

A PLACE TO BELONG...

A PLACE TO BECOME...

A PLACE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

**Special points of
interest:**

- Lenten Mission Project
- VBS Information
- National Day of Prayer
- Gospel Concert

**We are continually
collecting:**

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

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MILAN, MI



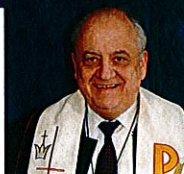
The Church Mouse



Volume 11, Issue 4

May 2017

THE RESURRECTION IS REAL



Reading the Gospel of John in a particular way, Jesus' followers thought they were victims of grave robbery – no Jesus in the Tomb. And, as often we do, Peter (one who denied Him) and the "other disciple" acceded to "reality" and walked away. There is no record of their feelings. But Mary Magdalene (the one of unfortunate reputation) stayed, and was the first one to see Jesus' Resurrected Reality. In just a few verses of John we know the Resurrection is real, is given to imperfect people, it takes a while for people to realize it.

Is it real? Of course it is! Just read and feel Mary's grief, her willingness to take care of Jesus, regardless of where He was, even if it be His corpse, and take it, herself, to another place. Hear the love of Jesus, when he says simply (and I believe tenderly), "Mary!" Experience also her excitement when she runs to the disciples and exclaims, "I have seen the Lord!"

The Resurrection was made real not only to Jesus' imperfect contemporaries, but also to the imperfect throughout the centuries, a few of whom have been our spiritual ancestors. Luther obviously was a brilliant man, but also obviously given to emotional excesses. Wesley, my spiritual ancestor, was a control freak who entrapped himself in a destructive marriage. Calvin's followers (I know a little about John himself) did some truly diabolical things in Geneva, and other places where his followers ran the state as well as the church.

We, obviously are not diabolical, still remain imperfect, and sometimes are slow to realize the power of the Resurrection we already have experienced in our lives. The Resurrection is Real when we surround a grieving family with love and support; The Resurrection is Real when a church I know supported a congregation with a mortgage that it would have been impossible for them to obtain in a more conventional way; The Resurrection is Real when we provide emergency assistance through Aid in Milan; The Resurrection is Real when people, without hesitation support an especially needy family in our midst; The Resurrection is Real when we knit head coverings for women in cancer treatment; The Resurrection is Real when we cooperate with other churches to provide food for the needy; The Resurrection is Real through the many ministries of our Deacons; The Resurrection is Real when we gather together to learn how to tell our stories of how God has been powerful in our lives.

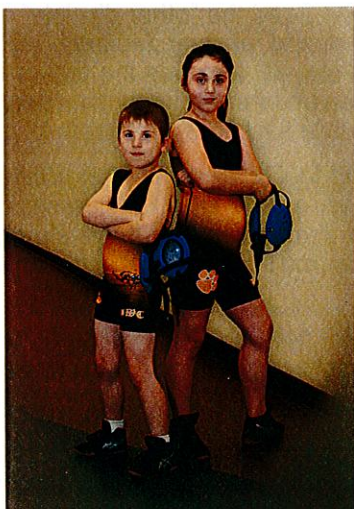
The Resurrection is Real because we bask in the love of God revealed through Christ, and, by grace, increasingly love others as God already loves us all.

Resurrection Reality Blessings to all

Dick

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Alexandra Freeman who received the Heat Winner Ribbon (First Place Ribbon) for the 25 yard breaststroke at Championships March 25. Alexandra swims with the Dundee Dragons Swim Club in Dundee.



Camron and Ryan Heeringa are members of Belleville Wrestling Club and have done well!

Between the end of December 2016, and March 2017, Camron won a few matches and a couple 4th places.

Ryan won most of his matches and placed several 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th many times.



Lauren Rae has completed her first year at Monroe Community College on the Dean's List. She was also inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an honor fraternity at the college.

Cortney Rae has been a member the Phi Theta Kappa honor fraternity for two years and will be graduating with an Associate Degree from Monroe Community College with a science major. She will attend Madonna University in the fall.



Congratulations Ladies!



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

CASH, CLOTHING AND CRAFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Our Lenten Mission Project, *Crafts, Clothing and Cash for Foster Children*, proved to be a great success! Thanks for the very generous response from the congregation! We have well over 60 pieces of clothing and lots and lots of wonderful craft items to donate to Fostering Futures in Ann Arbor. The children in CE put together many ready to use craft kits. The agency has never had any other organization donate items for their clothes closet or supply them with craft items for the children to use as they have parental visits. They are really overwhelmed!

We can be assured that we have helped many children who are not able to help themselves, as they are the victims of an awful domestic unrest. They will know that others do care about them and hopefully that will put a smile on their faces. Let's keep the children, parents, foster parents and Fostering Futures agency in our continued prayers.



CE News

On Earth Day, the children planted sunflower seeds in recycled student milk cartons. They hope that not only will they enjoy the glorious look of a sunflower plant, but will also provide seeds to be eaten by the birds as well as being able to take some themselves, roast them, and enjoy them.



On May 7, the children will be watching a video about Green Tree Company, to see how they take all the caps and lids and grind them down into plastic flakes and eventually produce benches, tables, trash bins, statues and more. They will also be discussing which bench to order, the color, and the location of the bench on the church property. Realizing we will have to pay at least \$225 for the bench, they will decide how they can raise the money..

Mother's Day is coming and a project has been developed to please all the mothers out there.

Youth Sunday will be June 11 and the children will have lots of opportunities to participate in the many parts of the worship service. We are very pleased to announce that we have a college graduate - Courtney Rae will be graduating from Monroe Community College with a degree in science. She will be honored during worship on Youth Sunday. Don't miss it!

Promoting Earth Day by Taking our Planet Seriously!

It has been one year since we started our plastic caps and lids collection on Earth Day, 2016. We have really gained momentum in the past few months and it is very exciting! When we weighed the previous group of caps and lids, we had reached over 171 pounds. There are lots more to weigh. You will hear the latest weighing results on Sunday, and find out how close we are to our goal of 400 pounds.

The children will be presenting the Children's Message on Sunday, April 30, as they inform you about the background of the project through Green Tree Plastics Company, located in Evansville, Indiana. The kids are registered in the ABC Promise Partnership which stands for A Bench for Caps.

The project is very "kid driven" as a lesson in being a volunteer in the effort to preserve our earth and future state of the planet. Most importantly, it will save 400 pounds of plastic from being put into the landfills and waterways.

After collecting the necessary amount of plastic, the children will decide which style of a picnic bench to order, what color, and where the bench will be placed on the church property. The cost of the bench is \$225 plus \$50 if they want a special color (to buy the bench outright, it would cost \$375). The children will decide how they can raise the money to pay for the bench... stay tuned!

After worship on Sunday, April 30, the children will be asking the congregation to help them as they sort all of the caps and lids we have collected. All items that are not accepted need to be pulled out and only the accepted plastics will be poured into large trash bags to be ready for an official weighing. Tables will be set up and ready for the procedure. Come join us.

We graciously thank all of you (your friends, neighbors and families) for being so faithful in collecting all the needed caps and lids for this very worth-while project for the kids! Please continue collecting the caps until we reach our goal of 400 pounds.

FYI – In addition to prescription bottles and caps, over the counter medicine and vitamin bottles and caps are acceptable.


The Children in Christian Education

Acts is an amazing book

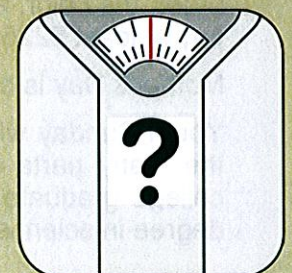
It is a historical book that records the birth and infancy of the New Testament church.

It is a transitional book that shows the shift from Judaism to Christianity.

It is a practical book that teaches how to be saved from sin and carry the gospel to the world (Acts 2:38, 41).



**GREEN
TREE
PLASTICS**



APRIL SESSION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session

Pastor Nominating Committee The PNC members have now reviewed about 64 Personal Information Forms from clergy interested in our Called Pastor position, and are forming a list of possible candidates to interview.

Rev. Griffith's Contract Renewal Session approved a one-year updated Temporary Supply Pastor Contract for Rev. Griffith. The provisions of the May 16, 2016 Pastoral contract will continue, with the following changes:
 Vacation: 7 weeks including 7 Sundays (increase of one week in lieu of a cash salary increase);
 Study Leave: 4 weeks (includes 2 weeks rolled over from original contract)

Buildings and Grounds The sink faucet in the Fellowship Hall restroom has finally been repaired, and no longer drips. **Spring outside cleanup day is May 12 at 12:00 noon.**

Fellowship Easter Sunday breakfast was prepared by men of the church, and served 76 people. We started with 18 doz. eggs (donated by Zilke Farms), 255 sausages, two large platters of muffins and Danishes, and all that was left over were a few sausages and some mixed fruit. Thanks to all those who helped cook, serve, and clean up.

Mission and Outreach Although One Great Hour of Sharing is now officially completed, more fish banks and contributions will be received. The Pulled Pork Palm Sunday Luncheon was a success - \$320 (before expenses) was raised to pay for a fried chicken dinner for Mercy House this summer. PPC is scheduled to host the Mission Cluster meeting for area Presbyterian churches on April 26, at 7:00 p.m. Sue Barney and Chad Lawver will attend.

Worship and Music The Maundy Thursday Service took place on April 13, at 6:30 p.m. with communion, following a soup supper coordinated by the Deacons. At the end of the service, the Sanctuary was stripped of paraments, candles, and communion items, and a black shroud was draped around the cross. PPC hosted the Community Good Friday service on April 14 at 7:00 p.m. Four area churches/ministers participated. Easter flowers (38 plants) were delivered on Saturday morning, April 15, and were arranged by Worship & Music Committee members. The Rev. David Downton filled the pulpit on April 23, as Pastor Dick was on vacation.

Everything I need to know about life,
 I learned from Noah's Ark.

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

May your troubles be less,
 may your blessings be more,
 and may nothing but happiness
 come through your door!

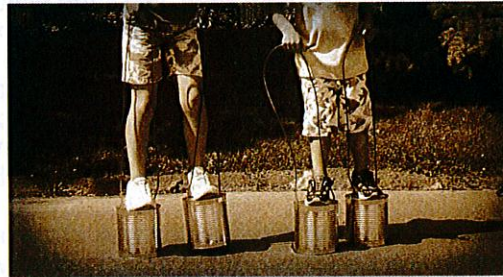


Vacation Bible School



The theme for VBS has been chosen . . . Mega Sports Camp! It will be filled with stories of many athletes who have overcome some very devastating circumstances in their lives. They never gave up, even when people told them they could not achieve their personal goal. We will then find some stories in the Bible of people with similar determination. VBS dates are: **July 10 - 15** Come be a part of this very exciting week!!

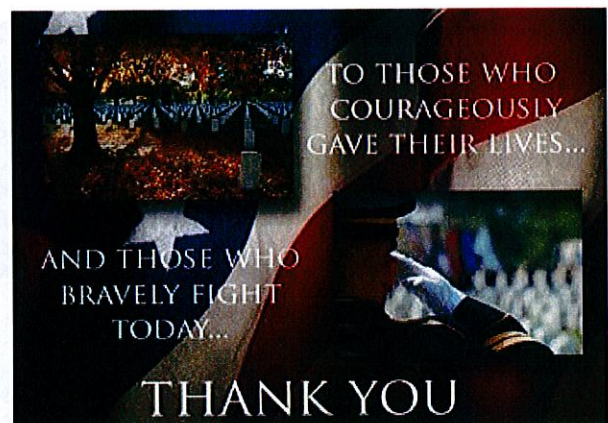
Notice: We are collecting large tin cans to make "walking cups," using two cans the same size and a rope put through it as handles and then walking on top of the cans. Bring them in anytime, and we will match them up for the kids.



Thursday, May 4, 2017

The Milan Community is invited to join us to pray for our nation and its leaders.

NDP Service starts at Noon
Milan Baptist Church, Family Center
36 Tolan Street, Downtown Milan



To all the MOMs out here ~



Happy Mother's Day

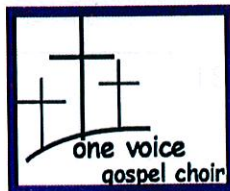


Saturday, May 13

**How Can
I Keep
From
Singing?**



**A celebration of
Gospel Music
from classic
spirituals
to contemporary
favorites**



501 (c)(3)

Dinner at 6pm

join us for a delicious
spaghetti dinner
served to you by choir members

Concert at 7pm

let One Voice Gospel Choir
fill your heart and soul
with great gospel music!

Bring your friends!

St. Paul United Church Of Christ
122 West Michigan Avenue, in Saline

Suggested Donation \$15 onevoicegospelchoir.com or facebook for tickets or call 503-816-6926



May 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9 am Bible Study Lounge 7 pm Bookworms Lounge	4	5	6
7 10 am Worship: Communion, Green Tape Sunday, C.E. Session Monthly Reports Due to Clerk	8 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	9 7 pm Worship and Music - Lounge	10 9 am Bible Study Lounge	11	12	13
14 10 am Worship: Mothers Day, Handbells, C. E. Session Committee Packets ready for pick-up	15 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	16	17 6 pm C.E. Meeting Youth Room 7 pm Session Lounge	18 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project - Lounge	19	20
21 10 am Worship: C.E. Session Committee Packets ready for pick-up Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the June Issue	22 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	23	24	25 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	26	27
28 10 am Worship: No C. E. Church Mouse	29  Church Office Closed	30	31			

The ABC's Of The Bible

by David Padfield



dreamstime.com



A is for **Abraham**, the father of the faithful.

B is for **Baptism**, the way believers get into Christ.

C is for **Christ** who died on the Cross.

D is for the **Deacons** who serve in the Lord's church.

E is for the **Elders** who oversee the work of the church.

F is for **Faith** which comes from hearing the word of God.

G is for **God** who created this world.

H is for the **Holy Spirit** who revealed God's word.

I is for the **Israelites** who were God's chosen people.

J is for **Jerusalem**, where the church was established.

K is for the three great **Kings** of Israel: Saul, David & Solomon.

L is for the **Love** God showed when He gave His only Son.

M is for **Moses** who led God's people out of Egypt.

N is for the **Narrow** road which leads to heaven.

O is for our **Obedience** which pleases God.

P is for **Peter** and **Paul** who preached God's word.

Q is for the **Quaking** of the mountains when God gave the Law.

R is for the **Rainbow** God gave Noah after the Flood.

S is for Satan, the enemy of God's people.

T is for the **Ten Commandments** given to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

U is for the **Unity** of God's people.

V is for the **Victory** that will be ours.

W is for the **Word** of God revealed in the Bible.

X is for the **Exodus** of God's people from Egypt to Canaan.

Y is for the **Young** who must always remember God.

Z is for the **Zeal** shown by Christians.