 717-786-8007 or [Raeanne.nixon@gmail.com](mailto:Raeanne.nixon@gmail.com)

## MISSION MUSINGS

As I thought about what to write about for this month's Newsletter I felt led to write about the recent opioid meetings at Middle Octorara. First, I must thank Rev. Mary and Rev. Richard for planning the meetings and getting very excellent speakers. I had heard about the opioid crisis but honestly I knew very little about opioids. I still am not an expert of course but I know more about the crisis after these very interesting and informative meetings.

Doug Cwienk spoke the first evening. He spoke with first hand, real life experience because his son died from a drug overdose after becoming addicted to opioids. He spoke about how easy it is to get addicted and how the drugs affect the brain so that the most important thing to the addict is getting more drugs.

Gus Feleccia is a recovering addict who got hooked after a severe football injury. He spoke of the hopeless feeling of losing the dream of playing professional football and the physical and emotional pain of his injury.

Why did I write about this in an article about missions? I did so because so many people and families are affected by the growing problem. While at the meetings I found myself thinking about our friend Jim who lost his battle with drugs. Those of you who knew Jim know he was a kind, friendly and helpful person. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior while at Middle Octorara but he still succumbed to the powerful pull of drugs. This problem will not go away if we just ignore it. I would think most of us know of someone who is struggling with some kind of an addiction, whether it be drugs, alcoholic or some other type of addiction.

Two of the most important things I take away from the first two meetings are points Doug and Gus each spoke about. Doug pointed out that he has rarely if ever seen anyone recover from addiction without a spiritual conversion. This should not surprise us because we know that God made us, loves us and wants us to love and obey Him. Gus spoke of a friend who came to visit him when he was addicted to pain killers. He said the friend had recently accepted Jesus as his Savior and Gus could see a difference in his friend. He listened to his friend telling him about Jesus for a while but then told him that was enough. But Gus said he continued to think about what his friend told him and it began to sink in and helped him realize he needed Jesus and he needed to get help for his addiction.

We as followers of Jesus Christ know of the love of Jesus and must share this good news with others. We know that Jesus can and does change lives and we can be just the person Jesus uses to help someone be set free of their addiction.

If you know someone struggling with an addiction reach out to them in love without being judgmental. Talk with them and listen to them. Guide them to seek professional help and pray, pray, pray. The opioid crisis is growing but because of Jesus there is always hope.

Psalms 3:2-6

Dan Henry

# REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

## *Why Aren't You in Church?*

I write this in sunny Florida on a Sunday morning. Enjoying the weather and playing hooky from church, I feel guilty about pointing to the faults of others. However, I will do it anyway.

On this Sunday morning in Riverview there are families walking, people walking their dogs, joggers, children on bikes, and a man trimming his shrubbery. Boats that were parked in driveways during the week are in use as people enjoy the waters of the gulf area.

What if I ask these people on the street why they are not in church? Discounting those who would simply tell me to butt out, there would be the usual explanations. Economic reality means that both parents must work, and Sunday becomes family day. This means sleeping in and then family bonding. It too often does not have church on the agenda.

It is also said that not going to church is just part of the younger generations not participating in service organizations as they focus on work and family. Focusing on the family means attending all the kids sporting events and concerts.

Some have argued that the young workers of today, unlike their parents, cannot look forward to a pension. They must depend on 401Ks and could lose it all if the stock market takes a dip. The idea that they will not do as well in life as their parents reversed a trend that existed in our country for decades. All of this makes them more cautious and more self-centered.

What is wrong with the 20s and 30s set? Many who long for the good old days ask this question. They claim that the sense of duty has been eroded. In the good old days you attended church regularly, brought your children to Sunday School, were proud to be a Lion or PTA member, and you voted in every election.

Well, I do not long for the good old days, and I do not know why society has changed so much. This I do know. Not attending church is a way of demonstrating that there is no value in children learning about the Bible, and no value in having a personal God. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ, daily prayer and Bible reading gives our lives meaning and purpose. Too bad so many feel that they can do without it.

## GOD WALKS UPON THE HILLS

*By Anna Blake Mezquida*

*GOD walks upon the hills! I saw Him in the flight  
Of wild geese winging south at morn; and when the night  
Came running eager down the stairway of the trees  
God called my heart to rest with whispering leaves;  
I found the hollow of His footprints in the grass  
Where yesteryear I watched the fires devouring, pass;  
I heard Him in the brush when some young, timid deer  
Went down on little feet to drink the waters clear;  
He laid His cool hand on my fevered soul, in rain-  
God walked the hills today, And He will walk again!*

*God walks the valley! Closed by mountains round,  
I saw His shadow tremble on the ground  
In flicker of the butterfly's bright wing;  
And in the lark's sweet note I heard God sing;  
His breath blew from the river's bank across  
The panting fields, where ripened wheat-heads toss;  
And in the dark His face shone there afar,  
Reflected on the water from a star;  
He pointed out the up-trail through my pain,  
That I might walk the heights with Him again!*

(Submitted by Dick Keene)

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

### **April birthday's starting with 7<sup>th</sup>**

- 8 – JoAnn Irwin
- 9 – Dale Phillips, Jr.
- 10 – Gene Graver
- 12 – Kathy Roland
- 14 – Stephanie Herr
- 18 – Amanda Dalmas, Dave & John Garver, Faye & Todd Reinhart
- 23 – Boni Henry, Cheryl Girvin
- 24 – Lindsey Neiss
- 29 – Amanda Herr

### **May birthday's through the 5th**

- 1 – Julian Garver, Kirk Landis
- 4 – Linda Farmer
- 5 – Robin Hammond

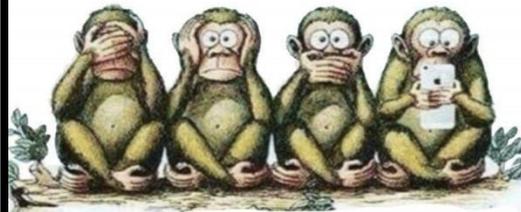
### **April anniversaries**

- 24 – James & Theresa Williams

### **May anniversaries through the 5<sup>th</sup>**

- 5 – Mike & Deb Hoover

**Finally the fourth ape!  
He is the sum of the first  
three: He sees nobody, hears  
nobody and speaks to nobody.**



# Jelly Bean Prayer



Red is for the blood Christ gave  
Green is for the grass he made

Yellow is for God's light so bright  
Orange is for prayers at night

Black is for the sins we made  
White is for the grace he gave.

Purple is for his hour of sorrow  
Pink is for his new tomorrow

*A jar full of jelly beans, colorful & sweet,  
Is a prayer, a promise, a special treat.*

*God, fill my heart and my life with the  
joy of the Resurrection of Christ. Amen!*





# TREASURER'S REPORT

## GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *March 2019*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

March 3 -	General Fund	1,829.00	Benevolence	125.00
March 10	General Fund	1,912.00	Benevolence	154.00
March 17 -	General Fund	1,125.50	Benevolence	121.00
March 24 -	General Fund	1,444.00	Benevolence	144.00
March 31 -	General Fund	1,853.40	Benevolence	120.00

An additional \$669.92 General Fund money and \$70.00 Benevolence money was also received by mail etc.

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### YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD <b>Expenses</b>
General Fund	15,316.50	39,822.90	8,833.82	30,766.64	26,231.68
Benevolence	615.40	1,600.04	734.00	2,181.00	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 7	April 8	April 9 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	April 10 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	April 11 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	April 12	April 13 Flowing oil 5:30 p.m. Food at Boyd sale
April 14 Festival of choirs 7:00 p.m.	April 15	April 16	April 17 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	April 18	April 19	April 20 Yard Sale 8:00 – 1:00 Food at Crouse sale
April 21 Easter sunrise Svc. 7:00 p.m.	April 22	April 23	April 24 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	April 25	April 26	April 27
April 25	April 29	April 30	May 1 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	May 2	May 3	May 4