

THE CONNECTION

April 2022



Connecting God's People Through Love

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Elijah's Closet 10-2	2 Elijah's Closet 10-2
3 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10 AM Communion	4 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	5	6	7	8 Elijah's Closet 10-2	9 Elijah's Closet 10-2
10 <i>Palm Sunday 6th Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10 AM Deacons Mtg. after church in the Parlor	11	12	13	14	15 Elijah's Closet 10-2	16 Elijah's Closet 10-2
17 <i>Easter</i> Worship 10 AM Christian Ed. Mtg. after church	18	19	20	21 Trustees Mtg. 4 PM @ church	22 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Prudential Board Mtg 3:30 via Zoom	23 Elijah's Closet 10-2
24 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10 AM	25 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	26	27	28	29 Elijah's Closet 10-2	30 Elijah's Closet 10-2

Revised Common Lectionary

The readings used at our weekly worship service and in most Mainline Protestant Churches and in Roman Catholic Churches are from a list of assigned readings known as The New Revised Common Lectionary. In our Congregational tradition, pastors are encouraged to use the assigned readings but it is not mandatory.

I personally prefer to follow the readings and I mainly focus on the Gospel lessons for my meditation. It gives me and you a structure through which we can study and learn from the teachings of the scripture of the Word (Logos) of God in our midst.

The readings for March: (You are encouraged to read them as well)

Date	1 st Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 st Reading and Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday in Lent April 3, 2022	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Liturgy of the Palms April 10, 2022 Sixth Sunday in Lent		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Luke 19:28-40
Liturgy of the Passion April 10, 2022 Sixth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Resurrection of the Lord April 17, 2022 Easter Day	*Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
Second Sunday of Easter April 24, 2022	*Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

** During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Genesis is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.*

From the Treasurer

February Offering Information

Monthly amount needed to meet the yearly budget of \$85,325: \$7,110

January Offering: **\$4,587**

Many thanks to all of you for not only your money but your time and talents.

Marc

Moderator's Message

Diane Meredith

Many Waltonians will remember local icon and my dear late friend, Charlie Fiumera. In one of our deeper conversations, Charlie asked, "Why do you go to church all the time, Diane? Is it because you want to go to heaven?" I didn't know how to answer. Of course, I want to "go to heaven," but that seems so selfish and shallow. It's not about me.

I go to church because being part of a faith community makes me feel part of universal hope and love. As the aging process wears us down with social change, health issues, loss of family and friends, we need to belong to a culture of hope. I once heard, "The church is our best hope." A Google search brought me to <https://www.christiantoday.com/article/3-reasons-why-the-church-is-the-hope-of-the-world/101606.htm>:

Billy Hybels, a pastor in Illinois, was the first to declare, "The local church is the hope of the world." But in what way are we the hope of the world, and how can we carry out that hope to others? Here are three reasons why the church is the hope of the world.

1. We Carry the Truth of Christ

The primary purpose of the church is to bring the truth of the gospel to the world. 1 Timothy 3:15 says, "If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth." The truth of Jesus and His finished work on the cross is something that the world must hear. As local church communities, we can bring that truth to the people closest to us.

2. We Are Called to Be Extensions of God's Love

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus commands us, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." The most available proof of God's faithfulness is our lives and our testimony. Each believer has more than enough life to share and more than enough light to shed. God has proven faithful to us all, giving us stories of miracles and breakthroughs. All we have to do now is share it to the world.

3. We Stand at the Breach in Intercession

Prayer is undoubtedly one of the most powerful things we can do as the people of God. When we intercede for the things that are happening in our community, we stand between God and the whole world. When Christians stand in prayer for cities, nations and the world, God shows up.

As we welcome spring, the season of renewal, let us reflect on the question, "Why do we go to church?" I've been thinking about it since Charlie first posed the question. Sorry, Charlie. I still struggle to take the answers from my heart and put them into words.

I wish for all of you a blessed Easter season.
Draw Us Forth
Draw us forth, God of all creation.
Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
into the immense world of your love.
Give us the capacity to even for a moment
taste the richness of the feast you give us.
Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
with questions,
with doubts.
Help us to experience the resurrection anew
with open wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.
- *Author Unknown*

**SUSQUEHANNA ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING**

4/30/22

The Susquehanna Association Spring meeting will be held on Saturday April 30th at 9am, virtually, via Zoom Video Conferencing. This is our Annual Meeting. Quorum is required

REGISTER TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK AND REPORTS

QUORUM IS REQUIRED

Please RSVP before April 26th by calling
607-722-1017 or by e-mailing
registrarsany@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM
Janet

NEW LIFE

Easter Sunday is April 17th this year. I have always said that we are an Easter people. As Christians the resurrection is our most blessed promise. All the saints who have gone before us are experiencing the joy of resurrection and new life in eternity. What a marvelous thought to celebrate!

Yet we are now facing a time of fear and perhaps a time of a loss of hope. As we have journeyed through the pandemic some have been discouraged and face depression. As we see a war in Ukraine, we feel the pressure of the possibility of an increasing time of war and destruction. We have witnessed many lives, of all ages, lost in this battle for democracy and freedom. Where, we may ask, is our joy of celebration?

The joy is in our promise for new life with the God of our creation. We travelled through Lent and Holy Week seeing our God brought to trial and an unjust crucifixion. Our journey in life may be filled with similar hardships. But that same God who was crucified was raised to new life to show us that we too will experience the same journey of resurrection. This is the joy and celebration of Easter – we all will be raised from death to new life!

Read 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20.

Happy Easter!

Janet

Easter Plants

Fran Robinson will be collecting funds for Plants and Flowers for the sanctuary for Easter Sunday services. If you would like to contribute, please see Fran after Sunday services on Sunday, 4/2 or 4/9.

Prudential Board Updates

The Prudential Board met on Friday, March 25th and the following decisions were made:

- Beginning Saturday, March 26th masks will be optional for all persons attending services and for those visiting Elijah's Closet and those who might rent the use of the building.
- Social distancing will continue during Sunday Services.
- Beginning Easter Sunday bulletins will be reinstated.
- The hymnals are back and hymn singing is again part of the Sunday Services.

Ukrainian Refugee Assistance

Below is an email Pastor Janet received from Beth Ogden.

Hi Janet,

I know you and some others were wondering how to help with the refugee crisis in Moldova. I'm forwarding the latest update from the "Friends of Moldova", which is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer organization in Moldova (which I am a member of). Since the first refugees entered Moldova, they have been focusing all of their energy, on-the-ground resources, and money fundraised to refugee relief efforts. The situation in Moldova right now is getting to a critical point as so far, no money or outside aid groups (UN, etc.) have entered the country to help with the refugees. Most refugees (I think close to or maybe even more than 90%) are being housed by regular people, and most needs are being met by volunteers and by funds from everyday citizens in Moldova (of which they have very little). This is an organization I fully trust, and they are working directly with the Moldovan government, other volunteer groups in Moldova, and Peace Corps Moldova, so I am sure the money is going directly where it is most needed. Just wanted to share in case anyone else would like the information. The Moldova Matters newsletter (which is linked in the forwarded email) is a great place for information about the current situation on the ground there.

Thanks,

Beth

From the Friends of Moldova

Dear Friends,

We have been working hard and grateful for your contributions towards helping the refugees in Moldova. We really appreciate your help and your willingness to ask your family and friends to contribute and spread awareness. There are some updates on the website - <https://www.thefriendsofmoldova.com/>. There are photos of our partners in action. We will also be uploading stories to our Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofmoldova/?hl=en>) very soon about the refugees. For the most updated information with the general situation in Moldova please follow Moldova Matters (<https://moldovamatters.substack.com/>)