



The Celtic Cross

April 2011

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."
—Luke 22:42

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus utters this remarkable prayer—remarkable because we see that Jesus is no divine robot, but that he has a choice: a choice to pursue his will or God's will. What a temptation it must have been to turn away from Jerusalem and the fate that awaited him there. Couldn't he save more people if he saved himself? Or, as others contended, wouldn't he do more good if he led an army of rebel to rise up and throw out the Roman oppressors? Palm Sunday revealed that at least a portion of the population would be willing to join in such an insurrection behind Jesus.

"Yet, not my will but yours be done." Perhaps better than any other statement in the gospel, this simple prayer describes what Jesus is about—not only during this week in Jerusalem but throughout his life and ministry. He follows the path that God wants him to travel. He may be attempted to turn aside, but he is unwavering in his obedience and faithfulness, his courage and love. And through his obedience, the rebellion and disobedience of Adam and Eve in another garden long ago, and the rebellion and disobedience of each mortal since Adam and Eve, is covered with grace and love.

"Yet, not my will but yours be done." In a sentence, this is what it means to be a Christian, to follow Christ: we seek to do, not our will, but God's will, just as Jesus did. But how do we know God's will? That is the question, isn't it? And there are no easy answers—but there are answers when we pray as Jesus prayed and meditate on the Scriptures as he did. And there are answers when we listen to, and lean on, the collective wisdom of the body of Christ. But ultimately, the best way to discern and then do God's will is to follow Jesus as he journeys towards God.

"Yet, not my will but yours be done." Doing God's will is not easy. Sometimes we will feel like we are in the dark, sometimes we will even feel like we are abandoned by God and others in our own gardens of Gethsemane. And sometimes, it may even appear that doing God's will is as futile and foolish as...the cross. But as Easter reveals, the power, the wisdom, and the love of God confound anything that we might even imagine.

We hope you will join us during all of Holy Week. Together, may we seek to follow in Jesus' footsteps, not only on the mountaintops of Palm Sunday and Easter, but also through the valley of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And, in so doing, may we learn more about what it means to pray: *"Yet, not my will but yours be done."*

Grace and peace,
Carter and Kerry

Worship Matters

Upcoming in Worship

- April 3** Service for the Lord's Day
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Preaching Series: "Encounters with Jesus: The Woman at the Well"
- April 10** Service of the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.
Preaching Series: "Encounters with Jesus: Lazarus"
- April 17** Palm Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.
Preaching Series: "Encounters with Jesus: In Jerusalem"
Cherub and Celtic Choirs Sing
Reception of New Members
- April 24** Sunrise service in the Peace Garden, 6:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast, 7 a.m.
Service of Celebration of the Resurrection, 10:30 a.m.
Cherub and Celtic Choirs sing
Easter Egg Hunt
One Great Hour of Sharing offering received.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Service of Shadows

Prayer Vigil, 9:00 p.m.—12:00 noon, April 21-22

We will keep watch in the sanctuary as we remember Jesus' last night.

Good Friday Cross Walk, 10:30—11:45, April 22 (downtown)

Meet on the green between Zion's UCC and Emmanuel Lutheran on Hanover Street as we walk with other Christians to remember Jesus' walk to the cross and to pray for our neighbors. Families with children are encouraged to attend. Kerry will begin the walk with a time for children to explain Good Friday and the processional. If it rains, we will "walk" inside Emmanuel Lutheran's Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunday, April 24

- 6:30 a.m.** Sunrise service in the Peace Garden
- 7:00 a.m.** Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary
Our choirs and instrumentalists will lead us as we sing the good news of Easter that "Jesus Christ is risen indeed!"
- 11:45 a.m.** Fellowship Time and Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn
(bring your own basket!)

Wednesdays in Lent

6:00 p.m.: Evening Prayer

6:20 p.m.: Dinner

7:00—8:00 p.m. Lent Programs for all ages

Sign up for dinner on the bulletin board or call the church office (and if you sign up, but find you cannot join us, please let us know so we don't waste food). Menus are posted on the bulletin boards prepared by rotating groups of "church chefs."

April 6: There are two options for adults from 7 to 8 p.m.:

Thinking the Faith: **"The John You Never Knew: Decoding the Fourth Gospel"** Dr. **Kenneth Maahs**, Eastern University. Dr. Maahs has just completed a book on the Gospel of John.

Experiencing the Faith: **"The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts"**, **Leaders: Carter and Kerry**

April 13: Service for Wholeness, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us as we pray for "the healing of the nations" as well as for those bodies, lives, and relationships closer to home in need of wholeness. Kathleen "Kass" Moyer, who served as a missionary to Haiti with her husband, Barry, will speak.

Learning the Faith—April 6 and 13 for Children and Youth, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Ages 3 and up: Childcare provided.

Ages 4 to 2nd Grade: The Upside-Down Kingdom. The children will be learning about Jesus' upside down kingdom and all the amazing ways he showed us how to live.

3rd grade-8th grade: The Last Supper

Get ready to be creative as we transform a classroom into the Upper Room during the Last Supper. We will be exploring what things looked, felt, tasted, and sounded like in ancient Jerusalem. During this time of Lent we will be using paints, paper mache, fabrics, and other creative supplies. On the last week, we will recreate what it was like at the Last Supper.

9th-12th Grade: Come and do your homework. All Sr. Seekers are welcome.

Coventry Singers Concert at Church, April 3, 3:00 p.m.

"A Life in Song"

Featuring John Rutter's "Requiem"

April 3, 2011—3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Guest Conductor: Joseph Perry

Free will Offering

Reception Following the Concert in Fellowship Hall

Christian Education Opportunities

Adult Education Opportunities (no Sunday School on Easter Sunday)

- **Forum (Community Room)**

April 3: “Theologians and Hitler” (video and discussion)

Why did some theologians and church leaders in Germany support Hitler? What are the lessons to be learned for us now? Join us for the this video discussion.

April 10-17: “Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister”

In contrast to “Theologians and Hitler,” join us for an awarding video about Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s example of faith and courage in resisting Hitler.

- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library)** Leaders: Sharon Trevoy, Debbie Remelius, and Rob Wade

Topic: “God in America: How Religious Liberty Shaped America”

- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastor’s Conference Room)** Teacher: Bernarr Rhoades

Joining the Forum Class in April.

- **Sacred Space (Mary Ann Yost Room—110)**

Teacher: Amy Shutt **Topic: “I Have Heard the Cries of My People.”**

This Lent, the women’s Sunday morning class invites you (men or women!) to walk with us for 40 days through the pages of Exodus, joining a weak and weary Hebrew people as they live in the hope of the promises of God and wait for His deliverance. Consider joining us in the spiritual practice of reading scripture daily while listening and looking for God in our daily lives.

Weekday Opportunities for Christian Growth

- **Thursday Ladies’ Bible Study:** Meets April 7 from 9:30–10:30. Teachers: Max Creswell and Ron Gower
- **“Sisters in the Way” Bible Study:** 9:15-10:30 a.m. every Thursday except April 21. Teacher: Kerry
- **Evening Bible Study:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, April 5 and 19. Teacher: Carter.
- **Praying the Scriptures Group (Lectio Divina)** 7:30—8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 and 26. Teacher: Kerry
- **Moms’ Time-Out:** Ordinarily meets on the third Wednesday but will meet on April 27 because of Holy Week. For location, check with the church office. Teacher: Kerry. Children always welcome.
- **Theology Reading Group:** Ordinarily meets on the fourth Wednesday but will not meet in April. Questions? - contact Carter.

Seekers News

Stock Sales are underway! Get yours today!

Junior Seekers, Grades 6-8

Sunday, April 3rd Scavenger Hunt– 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This won't be your everyday scavenger hunt...you'll have twists, turns, and laughs along the way. Dress for weather. RSVP Liv

Sunday April 17th Reading Phillies! We will leave right after church. Meet in Liv's office and we will head out ASAP. We will get back to the church around 5 p.m. Kids will call on the way. Lunch is included with the ticket. RSVP– Rios

Friday, April – Cross Walk prayer processional– 10:30 a.m.

Meet at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Hanover St. We will be walking as a group, joining people from around Pottstown to pray for our community. RSVP Lipsky

Advisors: Mike and Mindy Lipsky 610-323-5616; Seth and Elisha Rios – E– 716-939-1030
S– 610-440-4036

Senior Seekers—Grades 9-12

Sunday, April 10th—FPC's "Amazing Race"—6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Can you handle the challenge? RSVP Livezeys

Sunday, April 17th– Sr. Seeker Service Event– Workcamp Preview

Come ready for a little taste of workcamp life.

Time-TBD watch for flyer

Advisors: John and Lisa Livezey (610-326-0490), Chris and John Macdonald (610-987-0529), Donna and Gary Rhoadarmer (610-327-8157), and Dave and Trish Weller (610-970-6481)

Staff: Liv Stewart Robertson– 610-326-0620

A Peek at Summer

(for Seekers, soon to be Seekers, and awesome little people)

Camp Kirkwood– Applications are available...it's going to be a great summer with new classes, new cabins, your favorite counselors and old and new friends. The mission committee wants to support your camp experience and will pay one-half of all camp tuition. Talk to Liv for more info.

VBS 2011– "Fruits of the Spirit" August 1-5, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mission Mornings— Keep an eye out for a flyer...it's going to be a great week.

Fellowship

PRIME TIMERS

Friday, April 8, “Phantom of the Opera” at Boyertown High School

Leave the church parking lot at 6:00 as we carpool to Boyertown High School for the 7:00 p.m. show. Dessert Social at church following the show—please bring a dessert to share. (And please let Tom Hudson know if you will not be participating in the dessert social).

Monday, May 23, Pot Luck Lunch and Chair Yoga Class—Noon at the Church

Pot luck lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall with Chair Yoga class to follow. Instructor is Barbara Kosciwicz of High Street Yoga. Note: anyone who can come for lunch will be able to participate, but if you do not want to, you may just watch.

Coming attraction: Tour and demonstration at August Wendell Forge and lunch at Bucca Da Beppa Restaurant, Main Street in Exton. Date to be announced.

MEN’S BREAKFAST—Saturday, April 9, 8 a.m.-9 a.m.

Morry Longstreth is our chef. Join Carter and the guys for food and fellowship.

MEN’S RETREAT—Friday-Saturday, April 1 and 2 at Mensch Mill Retreat Center. See Carter if you have any questions.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP—April 9 at 6 p.m. at Seth and Elisha Rios’ house. Join us for a potluck supper and discussion of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Questions? Contact Kerry, Carter, Seth, or Elisha.

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following members who have been ill, injured, or hospitalized recently: Kathy Benning, Kathi Lurie, Hank Phillips, Sara Winterstein, Nola Oladipo, Eleanor Jones, John Soloway, John McNey, Bob Hartman, Sr., Bob Grim, Ginnie Ludwick, Diane Shallcross, and Frank Queen.

Our prayers are with Chad Stacks and family whose father died recently.

Thank you to the following groups serving Lenten Suppers: Sisters of the Way Bible Study, Choir, Deacons, Session and the Men’s Breakfast group.

Thank you to all who helped with the Children and Youth tracks! Tina Young, the Girl Scouts under care of Jessie Shiffler and Michele Pargeon, Jaylee and Mike Ferreri, John and Chris Macdonald, John and Lisa Livezey, Donna and Gary Rhoadarmer, Trish and Dave Weller, Joanne Bathurst and all the kids who help set up the tables each week, Bobby Hartman, and the Prime Timers for their flexibility!

Thank you to the Senior High Seekers for their commitment and participation in the Lenten worship service! Chris Trevoy, Cameron Ferreri, Bobby Burkhart, Laurie Buckley, Chadd Livezey, Will Shutt, Tunde Oladipo, Jes Geyer, Cara James, Cassidy Collins, and Karen Spears.

Branches of the Vine—Lenten Mission Project

What shall I wear to school today? Some of our **Barth Elementary** children do not have the clothes they need to go to school. During Lent, we're going to do something about that! We will collect clothing for school uniforms—either new or gently used—to stock the school Community room, which is a sort of “lending library” for school uniforms. All sizes are needed.

Here are the things they need:

Shirts—long-sleeved and short-sleeved, collared light blue, dark blue, and white.

Pants—tan and dark blue.

Skirts—tan and dark blue.

Please put any contributions in the Mission Basket in the front lobby. And thank you!

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined other Christians from around the world to share God's love with those in need through the “One Great Hour of Sharing” special offering. The offering funds Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which has helped thousands of people through the years suffering as the result of natural disasters. This special offering also supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People program which helps people around the world help themselves. Please give generously to this special offering (use an envelope from the pew or mark “OGHS” on your check).

Deacons' Bench

DEACON'S CHURCH WORKDAY—SATURDAY, APRIL 16 at 9 a.m.

It's that time of year to spruce up the outside church grounds in time for Easter—and the Deacons seek your help! The Work Day will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon (rain date, Saturday, April 23).

We will be primarily working outside doing mulching and cleaning up the Peace Garden, but if there are enough people, we will also do some inside special cleaning projects. Sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office to help. Please bring gloves, rakes, and clippers if you have them. If anyone has a truck to help transport the mulch, please let Doreen Duncan know.

DEACONS' BLOOD DRIVE

The Keystone-Miller Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot on Tuesday, April 5 from 4 to 8 p.m. Please sign up for an appointment (which keeps the waiting time down!).

Session Digest

At its regular March meeting, the Session:

- Shared joys and concerns.
- Agreed to move the April Session meeting to April 27 because of Holy Week.
- Approved celebration of the Lord's Supper on the adult mission trip to Lynchburg and on the Men's Retreat, April 1-2.
- Approved Carter taking vacation leave, May 9-14.
- Approved Kerry taking continuing education leave at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, June 16-July 2.
- Received the report of Michelle Thompson, church treasurer, of the monthly financial report and approved the monthly mission allocation.
- Received the report of the Fun and Fellowship Committee that 66 people attended the Progressive Dinner. Plans are being made for this year's "All Sons" event in May or June.
- Received the report of the Hospitality Committee that plans are underway to take pictures for a new church directory next Fall. Jaylee Ferreri has agreed to coordinate the directory.
- Received the report of the Administrative Committee that a study is continuing to be made by outside engineers about the HVAC system for the Christian Education wing. A report is expected to be submitted to the church by the end of March. The Administrative Committee has received quotes on retiling the downstairs hallways and landings but no work will be done until we determine the cost of repairing/replacing the HVAC units in the CE wing.
- Elected Marlene Wrigley, Jane Barnet, and Barb Longstreth to attend the Presbytery meetings.
- Received reports from Carter and Kerry, Liv, and Deacons, as well as the Admin., Worship, Fun and Fellowship, Spiritual Formation, Endowment, Hospitality, and Mission Committees.
- Please keep in your prayers:
 - Our next Inquirers' class;
 - Our pastors, choirs, and all those leading us in worship during Holy Week;
 - That the Fun and Fellowship Committee can continue to generate good ideas for fellowship;
 - For funds and wisdom to complete needed building projects;
 - For the Seeker-led Lenten worship service;
 - For the Lynchburg mission trip;
 - For the next stage of our endowment program.

Hospitality Committee is Looking for Some People with Good Ideas

The Hospitality Committee is trying to introduce name tags for use by our congregation every week—name tags that you could leave at church and put on each week. Suggestions are needed for how they would look and how to fasten them on a board so that they are readily available.

Bring your ideas to our next meeting on May 4, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Decorating Committee Being Re-formed

The Decorating Committee is being re-formed to become a Decorating and Furnishings Committee under the leadership of Amy Shutt. If you can help in any way, contact Amy or Kerry.

Financial Report for the General Fund

Budgeted income for the year:	490,605
Budgeted income through Feb 28:	81,768
Actual income through Feb 28:	83,011
Income this time last year:	69,068

Budgeted expenses for the year:	490,605
Budgeted expenses through Feb 28:	81,767
Actual expenses through Feb 28:	78,243
Expenses this time last year:	69,953

Deficit to date (after mission allocation paid):	(\$982)
Deficit this time last year:	(\$5,062)

Acorns of Faith

Who are the "Acorns of Faith?" Anyone who has indicated that they plan to make a gift of any size to First Presbyterian's Endowment Fund. Anyone can join! The "price" of membership is simply loving this church and its God-centered mission, along with a deep concern to provide for generations to come.



Prior to making any gift, you are encouraged to consult with your attorney or tax advisor and your loved ones. Members of the Endowment Committee are also willing to meet with you to answer any questions you might have. Let us hear from you!

___ I (we) are happy to participate in "Acorns of Faith" having included First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown in my (our) will, insurance policy, annuity, trust, or by an outright gift.
(Please circle method used)

Note: If you would like your gift to be anonymous, please indicate here ___

___ I (we) would like to speak to someone to get further information about the Endowment Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone/E-mail _____

Members of the Endowment Committee: Dick Clark, Dave Duncan, Kurt Holloway, Patty Picardi, Chad Stacks (chair), Al Wrigley, and Barbara Winter.

Lectionary Readings

For the week of March 27—April 3

I Samuel 16: 1-13, Psalm 23, Eph. 5: 8-14, John 9: 1-11

For the week of April 4-10:

Ezek. 37: 1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8: 6-11, John 11: 1-45

For the week of April 11-17:

Matt. 21: 1-11, Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29, Matt. 27: 11-54

For the week of April 17-24:

Acts 10: 34-43, Col. 3: 1-4, John 20: 1-18, Luke 24: 13-49

For the week of April 25 to May 1:

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, I Peter 3: 1-9, John 20: 19-31

Music Notes—from Diane Land, Music Director

Lent is a time for reflection and deep prayer. We hope our music this month, helps you along your spiritual journey. On April 3rd, the Chancel Choir will present the lovely anthem, "Abide With Me," as arranged by Molly James. The following Sunday, we will present a stunning new anthem by Craig Courtney, "Abba." April 17th is Palm Sunday and the Chancel Choir will sing the delightful "Hosanna to the King." The Handbell Choir will play the prelude, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," that morning. At the Maundy Thursday service, the Chancel Choir will musically reinforce the scriptural readings. Easter morning will break forth with the sounds of brass as the Chancel Choir sings, "He Shall Reign," interpreted by Craig Courtney. The children's choirs will add their sweet voices to the service that morning and we will once again close with the incomparable "Hallelujah Chorus" sing-a-long.

I would like to thank Leanne Campbell, Gary James, and Paul Smith for sharing their musical talents in our services. I would also like to thank our Service for Wholeness quartet and our soloist, John Genter, for helping with special service music. A special thanks goes to Scott Sample, Deb Voytko and Jo Ann Bathurst for their extra hours of preparation, as well as to our Handbell and Chancel Choir for their perseverance and beautiful music.

—Diane Land, Director of Music

Clothes Needed

At the end of April, Norristown State Hospital is hosting a "Spring Gala" for residents on the hospital grounds. We are seeking donations of larger-sized gowns, men's and women's dress shoes, men's dress pants, suits, jackets and shirts. Please contact Barbara Fletcher, a church member who works with the State Hospital, and she will be glad to arrange to pick up your clothing donation.

April 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Each Sunday: Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>					<p>1 Coventry Singers Rehearsal 7 p.m. Men's Retreat begins @ Mensch Mill 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2 District Pine Wood Derby 7 a.m.</p>
<p>3 Sun Sch. 9:15 Worship/ Communion 10:30 Coventry Singers Concert 3 FPU 4 p.m. Seekers Bible 4:30</p>	<p>4 Cubs 7p.m.</p>	<p>5 Bloodmobile 4-8 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Music 5 p.m. Lent Prayer 6 p.m. Lent Supper 6:20 Lenten School 7 Committee Meetings 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>7 Sisters Bible Study 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Comm. Meal 5:00 Bells 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>8 Prime Timers to Boyertown "Phantom of the Opera" 7 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Men's breakfast 8 a.m. Young Adults 6 p.m. at Rios'</p>
<p>10 Sun School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Inquirers' Class 4 p.m. FPU 4 (last) Sr. Seekers Amazing Race 6 p.m.</p>	<p>11 HENS Board Meeting 7 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Lectio 7:30</p>	<p>13 Music 5 p.m. Lent Prayer 6 p.m. Lent Supper 6:20 Service for Wholeness 7 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Sisters Bible 9:15 Comm. Meal 5 Girl Scouts 7:00 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Church Work Day 9 a.m. to noon</p>
<p>17 9:15 Inq. Class Sun. School 10:30 Worship 1 p.m. Jr. Seekers to Reading Phillis 6:30 Sr. Seekers Workcamp Preview</p>	<p>18 Cubs 7 PM</p>	<p>19 Girl Scouts 6:45 Prayer Shawl 7 p.m. Choir 7:30 Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Music 5:00</p>	<p>21 Comm. Meal 5 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m. Prayer Vigil</p>	<p>22 Jr. Seekers—The Cross Walk 10 a.m. Good Friday Processional 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise 7:00 Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Worship Followed by Egg Hunt</p>	<p>25 Church office closed</p>	<p>26 Lectio 7:30</p>	<p>27 Moms' Time Out 9:15 Session 7:30 p.m. Comp. Friends 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>28 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

