

# Whisperings



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## ■ ■ ■ A Word from Pastor Scott

### Was The Resurrection Real?

Dear Beloved Friends of Hope Church,

Easter is a time to reflect on the greatest miracle in history—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a time when we celebrate that Jesus, who was crucified and died for our sins, rose from the dead, conquering death and offering us eternal life. But in a world filled with doubt, skepticism, and questions, how do we know the resurrection is real?

It's easy to believe in things we see and experience firsthand, but what about those moments we can't prove with evidence? Consider the skeptics who question whether we really landed on the moon, suggesting that it was all staged. How do we truly know what's real, and how can we be certain that the resurrection of Jesus was not just a story or a myth?

Let's think about the women who visited Jesus' tomb early on that first Easter morning. They came expecting to find His body, but instead, they were shocked to find the stone rolled away, and the tomb empty. Imagine their confusion and sorrow—had the body been stolen? Or was the resurrection a mere fabrication? Their minds raced, and their hearts were heavy. But then, two angels reminded them of Jesus' words, that He would die and rise again on the third day. This was no ordinary disappearance—this was the fulfillment of a promise.

The resurrection of Jesus wasn't just a swoon or a resuscitation. Jesus wasn't someone who fainted or merely "came back to life" after fainting. He was truly dead—crucified, beaten, and buried. Yet on the third day, He rose, in a glorified, resurrected body, standing before His disciples. He showed them His hands and feet, and even ate with them, proving He was

— *CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

## Hope United Methodist Church

3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 738-3774

hopeumc@ptd.net www ■ hopeumcephrata.org ■

www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata

Worship 10 a.m. n Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

truly alive, not a ghost or hallucination.

This Easter, we ask: how do we know what's real? How do we distinguish between what's true and what's just a story? In our lives, we often wear different masks, acting differently depending on where we are or who we're with. We may be one person at home, another at work, and yet another when we walk through the doors of the church. But the real question is: who are we, deep down? We're all a mixture of good and bad sinners in need of a Savior. And only Jesus can truly transform our lives, offering us hope through His resurrection.

This monumental event is the ultimate dividing line in history. It's not something we can always prove with logic or scientific evidence. It's a matter of faith. But that faith isn't blind. It's a faith grounded in the testimony of hundreds of witnesses who saw Jesus alive after His death. It's a faith based on a historical event that changed everything.

That empty tomb is the heart of the Christian message. It tells us that death is not the end. Because of Jesus' victory over death, we have hope—not just for eternal life, but for strength to face life's trials. Yes, there are moments of doubt, and we may not always understand why things happen the way they do. But when we place our trust in the risen Jesus, we find hope, even in the darkest moments.

This Easter, we're reminded that the resurrection is real, and it changes everything. Because Jesus rose, we can be forgiven of our sins and made a new creation in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17) Because Jesus conquered death, we no longer need to fear it. The tomb was empty then, and it remains empty today. The resurrection gives us hope, not just for life after death, but for a transformed life right here and now.

As you reflect on Easter this year, ask yourself: Do I believe the resurrection is real? Will I place my faith in the One who died and rose again, offering forgiveness and eternal life? The empty tomb isn't just a story from the past—it's a living reality, offering us hope, joy, and peace today. Jesus is alive, and because He lives, we too can live. He is Risen indeed!

With love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pastor Scott



► **Out and About:**

Pastor Scott believes, “Opportunity is everywhere for true mission and evangelism.” His faith and spirit guides him to get ‘out and about’ in the community. Each month we highlight some of his recent ministries.

On Thursday, March 13, we had our Ephrata/Akron Ministerium meeting at Dove Westgate Church in Ephrata. Executive Pastor Wes Dudley hosted and the guest speaker was Steve Prokopchak who spoke about “How to stay healthy in our marriage relationships while engaged in the demands of Ministry”.



**Pastor Scott and Executive Pastor Wes Dudley**



**Steve Prokopchak Author and Ministry Leader with Dove International**



**Guest Speaker Steve Prokopchak speaking at Dove Westgate Church**

If you would like to suggest a future ‘Out and About’ segment for the Whisperings, contact Pastor Scott at (267) 467-4027 or email [hopeumcpastorscott@gmail.com](mailto:hopeumcpastorscott@gmail.com).

## ► SERMON SERIES: “PERFECTING PRACTICES”

March 5 .....	Part 1 - Ash Wednesday - Moving Forward One Step At A Time ..... Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 9 .....	Part 2 - First Sunday of Lent - Living Word - Luke 4:1-13
March 16 .....	Part 3 - Second Sunday of Lent - The Feelings of Prayers - Luke 13:31-35
March 23 .....	Part 4 - Third Sunday of Lent - Honestly - Luke 13:1-9
March 30 .....	Part 5 - Fourth Sunday of Lent - Come On In - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
April 6 .....	Part 6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - Here I Come To Worship - John 12:1-8
April 13 .....	Part 7 - Palm Sunday - Humility, Praise & Peace - Luke 19:28-40
April 17 .....	Holy Thursday Tenebrae Service
April 20 .....	Part 8 - Easter Sunday - Death Has Been Perfectly Defeated ..... Luke 24:1-12

## ► What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan, and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending themselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter.” This is why you will see the designation “Sunday in Lent” rather than “Sunday of Lent” in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord’s Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

As we prepare for Resurrection Sunday, let us silence the noise in our lives and ask the Lord to show us what steps we need to take to refocus our heart, mind, and will on Him alone. This Lenten Season, let us cry out to God like David did. “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting”. (Psalm 139:23-24) Amen!

### Lenten Season

#### Ash Wednesday

- March 5

#### Lent

- March 5 - April 17

#### Palm Sunday

- April 13

#### Maundy Thursday

April 17

#### Good Friday

April 18

#### Easter - He is Risen!

April 20



# Bingo Night - March 1



# Bingo Night - March 1





# Office Notes

## ***FOR A USEFUL CALENDAR***

Please fill out the yellow forms on the Administrative Assistant's desk to schedule meetings.

## ***UPDATES***

Please inform the church office whenever you set your next meeting date or select your next book or topic for your Sunday school or study. Thank you!

## ***DEADLINES***

Please submit all items for the bulletin by **12 p.m. Thursdays** and by the **15th of the month** for the next Whisperings.

## ***FLOWERS & BULLETINS***

*Contact Sandy Muckle if you want to sponsor altar flowers less than a week in advance.*

You may share an altar flower order with a friend, so that each person keeps one bouquet of flowers after the service and the total price still equals \$50. Two dedications may go in the bulletin.

**Sponsor Flowers** - \$50.00

Available: April 6, 13, 17, 20 and 27

**Sponsor Bulletins** - \$10.00

Available: April 6, 17, 20 and 27

## ***CAN WE HELP?***

For financial assistance, please contact Don Miller at (610) 858-9958

## **Updates to the Directory**

**Derek Hachkowski** (new address)

150 Dorset Street

Ste. 245, #233 - South Burlington, VT 05403

Please notify the office of any changes to your contact information.

## **Hope UMC Staff and Office Hours**

Pastor: Rev. Scott Dorn ■ Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano

Director of Music: Lisa Helock ■ Organist: Dave Luck ■ Sexton: Doreen Deamer

Tuesday - Friday ■ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

hopeumc@ptd.net ■ [www.hopeumcephrata.org](http://www.hopeumcephrata.org) ■ [www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata](https://www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata)

# Meetings and News

## April Dates

- 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Holy Communion
- 12 Easter Egg Hunt Celebration
- 13 Passion/Palm Sunday  
Wild Church
- 14 Preschool Wide Easter Event
- 15 Tax Filing Deadline  
Newsletter Deadline  
Preschool Wide Easter Event
- 17 Holy Thursday Tenebrae Service
- 18 Good Friday
- 19 Holy Saturday
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 21 Easter Monday
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 27 Second Sunday of Easter

## Weekly Events

### Bells of Hope

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Sanctuary

### Senior Choir

Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.  
Choir Room

### Monday Night Bible Study

Mondays at 7 p.m.  
Conference Room  
Room 226

### Women's Book & Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 a.m.  
Room 221

### Men of Hope

Fellowship Hall  
(First Friday of each month is  
at Gus's restaurant.)

## Fellowship Sunday

(the 3rd Sunday each month)

Please donate snacks/drinks to  
share with your fellow worshipers.

**April 20**

May 18

June 15

## Church Administration Meetings

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless specified.

WPCM - Monday, April 7

Trustees Meeting - Monday, April 7

Finance Meeting - Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m.

SPRC Meeting - Tuesday, April 15





## **One Great Year of Sharing – Hurricane Relief Fund**

The donation jar is in the Sanctuary. As of **March 23** we have collected a total of **\$696.00**. Thank you!

## **Special Easter Sunday Giving**

Offering envelopes will be handed out on Sunday, **April 13** (Palm Sunday) and should be returned by Sunday, **April 27**.

Your gift will support Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center. Please **write your name on the envelope** to identify your gift. Thank you!

## **Attendance Registration**

Hope has reintroduced attendance registration.

Please register your attendance in the booklet placed on a table in the lobby. This will be made available every Sunday.

Thank you.

## **Newsletter Deadline Notice**

**April 15** is the deadline for the **May** newsletter.

Thank you.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Envelopes will only be available in the basket in the Sanctuary. Please remember to identify your giving by **writing your name on the envelope**. Thank you! Using envelopes is a big help for our Financial Secretary, Amy Trella. Thank you.

## **Praise and Prayer Cards**

Praise and prayer cards are now back in the pews. Thank you.

## **1ST QUARTER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

Statements will be available starting on Sunday, April 6 in the lobby. During the week they will be located in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact the church office and leave a message for the Financial Secretary, Amy Trella. Thank you.

## **Remembered with Love**

### **February 21**

Police Officers Cameron Givin and Christopher Reese - Virginia Beach Police Department

### **February 22**

Police Officer Andrew Duarte - West York Borough Police Department

### **March 7**

Detective Joseph Azcona - Newark, NJ Police Department

### **March 10**

Mike Hess - Tony & Leona Luciano's neighbors son

### **March 15**

Donna Imhoff - ✠ **Member**

Christopher Haus - Son-In-Law to Ray & Gale Martin

# Adult Sunday Schools & Studies

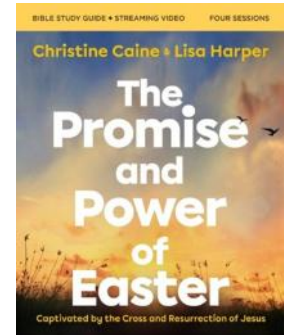
## **Seekers** - Bruce Tucker

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

***The Promise and Power of Easter*** by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper

Easter is the most significant event in human history. Join Christine Caine and Lisa Harper in a transformative study that goes beyond mere tradition. Walk with them through four weeks of the Lenten season taking in the details of Jesus' life, the agony of His death, and the overwhelming joy of His resurrection.

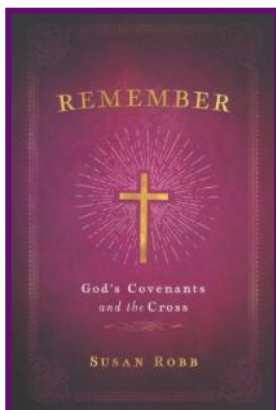
Relive Jesus' final earthly steps with a heart full of hope in this four session study. See the Lord's resurrection with eyes of faith. Celebrate Easter in victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives.



## **The Way** (*a name given to the earliest followers/disciples of Jesus*) - Rev. Kevin Readman

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

***God's Covenants and the Cross*** by Susan Robb



Throughout the Bible, God's relationship to humanity is enunciated in a series of ongoing covenants---with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. What exactly does God promise? What are his adherents then expected to do? Going to the heart of true faith, Robb artfully interweaves biblical history with moving personal stories.

Questions and request for a book should go to Kevin Readman at [kevin\\_readman@yahoo.com](mailto:kevin_readman@yahoo.com) or 717-203-8452 or in person.

All are invited and welcome for whatever weeks you are able to participate. Let us grow in spirit and knowledge together.

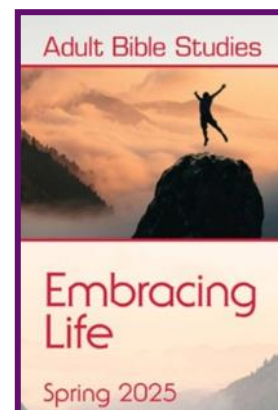
## Wide Awake - Melissa Readman

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Room 221

### **Spring Adult Bible Studies - Embracing Life** by Mark Price

Cultivate a deeper relationship with God through *Adult Bible Studies*. Each weekly lesson offers background and focal Scriptures, key verses, and doctrinally sound and relevant biblical interpretation and application. Annual plans provide comprehensive coverage of the Bible, special lessons during the church seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, and suggestions for developing spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, community, and service, among many others. *Adult Bible Studies* is a reliable companion and guide for learning and growing in the Christian faith.

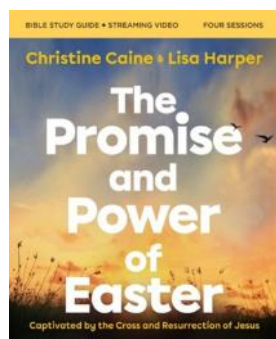
This spring, our Bible lessons follow the theme “Embracing Life.” They offer a series of lessons in two units during Lent and the weeks following that encourage us to consider what we need to let go of and what we need to take on as followers of Jesus.



## Monday Night Bible Study - Bruce Tucker

Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

### **The Promise and Power of Easter** by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper



Easter is the most significant event in human history. Join Christine Caine and Lisa Harper in a transformative study that goes beyond mere tradition. Walk with them through four weeks of the Lenten season taking in the details of Jesus' life, the agony of His death, and the overwhelming joy of His resurrection.

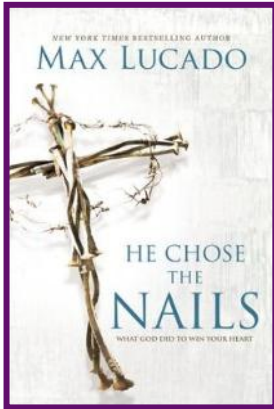
Relive Jesus' final earthly steps with a heart full of hope in this four session study. See the Lord's resurrection with eyes of faith. Celebrate Easter in victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives.



## Men of Hope Book & Bible Study - Tony Hachkowski

Fridays at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall - *(First Friday of each month is at Gus's restaurant)*

***He Chose The Nails*** by Max Lucado



Max Lucado invites you to examine the cross, contemplate its purpose, and celebrate its significance in *He Chose the Nails*. Go ahead and linger on the hill of Calvary and see just how much God did to win your heart.

## Women's Book & Bible Study - Sandy Schmid

Thursdays at 10 a.m. in Room 221

***If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*** by John Ortberg

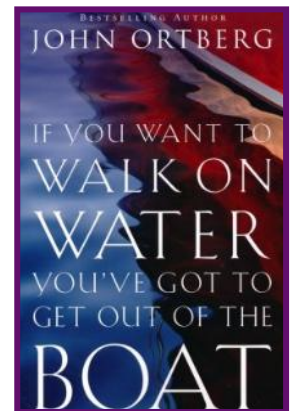
Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus.

In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, "Come."

John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. It's everything you'd expect of someone worthy to be called Lord.

The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process.

There's just one requirement: If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.





### Hope Preschool Prattle

Welcome Spring!

The weather has finally been warming up a bit and the children couldn't be more excited to be back outside and on the playground.

April will be very busy with spring projects and Easter. We will have Easter celebrations on April 14 and 15 with parents helping to make it a success. Lancaster County Parks and Recreation came out to teach a lesson about worms to go with our Spring and Insect themes. Birds, flowers and caterpillars are popping up all over the school to brighten the walls with color. Soon the butterfly larvae will arrive and we will all watch the transformation of caterpillars to butterflies before we release them into Hope Meadow.

Our Pre-K classes have also started getting ready for graduation at the end of May. They are working so hard on the songs they will sing.

Registration for 2025/2026 has opened and in just over 2 weeks we have had 97 children register. It is so wonderful to see the school growing and so many children coming through the doors to learn and feel God's love.

The Preschool will be having a sub sale in April. We would like to work towards purchasing a new sign for in front of the church. Watch for more information.



Blessings and enjoy the weather!

Mrs. B

### Pre School Graduation

Will be held at Hope UMC on May 30 at 6:30 p.m.





## Ms. Amy's 60th Birthday - 3-17-25





# Thank you notes...

- ♦ **Thank you** - for remembering me at this time of the year - Kathy Barlets
- ♦ **Thank you** - very much for the gift, it was very much appreciated - Doreen Deamer
- ♦ **Thank you** - for all the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls. May 2025 be a healthy and blessed year for all of us - Dolly Hurst
- ♦ **Thank you** - Sandy Muckle for the gift card - Laura Luciano
- ♦ **Thank you** - Amy Trella for your assistance in updating the 2025 directory - Laura Luciano
- ♦ **Thank you** - to Anthony & Harlie Jaskierski, a preschool family, for the generous donation.
- ♦ **Thank you** - Bingo Night was a great success, with 40 attendees and \$140 raised.
- ♦ **Thank you** - for all the cards, calls and prayers after my heart surgery - Dick Rodman



## TONY'S RECYCLING Q&A

**Q: Can I recycle an old microwave oven?**

**A:** Yes! Microwaves contain steel, copper, and aluminum. If you're upgrading to a new one, even if your old microwave still works, let Tony know. He may donate it to Goodwill or ReUzit instead of recycling it.

**Q: Can I recycle an old TV?**

**A:** Yes! TVs, DVD players, VHS players, radios, electric heaters, fans, and similar items contain steel and copper wiring. If your item still works, let Tony know—he may be able to donate it to another organization.

**Q: What can I do with my old lawn mower?**

**A:** Gas-powered and electric lawn mowers, weed and hedge trimmers, reel mowers, and other garden tools contain metal and can be recycled. Feel free to drop them off for recycling.

**Q: How can I recycle my old metal patio or lawn furniture?**

**A:** Simply drop it off, and Tony will ensure it gets recycled.

If you have any questions concerning what can be recycled, call Tony at 717 575 4287.



A background image of purple pansies with white and black markings on their petals, set against a light purple background.

## Wild Church

### Partnership with Hope Meadow

Here Look deeply: every second I am arriving  
to be a bud on a Spring branch,  
to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile wings,  
learning to sing in my new nest,  
to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower,  
to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.  
I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry,  
to fear and to hope,  
the rhythm of my heart is the birth and death  
of all that are alive.

—Excerpt from *Please Call Me by My True Names*  
by Thich Nhat Hanh

### Next Gatherings

**April 13** – Palm Sunday, at 5pm- Continue to follow Jesus as we walk through the meadow and into town.

**May 18** – explore what's all around us in the Meadow and beyond.

Our gatherings include reflections, observations, poetry, and your input!



HOPE CHURCH PRESENTS  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025**

# EASTER *Hunt* EGG



**Pancake & Sausage Breakfast too!**

**9 AM - 11 AM  
Fellowship Hall  
For Ages 2-10**

**Hope Church - 3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata - 717-738-3774**

[www.hopeumcephrata.org](http://www.hopeumcephrata.org)    [hopeumc@ptd.net](mailto:hopeumc@ptd.net)

[www.facebook.com/HopeUMCEphrata](https://www.facebook.com/HopeUMCEphrata)

## HOPE CHURCH GARDENS

### Sign Up Now



Green thumb but no backyard? Spring is just around the corner! Our garden plots behind the church will be ready for planting. A signup sheet is available in the lobby. Spots go fast, so sign up soon! Questions? Contact Dave Schmid

at 717-733-3073 or [dsschmid@ptd.net](mailto:dsschmid@ptd.net).

## CLEAN UP WORK DAY

**8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, May 3**

**7:30 - 8 a.m.** - coffee & donuts

Look for a signup sheet closer to the time. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the **2025 Annual Conference Session of Eastern Pennsylvania.**

The 2025 Annual Conference for The United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania is **May 20-22, 2025**, at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ. Clergy and Laity members of the Annual Conference as well as visitors and guests may complete your registration by the **Wednesday, May 14 deadline**. The registration process includes options to select childcare, hotel reservations, mission project participation, and special group gatherings. Please note that **the cost of registration increases after March 31 and April 20**. To register visit: <https://www.epaumc.org/ac2025/>

## GRETNA GLEN RETREAT

This year Gretna Glen is celebrating 66 summer's in Ministry. In the summer of 2024, the retreat served 1,260 campers and had 126 summer volunteers and staff. They provide overnight camping for ages 4-18 and day camp for kids ages 5-13. A pool, lake, zip lines, science center, campfires and much more are available for all these campers. See the brochures on the table in the lobby.

**BE ON THE TEAM** - Gretna Glen is hiring Day Camp and Overnight Camp Counselors. Visit [Greatnaglen.org/serve](http://Greatnaglen.org/serve) for more information.

## THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER

Is offering a wide array of free workshops and some are via Zoom.

For information and to register for workshops:

Parish Resource Center

2160 Lincoln Hwy East, #18, Lancaster - (717) 299-1113 - [info@parishresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@parishresourcecenter.org) - [www.connectprc.org](http://www.connectprc.org)



POUR OUT TO THE  
GOD OF  
**HOPE**  
AND BE FILLED

ROMANS 15:13



THE 74TH ANNUAL  
**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER



[WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG)



**SATURDAY  
MAY 10,  
2025**

Join us in celebrating **40 YEARS**  
of proclaiming the truth about Jesus & life!

## The Junction Center, Manheim

### *Event Schedule* (RAIN OR SHINE)

- 7:30 AM** Onsite Registration Opens for Run/Walk
- 8:00 AM** Fun Zone Opens
- 8:45 AM** Welcome & Prayer
- 9:00 AM** 5K Run Starts
- 9:30 AM** 1-Mile Walk Begins
- 10:15 AM** Walk/Run Ends  
Ministry Highlights & Awards Ceremony
- 10:30 AM** Celebration Continues
- 11:30 AM** Fun Zone Closes, Event Concludes

Help us raise funds as a  
runner or walker to bring  
life-giving services to  
moms, dads, and babies  
in our communities.



#### HIGHLIGHTS

Walk • 5K Run • Fun Zone  
Live Worship • Prizes  
Yard Games • Food Trucks



► **SIMPLE ONLINE REGISTRATION:** [AlignLifeMinistries.org](https://AlignLifeMinistries.org)

**QUESTIONS?** Erica Allgyer • 717.274.5128 x 315 • [eallgyer@alignlifeministries.org](mailto:eallgyer@alignlifeministries.org)



# Donations & Assistance

## ► **City Gate Needs:**

Individually wrapped snacks like granola bars, cookies and chips. Kitchen sized garbage bags, paper towels, 7 inch paper plates and bowls.

## ► **Ephrata Area Social Services Needs:**

Spaghetti sauce, pasta noodles, gluten free items, beef stew, spam, syrup, sugar-free syrup, jelly, peanut butter, oatmeal, canned veggies. They have plenty of green beans, tuna, and spaghetti noodles. Please place your donations under the coat rack in the lobby. Thank you for your continued support of EASS and the work they do for our local community

## ► **Good Samaritan Services Needs:**

Paper towels (high need), twin sheet sets and comforters (high need), pillows, twin/queen winter blankets, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent and gift cards (\$25 gas, groceries, etc.). Please place your donations in the basket underneath the visitor table in the lobby. Thank you!

## **PRC'S Houseware Pantry**

PRC is asking for donations of new or gently used houseware items. Donations can be dropped off at 2160 Lincoln Highway E #18, Lancaster.

The items we are most in need of include: **mixing bowls of various sizes, baking sheets and dishes, pots and pans with lids, sharp knives, cutting boards, cups, new dish towels and sponges, new bath towels, new bed sheets and blankets.**

## **Children's Clothes Needed**

The clothing bank at Peter's Porch, located at Zion Lutheran Church in Akron, is in urgent need of children's clothing in sizes 2T through 14-16 for both boys and girls. If you would like to donate, please contact Jeanette Beck at 717-733-0897 to arrange an appointment.

# BLOODROOT AND SPRING BEAUTIES

by Clyde McMillan-Gamber

Bloodroot and spring beauties are native, woodland wildflowers that bloom early in April in many local woods. These plants have several characteristics in common that make more intriguing.

Created by God, as all life is, both kinds of one-foot tall plants flourish best in rich, moist soil and can tolerate partial shading on dead-leaf carpeted, woodland floors. Both are perennial, emerging from the same roots every spring. Both have beautiful flowers, white ones on bloodroot and pink on spring beauties, that decorate the floors of bottomland woods in the eastern United States, including here in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Both species grow lovely blossoms that are pollinated by bees and flies, including the interesting, fuzzy bee flies. After being fertilized by insects, both plants produce several seeds in seed pods, red ones in bloodroot capsules and black ones in spring beauty pods.

Each bloodroot has a single two-inch, white bloom and one scalloped leaf. And each pretty flower resembles a tiny, white tulip at first, but soon opens fully and looks like a two-inch-across, eight-petaled daisy that blooms for several days. Bloodroot taproots have orange-red sap that gives the plant its name. Spring beauties each have two grass-like leaves and a few lovely, pink blossoms blooming at any one time from early April to early May. Early flowers get pollinated and become seed pods, while new blooms open to be fertilized.

These plants are adaptable, growing lovely colonies of themselves in bottomland woods, and in human-made habitats, including along roadsides and in cow pastures. I have seen patches of bloodroot blooming beautifully along roadsides, here and there, in and near local woods, where they are easily visible to adoring eyes. Apparently, soil was scraped to create roads in woods and dumped to the side. But the bloodroot roots survived and annually bloom since.

I've also seen large parts of some sunny pastures glowing pink in April from millions of spring beauty blossoms. Those meadows were carved from woodlands to create grazing for livestock. But the adaptable spring beauty bulbs in the ground adapted to increased sunlight and lived on in the pastures, adding much beauty to those short-grass habitats.

Bloodroot, spring beauties and other kinds of small, flowering plants develop leaves and flowers early in April so they can benefit from the sun's light and heat before the trees grow leaves that will shade and cool the woodland floors by the end of April. These simple plants also stay short so they can avoid cold winds and soak up heat from the sun-warmed, leaf-covered woods floors.

Native, God-created bloodroots and spring beauties add beauty and charm to certain woods, roadsides and meadows. Look for these lovely wildflowers, and others, when outdoors in April. They are inspiring.



**Bloodroot**



**Spring Beauty**

**Check out Clyde's nature blog: [NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com](http://NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com).  
Each short story is like taking a walk with your very own park naturalist!**



# EASTER

Word Search Puzzle



B	A	S	K	E	T	D	A	S	F	C
U	Z	I	Y	V	X	S	J	D	C	H
N	P	D	B	N	H	U	N	T	A	O
N	C	A	N	D	Y	N	J	T	R	C
Y	Q	E	G	G	S	D	G	I	R	O
G	R	A	S	S	J	A	R	B	O	L
O	A	S	X	O	O	Y	E	B	T	A
M	B	T	C	H	I	C	K	A	Z	T
K	B	E	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	E
E	A	R	S	A	P	R	I	L	L	A

BASKET

CARROT

RABBIT

BUNNY

EGGS

FLOWERS

EARS

APRIL

CHOCOLATE

EASTER

CHICK

SUNDAY

GRASS

HUNT

CANDY