



Chimes

April 2012

Christ Presbyterian Church

I write this column looking out my study window at a cloudless blue sky, grass that almost needs mowing, and a forsythia bush bright enough that Moses would come over for a look. Heather, my Northeast Ohio native wife has said, “It’s disorienting to see so much sun!” More than one long-time Geauga County resident has told me, “You sure are getting spoiled this year. You better not get used to this.” Amen and amen.

The biblical word for describing such things is *wonder*: “You are the God who works wonders” (Ps. 77:14). “The Lord displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders” (Deut. 6:22). The story of Scripture gives repeated witness to God’s capacity to astonish with more life than people reasonably expect. Improbably, Egyptian slaves are led to freedom. Inexplicably, lame ones walk at Jesus’ touch and the blind receive their sight. Unaccountably, the terror of the cross is overtaken by the wonder of the empty tomb, and the Crucified One breaks bread with disciples as the Lord of heaven and earth.

It has been a month since the shooting at Chardon High School. The terror of that day lingers, as it surely will for some time; recovery from such trauma cannot happen quickly. Yet there are also ways in which the terror is being overtaken by wonder. We have seen astonishing generosity expressed, remarkable resilience among students and faculty, a transformation of school hallways to reflect less of a house of mourning and more of a house of hope.

Scripture has a word for these realities as well:

resurrection. Holy Week trains us to live with resurrection wonder. This is no rose-colored vision. That humanity executed God’s Son, as we remember on Good Friday, reminds us that human beings are capable of the most terrible things. Yet the empty tomb of Sunday announces that death and devastation do not have the last word. Resurrection tells us that where a future seems impossible, God makes things new.

Easter always matters. It is the church’s greatest day because it is God’s greatest victory. For us who have known the darkness of death, the word of resurrection will shine brighter and more wondrous this year. The resurrection gospel is that God isn’t just *telling* us life is new—God is *making* it to be so. We are never in a position to know quite what God will do. We can just be ready to receive it and, as on a miraculously colorful Northeast Ohio spring day, stand in thankful awe.

The Lord be with you all,



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 9:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 7:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 9:30AM

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 1

Palm Sunday

-9:30am Worship and
Communion

-11:00am Lenten Study

-11:00am Bell Choir
Rehearsal

-12:00PM Orchestral
Ensemble Rehearsal

-5:00pm Youth Group

APRIL 2

-7:00pm Deacons

-7:30pm Men's Group

APRIL 3

-9:30am Prayer Group

April 4

-6:30am Men's Bible Study

-6:30pm Bootcamp

APRIL 5

Maundy Thursday Worship

-7:00pm

APRIL 6

Good Friday Worship 7:00pm

APRIL 7

-8:00am Men's Tres Dias

-2:00PM Orchestral
Ensemble Rehearsal

APRIL 8

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship 9:30am

CPC Fellowship



Progressive Dinner May 19

Members of the CPC community are hosting a Progressive Dinner on May 19th. Each course will be hosted in a different home and the food will be provided by the participants--much like a traveling potluck! A sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall for people to supply the food for each location. If you will be attending, please register by May 6th. If you are interested in helping to plan this event or have questions please contact Linda Russell at wvr549@yahoo.com or call 729-3547.

June 1 Lake County Captains Game



A sign-up for tickets to the Lake County Captains game on June 1st at 7:00pm is available in the Fellowship Hall. Each ticket costs \$9.00. Please make checks payable to CPC and write *Fellowship / Captains* in the memo line of your check. If you have any questions please contact Bill Gripp at 729-9539.

Tee Off FORE CPC Church Picnic & Golf Outing



CPC's Annual church picnic will take place on July 29th, if you are interested in helping the Fellowship Committee plan this event please contact Linda Russell at wvr549@yahoo.com or call 729-3547. Our committee would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

WEEK 2

APRIL 8

EASTER SUNDAY

**Worship 9:30am -
Communion**

APRIL 9

CPC OFFICE CLOSED

-7:00pm Youth Ministries

-7:30pm Men's Group

APRIL 10

-9:30am Prayer Group

April 11

-6:30am Men's Bible Study

**-10:00am Prayer Shawl
Workshop**

-6:30pm Bootcamp

-7:00pm Girl Scouts

-7:00pm Worship

APRIL 12

-6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

**-8:00pm Grateful Praise
Rehearsal**

APRIL 14

-8:00am Men's Bible Study

**-12:00pm Children's
Ministries "Pizza & Pottery"**

Bible Studies and Prayer Groups



PRAYER SHAWL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 11 at 10:00am in the Russell Room. Come to knit or come to pray over the shawls. All are welcome!

COME GROW YOUR MARRIAGE WITH US!

The HomeBuilders Couples Series is a small-group Bible study dedicated to making your family all that God intended. Whether you've been married for years or are newly married, this series will help you and your spouse discover timeless principles from God's Word that you can apply to your family.

- Beginning April 15th for 6 weeks
- 11:00am-12:00pm at CPC
- Childcare will be provided.

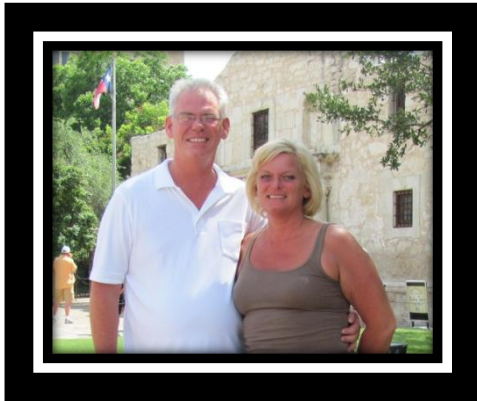
The study book, "Improving Communication in your Marriage" will be available at the study.

Sign up in Narthex by April 8th. Contact Bill or Tina Fischer at 440-729-4515.

CHAPEL CIRCLE

This group will meet at the home of Sheila McKenzie on Wednesday, April 18th at 11:00am. Judith Schwed will lead Lesson 3 pp. 21-27. Jay Mann will give the devotion. No sandwich needed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Larry Evans, married to new member Peggy, is an educator and lives with Peggy in Gates Mills. He has two children, Rachel and Timothy. Larry is enriched by the sermons each week. He strives to lead a Christ-centered life and wants to be an active part of CPC.

Peggy Evans, married to Larry, is a Business Manager at Governor's Village Assisted Living Facility in Mayfield Village. She has 2 children, Dylan and Dalton, who live on the West Side. She loves traveling with her husband, gardening and spending time with their children. She feels that these things will blend well in her spiritual walk with Christ and our family here at Christ Church.

Chris and Cory Keller live in Kirtland with their daughters Jillian (4) and Mary (3). They come to us from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron. Their faith in Christ and their desire to actively share that with us has brought them here. They look forward to becoming an active part of Christ Presbyterian Church.



Carolyn Landis lives in Chesterland with her husband, Terrance. She is retired and has two grown children, and likes doing handwork and gardening. She was drawn to us here at Christ Church because of the open, welcome she received when she first came to worship. That feeling remained even as we searched for a new pastor. She is eager to become active here as she continues her walk with Christ.

Jeff and Julie Nitz live in Novelty with their young son Mitchell. They are expecting another child this spring. Their family, Jim and Joy Kule, and all of us here at CPC welcome them with open arms.



NEW MEMBERS



Robyn Moore is eager to become a part of our congregation. She appreciates the feeling of family, and the warm welcome she's received by many the people of CPC. Her parents, are members Terry and Jan Moore, whom we've most recently welcomed back! Robyn lives in Mayfield and we are honored to have here as a part of our family.

Edna Beharry lives in Chardon and has 3 grown children. She is a leader in an Alzheimer group in Mentor, giving patient and family support to those in need. She is interested in lending a loving hand of support here at CPC. Edna feels that she has been very blessed in life and wants to share that with us here at Christ Church.

Chuck Smith, CPC photographer & sound-tech extraordinaire, becomes an official part of our church family. Many of you know him from his 15 years of active participation here at CPC. He has recorded and photographed many of our Sunday worship services and church events. He looks forward to continuing with that. He wants to be a part of this church as we continue to grow.



Heather Reeves is married to Pastor Matt and is mom to Evan, a second grader at Lindsey Elementary, and Gareth, a kindergartener also at Lindsey. Heather enjoys cooking, reading and playing outside. She has felt welcomed by our congregation and wants to be a supportive part of our church. She's actively part of CPC's children's Ministries Committee and will be involved in VBS this summer.

Lindsay Russell, an elementary school teacher, has been an active part of CPC for a number of years, most recently as a leader of youth ministries. Lindsay and her husband Rob, already a member, live in Chesterland with their son Daniel. Lindsay enjoys reading, cooking, hiking and playing volleyball. Through it all she strives to be a vessel for God's grace. Rob and Lindsay are expecting their second child, a boy, at the end of April.



WEEK 3

APRIL 15

- 9:30am Worship
- 10:45am Mission Committee
- 11:00am Children's Communion Class
- 11:00am HomeBuilders Couples Study Group
- 5:00pm Youth Group

APRIL 16

- 9:30am Children's Ministries Meeting
- 11:00am Staff Meeting
- 7:30pm Men's Group

APRIL 17

- 9:30am Prayer Group
- 7:00pm Session

April 18

- 6:30am Men's Bible Study
- 11:00am Chapel Circle
- 6:30pm Bootcamp

APRIL 19

- 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal
- CHIMES article deadline

APRIL 21

- 8:00am Men's Tres Dias

Notes from Session



Session met on Tuesday March 20. We are studying a book by Henri Nouwen and this month we discussed how to lead with love intimacy. It evoked a great deal of very good dialog, which was helpful to all of us as we seek to lead the church with love and understanding.

We do have a volunteer to run the photo directory project and hopefully we can get going sometime after VBS has ended.

The Lenten study is going very well as people are having some excellent discussions in their respective groups. Sam is very pleased with all of the people involved as well as the leadership personnel involved. Thank you all for helping to make it a great success.

The Session also spent time thinking on where we see God at work in our midst. Among the things we noticed: our membership stands at 251 after our latest group of new members made their faith statements on Sunday, March 18. I think this train is headed in the right direction. All aboard!!

In Christ's service as your Clerk of Session,

Chuck Scott

WEEK 4

APRIL 22

- 9:30am Worship
- 11:00am Children's
Communion Class
- 11:00am HomeBuilders
Couples Study Group
- 5:00pm Youth Group

APRIL 23

- 11:00am Staff Meeting
- 7:30pm Men's Group

APRIL 24

- 9:30am Prayer Group

April 25

- 6:30am Men's Bible Study
- 6:30pm Bootcamp

APRIL 26

- 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00pm Grateful Praise
Rehearsal

APRIL 28

- 8:00am Men's Bible Study

APRIL 29

- 9:30am Worship
- 11:00am Children's
Communion Class
- 11:00am HomeBuilders
Couples Study Group
- 5:00pm Youth Group

APRIL 30

- 11:00am Staff Meeting
- 7:30pm Men's Group

News from Deacons



Deacons met on March 5th. Our treasurer reported that things are going well financially. We currently have a larger balance than we had at this time last year. Our outreach committee has given us the name of a family in need. We are happy that we are able to help them financially.

Greg McCandless was the Session representative. He gave us the names of the 13 new members who were presented during worship on March 18th. Keep them in your prayers and welcome them to our CPC family.

Our church will be having four different Holy Week worship services. Palm Sunday is at 9:30am, a 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service, 7:00pm Good Friday service and Easter Sunday at 9:30am. We are hoping to see many during this special time of Christian faith and love.

Vacation Bible School will be held during the week of June 11-14th. It will begin at 9:00am and end at noon, with our annual closing program that Thursday evening. Anyone interested in volunteering that week should contact Beth Boucek.

If you are interested in ushering or greeting at any time, please let any Deacon know. It is a fun and worthwhile way to get to know other members in our church.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the Chardon community following the shooting that took place February 27th. We are so thankful to have Pastor Matt with us. His concern for, and counseling of our young members as well as the students and staff at Chardon was awesome.

Consider inviting a friend or neighbor to come to church with you. We are hearing such great upbeat comments about CPC and we want to share this with others.

Enjoy this wonderful weather that God has blessed us with these past weeks!

In Christian love,

Barb Albrecht

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AT CPC

Jen Congdon, Director
jen@christpcusa.org



VBS JUNE 11-14, 9AM - NOON

It's an *Amazing Desert Journey* that begins with Adam and Eve and ends with a joyful celebration of the Resurrection and the heavenly home God has prepared for us. As they hear accounts from Scripture of God's forgiveness, mercy, and salvation, children can relate this word from Scripture to their own life of faith. As a bonus, each day's memory verse is a petition from the Lord's Prayer. At the end of the week, children will have learned the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples!

After the craft glue dries, the decorations come down, and the snacks are gone, the only thing that matters is that the children leave knowing there is a Savior for them named Jesus.

Come be a part of this amazing experience. Volunteers are needed for the various stations. To volunteer, please call Beth Boucek at 440-338-1926. VBS registration begins on April 15.



PIZZA AND POTTERY! This Children's Ministries Event is a nice "SPIN" on an old favorite! We'll be "*spinning*" our own pizzas at Pizza Hut in Chesterland. Then we'll head to Spirit of Clay in Mayfield to "*spin*" some pottery just in time for Mother's Day!

- Saturday, April 14 2012
- Meet at Pizza Hut, Chesterland at 12:00pm
- Arrive at Spirit of Clay, 828 SOM Center, Mayfield, at 2:00pm
- Further pricing details will be mailed in a postcard.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Is there an event you wish we'd do for young kids? Do you have some great ideas, but have never had the chance to share them?

Well...NOW you do! Children's Ministries is looking for suggestions for the May event. Contact Jen Congdon at jen@christpcusa.org to make suggestions.

The deadline for entries is Monday, April 16th.

**April
Anniversaries**

Wendell & Barbara VAN KAMPEN 04/12
 Samuel & Paula MARTILLOTTA 04/25
 Gary & Sandra STUMPF 04/28

April Birthdays

Robert RUSSELL 04/01
 Nicholas ELSWICK 04/03
 Brad MORITZ 04/03
 Frank MORMINO 04/05
 Layla SANCHEZ 04/06
 Brenda VARNER 04/08
 Carson MCCANDLESS 04/09
 Jennifer CONGDON 04/10
 Stacey JOHNSON 04/10
 Stacey EVERHART 04/11
 Jane LYON 04/11
 Jake NEWMAN 04/11
 Evelyn HAMMOND 04/14
 Jonathan MORITZ 04/14
 John JOHNSON 04/17
 Luke WENGER 04/17
 Sue STAMEY 04/19
 Frank LYON, 04/20
 Irene WUNDERLE 04/20
 Mary KELLER 04/21
 Lila LATTA 04/22
 Karen PERKO 04/24
 Glenn REX 04/24
 Leila SIMPSON 04/24
 Patricia LAWRENCE 04/26
 Cyndie TROPF 04/30
 Carol VANSANTEN 04/30



**CHILDREN & PARENTS &
CHILDREN COMMUNION CLASS**

This class led by Pastor Matt and Jen Congdon is for children age 1st Grade and up to think on the why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, what it means to share in it, and how the Lord’s Supper helps us to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is particularly appropriate for children who are not yet coming to the Table, although it is also fitting for giving deeper appreciation of the Sacrament to those who are.

**11:00am — Noon
April 15, 22 & 29
In the Library**

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

That means that our annual CPC Work Day is at hand! Please join us on **Saturday, May 5th** from 8:00am till early afternoon as we work together to beautify the Christ Church building and grounds. Bring your work gloves and tools AND your appetite—lunch will also be served! Sign up in Fellowship Hall so we know how much we need to feed the masses.

Contact Bill Fischer at: bestfischer@sbcglobal.net



**Church office hours:
9:00 am-2:00 pm
Monday -Thursday**

**Contact Information
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Fax: 440-729-3733**

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**Church Office e-mail:
office@christpcusa.org
karen@christpcusa.org**

**Pastor Matt's e-mail:
matt@christpcusa.org**

ABOUT THE CHURCH WEB SITE:

Our church Web site, www.christpcusa.org, provides a wealth of information regarding our ministries, missions, church forms and even a list of library resources. Listen to Sunday sermons on your computer if you miss a day of worship, or read the message in text format. Check the calendar for upcoming events and meetings. In the coming months, our site will be updated with a new design.