

A PLACE TO BELONG...

A PLACE TO BECOME...

A PLACE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Special points of interest:

- Order Spring Flowers
- Lenten and Easter Service Information
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Pulled Pork Luncheon

We are continually col- lecting:

- > Pull Tabs
- > Box Tops
- > Plastic Caps & Lids

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MILAN, MI



The Church Mouse



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THEOLOGY AND FAITH



As we approach the ultimately important Easter celebration, I believe it is important to reflect on traditional explication and personal implication.

³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

It is very clear that this saying of Jesus from the Cross is, in the midst of pain and agony, a petition for forgiveness. And, we are told, if Jesus can forgive those who have cruelly tortured him, we, also, can be forgiven of our sins, no matter how egregious.

I know of a woman, then a young mother, who came home after taking her only child for a ride in the baby carriage. When she came home, she found her husband shot to death. She still could smell the gunpowder. And just the night before they had discussed adding to their family. The perpetrator was caught and convicted, and is spending twenty years to life in prison. Now a grandmother, she told me she had forgiven the murderer, wanting to spend energy on his recuperation, and the family her husband never had the chance to see.

I believe God's forgiveness is NOT dependent on our ignorance. Jesus' petition was factual – they didn't know what they were doing, just as oftentimes we don't know. But sometimes we do, and God does not exclude us from Godly Mercy. (Also, an alternate scholarly translation excludes "for they know not what they do").

And he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

Those of us brought up on the King James Version of the Bible, remember this phrase in a different way: He is the propitiation (emphasis added) for our sins... Propitiation implies appeasement. This appeasement often is preached, (especially intensely in certain churches) as everyone is destined to Hell unless they accept Jesus Christ, who, on the Cross, paid the price of our sins to God, even, (some say), from the time we were born.

Expiation is different. Expiation means that in Christ, God has overcome the barrier between God and humankind – the barrier(s) that have been erected because of our ignorance, sinfulness, and egocentricity. We believe in a loving God, who has done all that could have been done for us to "get it."

For many years, I was part of the process that credentialed people for professional ordination in the United Methodist Church. And, as a member of the committee that read and evaluated their theological work, I saw all kinds of faithful articulation, most of which was within the span of traditional and/or acceptable Christian theology. But the most powerful and faithful Good Friday / Easter affirmation I ever came across was:

The meaning of the Cross is not "Be good so I can love you." It's "I love you. Try to be good."

At this sacred time, may we see God loving us, overcoming barriers, forgiving us, and leading us into the paths of righteousness, not only now, but forevermore.

Blessings for all,

Dick

EASTER FLOWERS



Celebrate our joyous Easter Sunday with a gift of spring flowers to beautify our Sanctuary. A variety of spring flowers can be ordered at 2 for \$20 using the order form found in the pews. The deadline for ordering is Sunday April 9. Flowers may be taken home following the Easter Worship Service.



FAITH JOURNEYS

By Doris Ann Campbell, Stewardship Committee Chair

We Presbyterians are very quiet about our faith. We live it every day, but we do have difficulty in talking about it. It feels so private. I know that every one of us is on a faith journey. It has been going on all our lives. I suspect that many of us are in a different place than we were when we were young. So many things were black and white then. As I got older I discovered that things were often more gray than black and white. Some may never question what they believe, but I have and still do.



I know that what I believed when young is not what I believe now. Life has a way of making us look at things differently than in our youth. I grew up in the American Baptist Church and was a part of that denomination until I married Vern. There were a lot of don'ts during my growing up days. Don't go to movies on Sundays. Don't play cards especially on Sunday. When I started college it was at Eastern Baptist College in St. David's, PA as an organ major. It was there where some of my thinking began to change. I remember my professor of Old Testament calling some of those heroes we grew up with in Sunday School, scoundrels, murderers, just flawed human beings that God called to carry out His mission. It demonstrated God's love and ability to call out the skills that a person had that were needed for the work that was to be done. Thus began my journey that continues to this day.

I think it would be rewarding for some of us to get together and talk about our journeys. We might be surprised to learn how interesting our journeys are or even how similar they are. Would you consider joining me on a Wednesday at the church or in a home? I am not talking about a large group. Maybe four or five of us. We could learn a lot from each other as well as be a support for each other on our journeys. Think about it.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Lisa Pratt Christian Education Committee Member

Lenten Mission Project
"Crafts, Clothing and
Cash for Foster Children"



The Lenten Season has the youth off and running with all their Lenten activities. They celebrated Mardi Gras with King Cakes for everyone at Fellowship Hour. Next, they all made beautiful butterflies and placed them into their own cocoons. Sh-h-h-h they are sleeping now, but will emerge on Easter Morning when we will see the beauty of the glorious Resurrection. Magic crosses are on the window of the office celebrating the anticipation of the arisen Lord . . . Hallelujah! Be ready for a warm, homemade "pretzel" this Sunday as a Lenten gift from the youth.

A big thank you to Joan Cullip, Carol Vollink and Georgia Anderson for spending some enjoyable time with the youth in class during Lent.

"Crafts, Clothing and Cash for Foster Children" is our Lenten mission project. We are teaming up with Fostering Futures - Where Children Grow in Ann Arbor, as we help restock their clothing closet. When a child is brought in, they are given a duffel bag with a stuffed toy, blanket, nightlight and personal items. They also like to include some clothing (pajamas, one outfit, socks and underwear) but are very low in these items.

On the window in the Narthex you will find lots of bright pink butterflies with **clothing** items written on them. Feel free to take some down, go shopping and bring the clothing in and put into the tub provided.

Also on the window are a bunch of purple caterpillars with **craft** items indicated on them. We are going to create a Craft Tool Kit for use at the Agency by any of the children while they are there. Bring in the craft items and place them into the "craft" tub.

The children of the congregation are going to put together little craft bags to be used by the children when they have parental visitations. This gives the child and their parent something fun to work on together. If you have any crafts that would be useful in this effort, please let us know.

Cash is also welcome, to be added to the Where Children Grow Fund. Money is often needed for unexpected expenses with the foster children - medical, optical, etc, and allowing them the opportunity to join the Scouts, band, dance or athletic teams. For more information, check out their website ffkids.org.

Dates to remember: April 16 Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30 am after Easter Breakfast

April 23 Earth Sunday - report on the hard caps and lid collection, planting popcorn

June 11 Youth Sunday - celebrate the youth of the church

July 10 - 14 Vacation Bible School . . . come join us!!



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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *continued*

The ceramic Easter Morning scene was all set up in the Youth Room with the angel, Jesus and friends standing around the large tomb in the appropriate formation. At the end of the first Lenten CE class, it was noticed that someone (or more) moved all the people in the scene over to a statue that depicts the Last Supper. There they were - all the Easter People talking with Jesus and the disciples as they partake in the Last Supper together.

The sweet wisdom and uninhibited souls of children - LOVE it!!



The Fish Banks Are Back!!!



One Great Hour of Sharing continues until Palm Sunday April 16.

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing will enable the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

MEDICAL MOMENT

By Diane London

Advance Directive, Living Will, Living Trust, Patient Advocate, Power of Attorney for Health Care: These are all terms related to who will speak for you if you have a medical emergency and cannot talk with the doctors. It is important for everyone over the age of 18 to consider what kind of care they would want (and not want) when they have any type of medical issue AND to name a Patient Advocate to speak for you, to advocate for the care YOU would want to have.



On Thursday, April 20 from 3pm to 7pm at the Milan Senior and Activity Center a program has been planned to provide you with information, opportunities to ask questions and discuss concerns. Several health care agencies will be on site with information. Jane Bassett, Attorney will be speaking along with Diane London RN and a Palliative Care and Hospice speaker. Please call the Milan Senior Center to register for this program ([734-508-6229](tel:734-508-6229)). There is a small fee to help cover the cost of materials and for a catered dinner.

MARCH SESSION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



2017 Session Committee Chairs

Buildings and Grounds....	Skip Lawver	Mission and Outreach ...	Chad Lawver
Christian Education	Lisa Pratt	Personnel.....	Steve Barney
Fellowship	Chuck Pratt	Stewardship	Doris Campbell
Membership	Sue Barney	Worship and Music	Helen Barnes

2017 Board of Deacons Officers

Moderator	Chris Wetzler
Co-Moderator	Katherine McClellan
Secretary	Mary Huber

2017 Corporate Officers

President of the Corporation	Jack Cranson
Treasurer	Ken London
Clerk of Session/Corporate Secretary .	Nancy Kuzniar

Baptism Zoey Inez Bolla was baptized during worship on January 29, 2017. Zoey is the daughter of Brandon and Angela (Gehring) Bolla, grand-daughter of Richard and Vicky Gehring, and great-grand-daughter of Fran Creviston.

Mission and Outreach A Palm Sunday Pulled Pork Luncheon has been scheduled for **April 9** following worship. This replaces the Daylight Savings Luncheon which was scheduled for March 12 but was postponed because of no heat in the church building.

Milan Community Good Friday Service PPC will host the Milan Community Good Friday Service on April 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Building Our Walls Buildings and Grounds (Skip Lawver, Steve and Sue Barney) has put most of the finishing touches on the manse renovation, with only the bathroom remodel to schedule and the garage to re-side or repair.

Pastor Nominating Committee The PNC members are in process of reviewing 60 Personal Information Forms (applications) from clergy interested in our Called Pastor position.

PPC Women's Group Cancer Hats Project - 61 knit hats have been delivered directly to two chemo patients and to St. Joe's Oncology Center so far in 2017.



PLEASE JOIN US AT PEOPLES FOR OUR LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES



April 9,
Palm Sunday
10:00 a.m. .Worship Service

April 13,
Maundy Thursday
5:30 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Worship Service

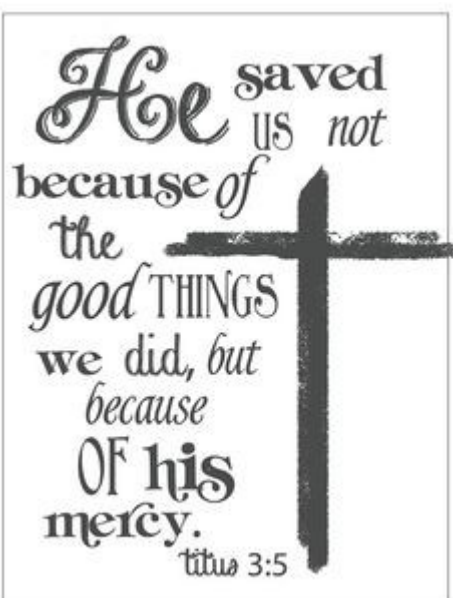
April 14,
Good Friday
Milan Community Service
7:00 p.m.
Peoples Presbyterian Church

April 16,
Easter Sunday
8:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Pulled Pork Palm Sunday Luncheon

The Mission Committee will be hosting a Pulled Pork Palm Sunday luncheon on Sunday, April 9 to raise funds for the Mercy House dinner this summer. We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, cornbread muffins, corn, and desserts. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall





April 2017



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2 10 am Worship: Communion, C.E.	3 Milan Area Schools Spring Break 7 pm Handbells	4	5 9 am Bible Study Lounge 7 pm Bookworms Lounge	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday 10 am Worship: C. E. Session Monthly Reports Due	10 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	11	12	13 Maundy Thursday 5:30 pm Deacon Soup Supper 6:30 pm Worship	14 Good Friday 7 pm Community Worship Service at PPC	15
16 Easter 8:30 am Easter Sunrise Breakfast 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Worship: <u>Ressurrection of the</u> <u>Lord, Handbells,</u> Session Committee Packets ready for pick-up	17	18	19 6 pm C.E. Meeting Youth Room 7 pm Session Lounge	20 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project - Lounge	21	22
23 10 am Worship: <u>Earth</u> Day, C. E. Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for May Issue	24 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	25	26 9 am Bible Study Lounge	27 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	28 	29
30 10 am Worship: C. E.						