



The Highlander

The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney
106 East Union St., Punxsutawney PA 15767
www.punxsypc.net punxsychurch@comcast.net
(814) 938-5560

April 2020

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*to all members of our PCOP family
in these difficult times*

Please call or email
the office **by**
TUESDAY
APRIL 28th with
any information,
announcements,
updates, etc. that
you would like to
see in May's
newsletter!

As announced via email and letter, all PCOP activities are suspended until further notice.

The congregation will be informed of any changes as soon as possible.

For information on member care/support from the Board of Deacons, please read the "PCOP & COVID-19 Information" letter at <https://www.punxsypc.net/events/>

At-Home Worship for Holy Week

Adapted from PC(USA)—additional resources can be found at www.pcusa.org

Prayers and Scriptures for Palm Sunday

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Read Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29.

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Read the Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem, Matthew 21:1-11.

Silently reflect on the Word of the Lord, and conclude with prayer:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Handwashing: A Spiritual Practice for Maundy Thursday

Prepare a pitcher of water, a bowl, and towels. Prayerfully pour water over each hand, or allow a family member to do so. As you do so, reflect on the grace and love of Jesus Christ poured out in your life. Dry your hands with a towel and conclude with prayer: O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal. Wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Lament: A Spiritual Practice for Good Friday

Read, pray, or sing Psalm 22. Reflect on the state of the world, the church, and your own life. Offer these things to God in prayer, seeking God's saving power.

Read, pray, or sing Psalm 22 a second time, and conclude with prayer:

Eternal God, your Son cried out in anguish from the cross, and you delivered him. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. By his death and resurrection bring life where there is death: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of oppression, that all people may rejoice in your saving deeds through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Light: A Spiritual Practice for Saturday Easter Vigil

Light a candle and read John 1:1-5. Reflect on and give thanks for times where you see God's light shining in darkness, and conclude with prayer:

We praise and glorify you, Lord God, for Christ, our life, is risen and has conquered sin and death. He has broken the chains that bind us and freed us to live in his kingdom of light. May Christ enlighten the hearts of all who believe. May Christ transform this world that longs to see him, enlightening the hearts of all who believe, and restore all creation to its rightful place. Glory, praise, thanksgiving, and blessing to you, O God, victor over sin and death, and now and forever. Amen.

At-Home Worship for Easter Sunday

Adapted from PC(USA)—additional resources can be found at www.pcusa.org

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world. Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hear the Word of the Lord by listening for the voice of the good shepherd, who calls you by name—read the Resurrection of Jesus, Matthew 28:1-10.

Sing or read the words to Jesus Christ Is Risen Today:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Conclude with the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing & Charge:

Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us, and brought us into the Day of Resurrection.

We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son, and that he has conquered death, risen to rule over all powers of this earth.

We praise you that he summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness.

By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair, and set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life, and all we have may show forth his love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours, this day and forever. Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid. Go and tell this good news to all. Amen.

FINANCE & GENEROSITY

Thank you for donating funds, time, and energy to PCOP!

Date	Attendance in worship	Weekly offering	% to General Fund
March 1	51	\$3,150.00	81.43%
March 8	40	\$3,005.00	76.21%
March 15	27	\$1,742.00	77.21%
March 22	N/A	\$2,200.00	87.77%
March 29			

MARCH 2020 FINANCIAL HEALTH			
	Current	Year to Date	2020 Total Budget
Receipts	\$10,097.86	\$43,125.59	\$182,771.00
Expenses	\$8,870.22	\$85,558.02	
Excess or [Deficient]	\$1,227.64	[\$42,432.43]	

Until worship resumes, PLEASE MAIL your regular weekly offering envelopes to the office.

During the season of Lent as Presbyterians focus on aligning our lives with God's calling for us, the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** special offering through the Presbyterian Mission Agency culminates on Easter Sunday. As stated by PCUSA, "Presbyterians have joined together in this ecumenical effort to share God's love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry, and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities."

Donations received during OGHS are split into three areas:
32% goes to Restoring Hope via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, helping communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters.

36% goes to Reducing Hunger via Presbyterian Hunger Program, supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

32% goes to Partnering in Progress via Self-Development of People, providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.

Traditionally, the OGHS special offering is received on Easter Sunday—**in 2020, this Sunday falls on April 12th; please mail your offering!** More information can be found at presbyterianmission.org/OGHS or in the pamphlets mailed with the Quarterly Financial Statements.

**Monthly Giving
Spotlight:
One Great Hour
of Sharing
Special Offering**

MEMBERSHIP & PCOP UPDATES

Birthdays, prayer requests, moving and more!

Please remember to contact the office if you have any changes in mailing address, email address, or phone number to ensure you are still receiving PCOP updates!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO...



Those Needing Our Prayers

Karina Blose	Betty Brumbaugh	Duane & Pam Carr
Betty Cessna	Jane Crawford	Gillen Geary
The Graham Family	Martha Irvin	Dorothy Jenks
Kathy Kopp	The Ward Family	

*Please contact the office to add a name to the newsletter/bulletin "Needing Our Prayers" list. Please contact **Rex Lettie** at pcop.prayer.chain@gmail.com to join or to add a name to the PCOP Prayer Chain.*

April 1	Barbara Endress
April 2	George Momyer
April 5	Nicole Williams
April 6	Kim Robbins
April 8	Mackenzie Reiter
April 11	Mimi Miller
April 13	Lu-Ann Grube
April 16	Kaylynn Keeley
April 20	Gary Juart
April 23	Debby Elder
April 26	Joan Wachob
April 28	Keith Ferguson
April 30	Matthew Dinsmore Carla Studebaker

SESSION & THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Keeping up with the committees and officers of PCOP!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next meeting of the Board of Deacons will be:
SUNDAY TBD
9:30 a.m.
Memorial Parlor

The next meeting of Session (Unicameral Board)
will be:
MONDAY TBD
7:00 p.m.
Lester Seminar Room

***If you are in need of help
while church activities
are suspended or have
any questions or concerns,
please contact a current member
of the Board of Deacons
or a current member of Session
(listed on page 9)***



Beautify the sanctuary with flowers
Write "Deacons Flowers" in check memo
line (\$25) and call the office to place
your order. Available dates:
*TBD after worship services resume and
standing orders are rescheduled first.*



MISSION & OUTREACH

A “Choose Your Own Adventure” to get more involved at PCOP!

‘Tis the season for spring house cleaning and clearing out closets and drawers. Please remember that PCOP has an ongoing clothing collection that helps fund the monthly community meals. Bring your bagged, clean, wearable items to the church office WHEN IT’S OPEN AGAIN. These items will be stored until a collection date is set.

PCOP will be going on a short-term mission trip this summer! We will be traveling to the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville, which is about 30 minutes east of Clearfield, leaving on afternoon of Sunday, July 19th and returning the evening of Wednesday, July 22nd. We also have the ability for individuals who aren’t able to stay the entire time to join us for a single day (Frenchville is within commuting distance).

The Bethany retreat center is home to an organization that began as “Young People Who Care,” and for well over 30 years has hosted volunteers from across the country to do mission work.

Projects are matched with the skills, abilities and interests of volunteers and include such assignments as home repairs and carpentry, cleaning, lawn work, and nursing home visitation.

Food and lodging are provided by the Bethany Retreat Center. We don’t anticipate out-of-pocket travel or lodging costs, although individuals who may want to contribute to the costs of their trip are free to do so. The only cost will be for an evening meal on our return trip.

We will also be looking for individuals who can drive to Frenchville, and provide transportation to/from work sites. In addition, we would like to have someone who may want to be the “head cook” for our team. This individual will perform these duties as their mission work for the week.

Volunteer applications are due Sunday, May 31st.

For more information, please contact Rex Lettie, Mission Chair, at 938-4743 or via email at mocha2000@verizon.net

**Crosstown Ministries Food Pantry
Woodland Avenue United Methodist Church
203 Woodland Ave.**

Please contact Pastor Clint Phillips @ (814) 938-8160 for more information on whether the Food Pantry will still be occurring on Monday, April 20th, as originally scheduled.

FELLOWSHIP

Have fun and spend time with your PCOP family!



The joint breakfast with the Clearfield Presbyterian Men's Group is tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, June 27th

Questions? Ask Keith Hughes or Rex Lettie

MEN'S BREAKFAST

'A Terrible Storm' submitted by Rev. Dr. Clair Lundberg

During this pandemic time, our world is abounding in fear, fear, fear! It reminds me of a fear like many of us experienced during World War II. How well I remember the comforting words of President Roosevelt saying, "There is nothing to fear, except fear itself!" While this was an overstatement, they were comforting words to my frightened, youthful heart.

How much greater and truer are the comforting words of Jesus during this pandemic time, when he says to our spirit of fear, "Don't let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You believe in God, believe also in me."

You trust in God the Father, trust also in Jesus the Son.

Let me suggest two very practical things each of us can do during this difficult, uncertain time. **FIRST**, pray. Take five or ten minutes each day to give God your worry, your fear, your anxiety. As the song says, "Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there." Take your worry, your anxiety, your fear to the Lord and leave it there! Perhaps it is easier said than done. But it can happen!

SECOND, connect and reconnect with others—via email, telephone, any way you can. Just do it! It might be a family member, a pastor. Many years ago English poet John Donne wrote something we should never forget when he said, "No one is an island, entire of itself. Everyone is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

Amen and amen.

I pray each of us will keep one hand in His hand as we use the other hand to help each other. God is our Mighty Rock and our Refuge and we are exhorted to "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."

(Psalm 62:8). He is our mighty, unshakable rock during this pandemic time.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

“I have a question about . . .”

Schedules, quarterly financial statement, newsletter, ordering flowers, bulletin information, ordering church supplies, using church facilities, etc. <i>And anything else!</i>	Keri in PCOP office
Hospitalizations, Emergencies, Member Care	Keri in PCOP Office Board of Deacons
PCOP Property & Grounds, maintenance requests	Property Committee Co-Chairs Dana Hartman & William Cooper
Worship information, pulpit supply	Worship Committee Chair Roberta Dinsmore
Baptisms & Weddings	Clerk of Session Doug Chambers
Funerals & Memorial Services	Keri in PCOP Office Funeral Director
Mission & Fellowship Opportunities	Mission & Outreach Chair—Rex Lettie Fellowship Chair—Barbara Burkett
Youth Group & Children’s Sunday School	Youth Group—Dana Hartman Christian Education Chair—
Finances & Giving	Finance Chair—Nick Suntheimer Stewardship Chair—Richard Fetterman
New Members (Joining PCOP)	Clerk of Session Doug Chambers
Choir & Music	Music Director Nancy Pearce
First Tuesday Community Meal	Donna Anderson
Current Members of Session	William Cooper, Dana Hartman, Rex Lettie, Barbara Burkett, Deborah Elder, Nick Suntheimer, Roberta Dinsmore, David Divelbiss, Richard Fetterman
Current Board of Deacons	Lee Blose, Kathi Cessna, Jean Hughes, Debra Dinsmore, Carole Haire, Donna Grabany, Richard Cessna, Barbara Endress, Pam Hogan

APRIL 2020 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>At time of publishing, all church activities continue to be suspended until further notice.</i>			1	2	3	4
5 Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Week begins)	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Great Vigil of Easter
12 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter One Great Hour of Sharing special offering	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 2 nd Sunday of Easter	20 5:30 P.M. Crosstown Food Pantry (see page 6)	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26 3 rd Sunday of Easter	27	28 May newsletter info deadline	29	30		

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he held was an old leaf from an oak tree that had been pressed between the pages. "Look, Mama, what I found!" the boy cried out. His mama said, "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in his voice he answered. "I think it's Adam's Underwear!!!"

--submitted by Dee Blose



106 East Union Street
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Office hours: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Monday thru Friday

Office phone: (814) 938-5560

Email: punxsychurch@comcast.net

Visit online at www.punxsypc.net



Worship at home doesn't have to be quiet! The words of songs are prayers in their own right. If you would be comforted or uplifted by a hymnal from our sanctuary, please contact the office or Debra Dinsmore at 938-5386 and one will be delivered to you!

All Glory, Laud, and Honor ☪ Hosanna, Loud Hosanna ☪ Ride On! Ride On in Majesty
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed ☪ In the Cross of Christ I Glory
What Wondrous Love Is This ☪ Beneath the Cross of Jesus ☪ Ah, Holy Jesus
Go to Dark Gethsemane ☪ O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ☪ Were You There
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today ☪ The Day of Resurrection
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain ☪ O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing
The Strife Is O'er ☪ Thine Is the Glory ☪ Christ the Lord is Risen Again
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today! ☪ That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright