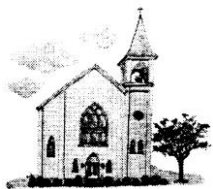


PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073



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To our Members & Friends

April 2020
CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Gorkos

Consistory Officers:

- President..... Jane Bernhard
- Vice President..... Dana Heimbach
- Treasurer Sharon Burns
- Secretary Paula Sell
- Director of Music:** Audrey Reinhart
- Custodian**..... Lynn Sturdevant
- Administrative Assistant**..... Jane MacNeill

Pennsburg U.C.C.
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:15AM Morning Worship

Our Mission Statement:
We are a welcoming
congregation that
celebrates
and shares God's
unconditional love with
each other, the community
and the world.

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Pennsburg United Church Of Christ

775 Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073

215-679-7513

Rev. Matthew Gorkos, Pastor

www.pennsburgucc.org pennsburgucc@gmail.com

It goes without saying that the coronavirus pandemic has challenged us, along with just about every other church, to think quite differently about what it is to be and to do church. Within weeks of the recommendations to avoid gatherings, churches and their leaders scrambled to learn technology and social media, trying to find new ways to stay connected as a congregation in spite of the physical distance. For our part, we have done what we can. But, it's never enough. Nothing replaces the joy and comfort of simply seeing one another and shaking someone's hand on a Sunday morning. Speaking personally, I miss that. I miss seeing all of your smiling faces.

Unfortunately, it looks as though a signs are pointing to an extended hiatus from gathering, as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise and containing the spread remains a priority. These Sundays at home are going to spill into April, and that means, into Holy Week and Easter.

Honestly, that was one of the first fears that crossed church leaders' minds when churches started closing: "Are we going to miss Easter?" It now appears that the answer will most likely be, "Yes." But, here's the thing. I don't think that means we won't have Easter. I think we'll still celebrate Easter together. It almost certainly won't be on April 12th, but we're not going to **miss** Easter.

Think about what Easter celebrates. It celebrates victory over sin and death, it celebrates the inauguration of a Kingdom in which sickness and suffering have no place, it celebrates Christ emerging from the dark isolation of the tomb to reunite with his disciples. That first Sunday we are able to worship again together in one place—that first Sunday we get to come out of our isolation and celebrate that the virus is defeated—**that** will be our Easter Sunday. And I don't care if it's April 19th, May, June, whenever, we will celebrate it as Easter!

For the time being, we will do as we have done these last few weeks of March. We will pray for one another and for our world to be free from sickness. We will continue to meet for a short worship meditation on Facebook each Sunday morning at 10 AM. We will continue to pay our bills and thus need our members to keep supporting the church with offerings, even in our current mode of operation. We will continue looking for ways to help our community, even if the best way we can help at the moment is by staying away from one another.

This is something that we've never seen before. But with God's grace we will see our way through. And then, we will celebrate.

*Peace,
Pastor Matt*

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

February/March to date

<u>Date</u>	Amount Received 2020	Amount Received 2019	Attendance
Feb. 26 (Ash Wed)	328.00	137.00	39
March 1	1,226.00	1,428.00	46
March 4 (mid-week)	711.50	137.00	158
March 8	691.00	495.00	41
March 15	No Worship service		
March 22	No Worship service		

Total	\$ 2,956.50	\$ 2,197.00	Avg. 71
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Faith in Film Group

Here are the upcoming showings for the spring (hopefully):

- April 24th - *On the Waterfront* (PG) - Marlon Brando stars in the story of a disgraced boxer who decides to take on the mob in a shipping town. Don't miss this classic redemption story.
- May 22nd - *Dogma* (R) - A raunchy comedy about two fallen angels trying to sneak back into heaven that features a star-studded cast and some unexpectedly deep theology.

All showings begin at 6 PM in Miller Hall (unless otherwise noted). Bring your own popcorn!

Easter Flowers.....

> Due to PUCC being closed for a few weeks, Worship Committee has decided not to order any Easter Flowers for Easter Sunday 2020.

> Unfortunately our supplier needed all orders by March 23 and we were not together to gather the orders. If you already turned in your order to a committee member, Kathy Badman will be contacting you and returning your payment.

> We are all hoping that we will be together in our sanctuary for Easter worship. If we do have a service and you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for this service, feel free to bring your own Easter flower with you on Easter Sunday. Together we can fill our worship with Easter joy!

> *PUCC Worship Committee*



- 4/1: Rory Butler
- 4/2: Aidan Lash
- 4/13: Mason Cleary
- 4/15: Donna Falk
- 4/16: Terry Schmoyer
- 4/18: Lawrence Diehl, Helen Mensch
- 4/19: Magdalena Bittermann, Richard Kern
- 4/22: Lisa Smith
- 4/24: Lydia Maurer
- 4/29: Geraldine Weller
- 4/30: Michael Kuzmission



4/7: Robert & Sharon Burns (47)

As of March 1, 2020

Pennsburg United Church of Christ Cemetery Committee would like to update you on our cemetery policies, as our cemetery fee has increased. We have also changed personnel. If you need to have a grave marked, please contact:

Gail Schmoyer 484-347-3816 or Donna Falk 215-679-5933

In all cases, both full and cremation burials, there will be a cemetery fee of \$250. Pottstown Burial Vault will open all graves, both full and cremation.

Graves are available for purchase by members only. The fee per grave is **\$250**. We will make every effort to have a cemetery committee member present on the day of burial. However, in the event that this does not occur, all correspondence may be mailed to:

*Pennsburg UCC Cemetery
775 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073*

Also, the Fellowship Committee is no longer able to provide assistance with funeral luncheons. We thank you for your partnership in serving our grieving families.

Sincerely,
Pennsburg UCC Cemetery Committee

APRIL 2020 VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

Sharon Burns, Lori Kern, Bill Kurz, Holly Lash

OFFERING STEWARDS

4/5: Irv & Holly Lash & Tom & Mary Jane May
4/12: Children & Youth
4/19: Bill Kurz, Cliff Lauchnor, Scott Mest, Aidan Lash
4/26: Frank & Donna Falk, Lori Kern, Morgan Dwornik

NURSERY

4/5: Jane Bernhard & Christine Henry
4/12: Jessica Huff & Hallie Huff
4/19: Jane Bernhard & Baylee Cleaver
4/26: Holly Lash & Jana Butler

ACOLYTE

4/5: Ezra Gorkos
4/12: Madison Dwornik
4/19: Chase Henry
4/26: Magdalena Bittermann

Cemetery Decorations

Now that it is Lent, please remove all Christmas decorations from the cemetery. If you do not remove these items, the Cemetery Committee will remove them to make way for Spring decorations and to assist in maintenance. Thank you so much for your assistance.

The Pickled Red Beet Sale and prep has been cancelled in compliance with Covid-19 restrictions. Notice as to the start of the next sale will be given as soon as possible with the previous orders received. ... Thank you ...The Fellowship Committee.

Treasurer's Report

February 2020

Expenses	\$11,084.47
Income	\$ 6,063.06

Holy Week Plan

With the likelihood that churches will not yet be advised to gather by the time Holy Week rolls around, we have a plan for how we can have a worshipful experience without the joy of being together. The Penn-Northeast Conference sent out an email the other day with a wonderful idea of Holy Week worship kits for families. Each kit would include a palm branch, blessed sacrament for Maundy Thursday, prayer readings for Good Friday, and sacrament for Easter Sunday. That way, everyone can worship in their own homes. I liked the idea so much, we're going to do it, with a few slight modifications. Starting on April 8th, you will be able to stop by the church and pick up your Holy Week worship kit from beside the glass door. Please, only take one kit per family. In the kit, you will find:

- A palm branch and a prayer for you to say as a family to bless it
- Consecrated bread and grape juice and readings for Maundy Thursday
- Some reflective readings and prayers for Good Friday
- For Easter, I'm hoping that every one of you is somehow able to join us on Facebook, and I will join us with whatever bread and whatever wine or juice you have in your home, because I am going to do a virtual consecration of our elements—a blessing of what you each have with you so that we can share communion as one body from wherever we are.

Redner's Save-A-Tape

You may feel that saving your Redner's Save-A-Tape can be a hassle...and why bother? Well every penny counts! We usually turn in tapes every 3 months. Enough to pay a bill or two! So a sincere thank you for taking the time and effort to return your Redner's Tapes to the white box in the narthex. (Please do not cut off any part of the tapes).

The recent coronavirus concerns and need to close church have alerted us to the fact that our church directory and contact information are largely outdated, which kept many members from receiving communication in a timely manner. As such, we are setting to revise the directory. Please ensure that the church has up-to-date address, phone number, and email address for you and your family. Also, please pass along this message to family members and friends who may not receive the church newsletter.





Vacation Bible School will be held a week earlier this year from Sunday, July 12 to Thursday, July 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Children ages Birth to just completed 6th grade are invited to participate. **Children age 3 or under must be accompanied by an adult.** Pre-registration will begin in a couple months so keep your eyes open for registration forms.

In the meantime, we need to start the planning process to ensure that everyone has time in our busy schedules to fully prepare for this event. We are always looking for help for the week, please let me know if you are available to do so. Teenagers as well as adults are invited to volunteer. We have simple tasks that don't require much physical activity and more physical tasks. We will have people from St. Mark's volunteering, also, but all of the leadership rolls should be from Pennsburg U.C.C. as we are hosting. All volunteer's will need to have up-to-date clearances and I will provide you with the link if you need it. Please let me know if you are available for the full week or part of the week. We need help in the following areas.

- Games leader and assistant - these people will lead the children in each night's theme-related game.
- Snack coordinator and assistants. We will provide what is needed for each night's theme-related snack along with drinks and baskets of other items. A little more work is needed on Thursday night as snack is prepared not only for the student's but also their friends and family that attend the closing program.
- Imagination Station leader and assistant - these people will help the children make the theme-related pre-packaged activity for the evening. They will also lead the children in discussions as to how the item they are making relates to the theme.
- Storyteller/s - as the position says, this person or persons relays the story for the evening not only through the words of the story but actions.
- KidVid leader - this person introduces the evenings theme-related video and leads the discussion after the video is played.
- Song leader - this person is not needed until 8:00 p.m. each evening and teaches the songs and motions to the children and leads them in the closing program
- Escorts to assist in the movement of the age groups between activities and to help the leader of the activity with supervising the children.
- Registration on Sunday and Monday night from 6:00 to 6:45.
- People to sit at the sign in and sign out table to track who is in attendance for the evening and to assure the child is being picked up by the parent or permitted person. Sign in person is needed from 6:00 to 6:45 and the sign out person is needed from 8:00 to 8:45.

A leader book is provided for each area. We will meet throughout the spring and early summer to make sure we are fully prepared for this wonderful experience that our children look forward to each summer.

In addition to the above, we will be having monthly get-togethers from April to July in order to prepare the decorations for VBS. There will be Sunday afternoon and weeknight times that we gather to allow for everyone's different schedules. We will be making many of the decorations in order to save money on them. Please come out and assist even if you don't feel like you are a "crafty" person. Please look for announcements for dates and times. In addition, please keep those paper towel and toilet paper rolls coming in and look for additional items needed.

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 No Worship service	6 1 st Monday Meal is cancelled	7	8		10 Good Friday	11
12 No Worship service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9am SS? 10:15 am Worship Service?	20	21 8am-noon Office Hours	22 7pm-Choir rehearsal	23 9am-noon Office Hours	24 9am-noon Office Hours 6pm-Movie "On the Waterfront"	25
26 9am-SS? 10:15 am Worship Service?	27	28 8am-noon Office Hours	29 7pm-Choir rehearsal	30 9am-noon Office Hours		

