

The Celtic Cross

April 2018

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dear Easter People,

Time and time again, the gospel writers speak of the stunned silence, amazement, and questions that the disciples shared on that first Easter. News this good and wondrous is hard to put in words. Often, we find ourselves particularly dependent on poets and hymn writers to express the inexpressible:

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves

And now he blesses hers who stood and webt

And would not be consoled, or leave her love's

Last touching place, but watched as low light crept

Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs

A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.

She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,

Or recognise the Gardener standing there.

She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,

Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light

That brightens as she chokes out her reply

"They took my love away, my day is night'

And then she hears her name, she hears Love say

The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

("XV Easter Dawn" by Malcolm Guite from Sounding the Seasons)

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! This is the word that turns our night and the night of the world to Day.

Easter greetings, Carter and Kerry Page 2 The Celtic Cross

Worship Matters

Sunday, April I Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Sunrise service in the Peace Garden

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

8:30 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord in the Sanctuary

(with brass, timpani, and adult choirs)

10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord in the Sanctuary

(with brass, timpani, adult and children's choirs)

11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time and Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn

Sunday, April 8 Service of the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, April 15 Service of the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.

Jim Cummings of Urban Promise Ministry, preaching

Sunday, April 22 Service of the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Sunday, April 29 Service of the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.

Music Notes

Our Easter Sunday services will be filled with joyous musical offerings. Gary James will be organizing and rehearsing the "congregational instrumentalists" for the sunrise service. The prelude heard during the 8:30 and 10:30 services will feature our brass ensemble, trumpets: Richard Strunk, Gary James and Guy Keenan, trombones: Henry Yorgey and Patrick Sample, tuba: Daniel Foust, and organ: Deb Voytko in Lloyd Larson's jubilant arrangement of "Crown Him With Many Crowns." The Handbells will perform McChesney's "Christ Arose" at the 10:30 service. The Chancel Choir will offer Drennan's "All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name" at both services, along with Mozart's Laudate Dominum featuring soprano, Johanna Costanzo. Jo Ann Bathurst will be directing the children's choirs during the 10:30 service. The Cherubs will sing "Alleluia, Allelu!" and the Celtics will sing "Christ Arose, Hallelujah!" The brass will also be accompanying the congregation during the hymns and the singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

A listing of the musical offerings for the rest of the month of April:

April 8th

Prelude: "Allegretto" - C.P.E. Bach (Organ)

Anthem: "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord - Courtney (Chancel Choir)

Offertory: "Terra Beata" arr. Callahan (Organ)

Communion: "Appalachian Sunrise" - Martin (Piano) "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" arr.

Larson (Piano)

Postlude: "Trumpet Finale" - Viviani (Organ)

Cont. on p. 8

Upcoming Events

E-RECYCLING EVENT IN OUR PARKING LOT SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 9 a.m. to noon



Please support the environment and PAR Recycle Works by bringing your old electronics to recycle. Recyclable items include:

Telephone systems Cellular Phones PCs (personal computers)

Laptops/Notebooks Desktop computers/CPUs CRT monitors (no bare CRT tubes)

Scanners Printers Fax Machines

Back-up power supplies systems CDs/DVDs/Blue Rays Floppy disks/Thumb Drives

Electronic motors Integrated Circuits (IC) Computer mice
Computer keyboards VCR/DVD/CD players Games systems
Power Supplies Surge Protectors Computer boards

Sponsored by the Mission Committee. Please tell your friends and neighbors! For more information, go to http://par-recycleworks.org/.

DEACONS' WORK BENCH: WORK DAY RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14

Hoping that April is not as snowy as March, the annual spring outdoor work day will be on Saturday, April 14, beginning at 9:00 am. The rain date will be Saturday, April 21. We will be mulching beds and getting everything ready for spring and summer. Please sign-up on the bulletin board. All ages are welcome—this is a great opportunity for a family service project! We will be finished no later than 11:30.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL: GREECE TRIP IN JUNE 2019 INFORMATION MEETING, SUN., APRIL 29 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Would you be interested in joining Carter, members of First Presbyterian Church, and family and friends on a trip to Greece following in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul in June 2019? We will travel to some of the sites talked about in Paul's letters, experience Greek history and culture and learn more about Paul and early Christianity. From iconic religious sites and historic wonders like the Acropolis in Athens to the spectacular monasteries of Meteora and a final touch of relaxation on a cruise among Aegean islands, we think it will be an inspirational and fun vacation. To get all of the details, join Carter at an information session following worship on Sunday, April 29 or pick up a trip brochure. Friends, neighbors, and family are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: ADULT MISSION TRIP, OCT. 14-19

We have made a reservation with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance worksite in Beaumont, Texas, with plans to work with groups there to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey. If you think you may be interested in going or want to be kept "in the loop," contact Tom Zeigler, Carter or Kerry.

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Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Sunday Morning Opportunities

• Forum (Community Room)

Compassion, Redemption, and Hope for Young People: April 8 and 15 April 8: Father Greg Boyle (video)

Join us for an unforgettable, funny, insightful, and inspiring talk by Father Boyle and two young men served by Homeboy Industries and Father Boyle's ministry to the gangs and neighborhoods of inner city Los Angeles. The video is from a presentation at Chautauqua Institute in New York.

April 15: Urban Promise Ministry (live)

For many years, First Presbyterian has been supporting the ministry of Urban Promise in inner city Camden, New Jersey. Join us as leaders and participants in Urban Promise join us and tell their stories of faith in action.

The Godly Gifts of Laughter and Humor: April 22 and 29 April 22: The Science of Laughter, Dr. Sophie Scott (video)

Dr. Sophie Scott is a cognitive neuroscientist from University College London. She studies laughter, specifically its effect on our body and brain and its role in maintaining social bonds. Join us for a talk given at the Chautauqua Institutions that is both informative and funny.

April 29: Going over the Edge: A Christian Approach to Humor, Chris Leighton (video)

Dr. Leighton is a Presbyterian minister and is the former director of the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore (from a Chautauqua Institute lecture)

- Thoughtful Christians (Mary Ann Yost room) Leader: Debbie Remelius
 Topic: To be determined
- Men's Sunday Mornings (Pastor's Conference Room)

Teachers: Gary James, Tim Peckham, Binky Huff, and Carter Topic: First Corinthians

Weekday Opportunities

- Sisters of the Way Bible Study: 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Next Week's Sermon:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, April 10 and 24. Teacher: Carter.
- **Praying the Scriptures Group (Lectio Divina)** 7:30—8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3 and 17. Teacher: Kerry
- Theology Reading Group: We next meet on Wednesday, April 25 at Carter's house to discuss Martin Luther's essay on Christian liberty. To get your copy or if you have questions—contact Carter.

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<u>Confirmation and Seekers News</u> Stock Sales are underway! Get yours today!

Confirmation

April 8: Bread for the Journey: Worship and Sacraments 5:00-6:00

April 22: Bread for the Journey: Prayer 5:00-6:00

April 27-28: Confirmation Retreat

Junior Seekers

Friday, April 13, 7-10pm Friday Fun Night

We will gather for games, snacks, fun, and fellowship. Bring a snack to share

Sunday, April 22nd 2-5pm Hike

Enjoy the spring weather as we venture out to the Perkiomen Trail. Drop-off and Pick-up at the church

Junior Seekers Advisors:

Sandro and Rosie Roseo, Sarah Pinard, Mike Lipsky

Senior Seekers—Grades 9-12

Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8th, 10:00 Saturday-2:00 SundaySpring Retreat!

Get ready for an opportunity to celebrate the gifts that God has given to us in blessing us with strong bonds of community as we explore our Christian identity. RSVP to Jeff. Cost is \$30 with scholarships available

Sunday April 29: 6:30-8:00 The Amazing Race

This fun filled adventure will get you moving and problem-solving with your friends.

Advisors' Contact info: Gwen and Tim Allen, Don and Melinda Kisela, Phil and Kim Wheeles,

A Peek at Summer for Children and Youth

Camp Kirkwood– Applications are available for children . The Mission Committee pays half of each child's camp tuition. Pick up an application or talk to Jeff, Carter or Kerry for more info.

Mission Mornings for Junior High Seekers will be August (more details in the May Celtic Cross)

New this year: Day Camp at FPC Pottstown! Staff from Camp Kirkwood are coming out to lead day camp for children in K-4th grade the week of June 25! See p. 9 for more details in "Family Faith Formation."

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Fellowship

MEN'S BREAKFAST—Saturday, April 21, 8 a.m.-9 a.m.

Join Carter and the guys for food and fellowship. Tom Zeigler is this month's chef.

PRIME TIMERS

Wednesday, April 4: Breakfast at Grumpy's Restaurant/Guided Tour of Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. Meet at Church at 8:30 AM to carpool. Sign up on bulletin board.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Faithful Friends will meet next in May. To get on the email list or if you want more information, contact Carter or Kerry.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS WITH CHILDREN

Faithful Friends with Children will next meet on May 12, contact Jeff if you would like to host.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—Wednesday, April 11

The Prayer Shawl ministry meets in the library from 12:30 pm to about 2:00 pm. Please join us as we create loving comfort for our church family and the wider community. If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn, please contact Jane Barndt, 610-469-9165, and become part of our group.

FAITH AND NATURE GROUP

A day of walking and biking on the Schuylkill Trail is in the works. Check with Fred Remelius or Carter for the details—or look to the Sunday bulletin or the church Facebook page.

MOTHER'S NIGHT OUT—Tuesday, April 10

Join other mothers of young children for a pitch-in supper and conversation at Kerry's house, April 10 at 6 p.m. 1168 Crestwood Drive. RSVP/Questions to kplester@fpcpottstown.org.

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following members who have been ill, injured, or hospitalized recently: Kathy Benning, Jen Drago, Donna Rhoadarmer, Cora-Celeste Missimer, Cindy Spitko, John James Davis, Ill, and Marion McNey.

We remember send our condolences to the Plumadore and Pinard families on the death of Karen's sister, Sarah's aunt.

Thank you to the following groups serving Lenten Suppers: the choir, Deacons, and Session. And thanks to the Sisters of the Way and Seekers advisors who were willing to serve but got snowed out. The food was once again delicious—the opportunities for fellowship priceless! Thank you to Amy Shutt for providing spiritual exercises for one of the Focus groups.

Counters Corner – Month of April:

Head Counter: Sharon Trevoy Ass't Head Counter: Sharon Sgriccia

Regular Counters: Andy Hazeltine and Kurt Holloway

Porter-Broward Taskforce Needs Your Ideas!

Our congregation has once again received a major grant from the Mary Porter Designated fund of the Community Foundation of Broward. As you may recall from previous years, the Session has established the following guidelines for use of the grant:

- Enhancement of current ministries, which would include any of the following: (1) Special one-time programs, concerts, lectures, or other ministry events or expenses over and above the present ministries funded by the General Fund. (2)Grant-funded ministry such as a part-time parish nurse position, and (3) seed money for new ministries.
- Capital Improvements to our facilities that would have one of the following purposes: Conserve energy consumption, reduce the environmental impact of our facilities and ministries, or increase accessibility and/or safety for members and visitors to these facilities.
- Contributions to other ministries and non-profit organizations that impact children and families or the quality of life of the greater Pottstown area.

If you have an idea that meets one of these criteria, let Carter and Kerry know and they will pass it on to the taskforce that will be studying the needs and making recommendations to Session later this Spring. Please turn in your ideas by April 16.

Health Ministry News

Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards starting in April 2018. This will be done systematically over the span of a year. Here are 10 things to know about your new Medicare Card

- I. Mailing takes time: Your card may arrive at a different time than a friend or neighbor's.
- **2. Shred your old Medicare care:** Once you get your new one destroy the old one and use the new card right away.
- **3. Guard your card:** Only give your new number to healthcare people you trust. Never give out any information over the phone. There are many scams involving the new card. CMS will never call you on the phone and ask for your personal information.
- **4. Your Medicare Number is unique:** Your card has your own unique number now instead of your social security number.
- **5. Your new card is paper:** Paper cards are easier for providers to use and save money. You are also able to print your own replacement card if you need one.
- 6. Keep your new card with you.
- 7. Your healthcare providers know you will be getting a new card.
- **8. You can find your number:** If you forget your new card, you or your healthcare provider may be able to look up your Medicare Number online.
- **9. Keep your Medicare Advantage Card:** If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), this card is your main card for Medicare. However, you may be asked to show your new Medicare card, so carry both.
- 10. Help is available: If you don't get your new Medicare card by April 2019, call 1-800-MEDICARE. If you have any other questions or concerns, see me and we will find the answers together!

Memory Screening is coming on a weeknight in April from 3-7pm. Be on the lookout for the date to sign up for a timeslot.

—Blessings in mind, body, and spirit, Dawn

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Music Notes, cont. from p. 2

April 15th

Prelude: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" - arr Hopson (Organ)

Anthem: "Abide In Me" - Ljames (Chancel Choir)

Offertory: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - Hughes (Piano)

Postlude "Hornpipe" - Ravenscroft (Organ)

April 22nd

Prelude: "Morning Has Broken" - Flauding (Piano Quintet)

Anthem: "The Prayer/Lead Us Lord" - Fettke (Chancel Choir/Piano Quintet)

Offertory: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" - arr. Berry (Piano)

Postlude: "Bell Symphony" - Purcell (Organ)

April 29th

Prelude: "Variations on Foundation" - Martin (Piano)

Anthem: "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" - Hayes (Chancel Choir)

Offertory: "Larghetto" - Giordani (Organ)

Postlude: "Allegro" - Boyce (Organ)

The Music Ministry - Cindy, Deb and JoAnn

Session Digest

Session did not meet in March because of the snowstorm. The next meeting will be April 18.

Financial Report for the General Fund

Budgeted income for the year: \$601,033 Budged expenses for the year: 601,033 Budgeted income through Feb 28: 100,172 Budgeted exp. through Feb 28: 100,172 Actual income through Feb 28: 96,209 Actual expenses through Feb 28: 78,479 Income this time last year: 76,626

Deficit to date (after Capital Improvement and Mission allocations paid): (\$4,069) Surplus this time last year (reflected staff vacancy): \$4,958

People to People Directory Has a Place for You

The Hospitality Committee is updating the church's "People to People" Directory. If you need to edit your current listing, or if you have a service or talent you think members would appreciate, please contact Marie in the church office with that information fpoffice@fpcpottstown.org. Thank you!

Lectionary Readings

For the week April 2-8:

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, I John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

For the week of April 9-15:

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

For the week of April 16-22:

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 223, I John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

For the week of April 23-April 29:

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, I John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

Friends of Wissahickon, Friends of Brian Duncan—Sat. April 21

When he lived in Philadelphia, Brian Duncan lived near the Wissahickon Trail. Knowing how much he loved the outdoors, friends of Brian have organized a clean-up in conjunction with the Friends of the Wissahickon in his memory.

We will join the Friends of the Wissahickon for their Earth Day Volunteer Day on **April 21** from 9am - Ipm. Volunteer projects will include seeding the trail closure, removing invasives, planting plugs at the 2016 planting site, and doing some local trail repairs. For more information or to RSVP, contact Molly Lester via Facebook or by emailing her at margaretplester@gmail.com.

Family Faith Formation - Summer Day Camp, June 25-29

This year we are so excited to introduce a new summer program: Day Camp at FPC! Staff from Camp Kirkwood will join some volunteers from our congregation to lead us in games, fellowship, bible study, and arts & crafts.

Rising K-5th graders are invited to join us at the church from 8:30am-3:30pm June 25-29.

Lunch will be provided on Friday, Monday-Thursday bring a sack lunch. The cost is \$50, scholar-ships are available.

Let Jeff know if you are interested, friends are welcome. Registration will be through Kirkwood's website but is not open yet.

Speaking of Kirkwood, I hope that all of you will check out their overnight camp programs. Information is available on their website www.kirkwoodcamp.org. They have great programs for kids in grades 3-12. On an upcoming Sunday they will be sending a representative to our church to give a preview of songs and games you can expect during your time there!

I can't wait for summer! -Jeff

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<u>Living Generously – Your Mission Giving at Work</u>

The mission of "Recycling Services understands the critical need to educate the public and to create a market for recycled products. Our vision is to become a community-based, self-contained recycling center. RSI has made a moral decision to provide an educational program that is essential to life itself. We strive to provide a center where recycling will create new products from old ones, and to preserve the rich heritage of the earth for future generations through other projects including organic farming, renewable resources and land preservation." In 1971 the Ecology Club at Owen Roberts High School under the leadership of Jim Crater became Recycling Services Inc. (RSI) located on Elm Street in Pottstown. This April 22nd will mark its 44th year of existence and, with the passionate leadership of president Jim Crater, has become and will continue to be one the oldest and most respected recycling and alterative energy resources centers in the Northeast.

For most of his life, Jim has been calling for everyone to live "lightly on the planet." To accomplish this, Recycling Services collects over 50 different types of glass, plastic, cardboard, paper, metals, electronics, and textiles. Besides recycling, RSI is also an alternative energy resource center for anyone interested in solar, wind, and/or other energy sources. Recently Jim's son, Jesse, has become the general manager of RSI and has helped to renew interest in using materials locally, especially for art. Now it is a destination for an increasing number of artists and entrepreneurs seeking raw materials such as cork, wine bottles, etc.

Recycling drop-off is Saturday from 9am to 1pm. The gate fee is \$15. While there you can browse through the used book trailer as well as other for sale items. Monthly tours are held Saturdays from 11am to 12pm where the public can see what RSI collects and how it operates. It is free with a suggested \$10 donation to help with outreach. For more information: http://www.recyclingservicesinc.org. For a list of accepted and not accepted materials: http://www.recyclingservicesinc.org/services.html. Want to work or volunteer: http://www.recyclingservicesinc.org/join-our-team.html.

Library News

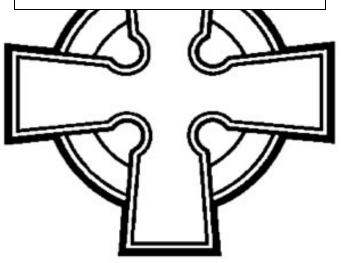
In celebration of Black History month (which is officially February) a display has been set up in the library showing a sample of the different books and movies the library has to offer both to children and adults. Also, if anyone has any suggestions for new materials regarding different cultures and ethnicities please tell Laura or Kathy Hazeltine or leave a note in the library. It will be greatly appreciated as we try to represent and celebrate all people God has created.

The Fantastics at Bucks County Center for the Performing Arts

For all those theater lovers and fans of Mick Bleyer, this summer you will have the opportunity to see him perform locally. He will be performing as the Narrator, El Gallo, in *The Fantastics*, at Bucks County Center for the Performing Arts. The well-known song, A Time to Remember, will be sung by Mick! We can get discounted seats (10% off) of a group of 15 or more on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the 2:00 matinee. If you are interested, please contact Ginny Bleyer at GinnyBleyer@gamil.com or 610-326-9626 asap.

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
I	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sunrise Service 6:30 am (Peace Garden) Easter Sunrise Breakfast 7am Worship 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Time / Easter Egg Hunt (after worship)	Church Office and HENS Closed	Yoga II am Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Lectio-Divina 7:30 pm	Prime Timers Breakfast at Grumpy's/ Museum of Historic Vehicles 8:30 am Yoga II am M/R 4:30 pm Committees 7:30 pm	Bible Study 9:15 am Yoga 11 am Meal 5 pm Jr. GS 5 pm	Cubs District Pinewood Derby set-up 5 pm	Cubs District Pinewood Derby (all day) Sr. Seekers Spring Retreat (Camp Manatawny)
8	9	10	П	12	13	14
Sunday School 9:15 am Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Sr. Seekers Spring Retreat Conf. Class 5 pm	Cub Scouts 7 pm	Yoga II am Mom's Night Out (C&K's) 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Next Week's Sermon 7:30 pm	Yoga II am Prayer Shawl I2:30 pm M/R 4:30 pm Relay 5:45 pm Deacons 7:30 pm	Bible Study 9:15 am Yoga 11 am Meal 5 pm Jr. GS 5 pm Beg. Bells 6 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	YC&W Training 5:30-9 pm Jr. Seekers Friday Fun Night! 7-10 pm	Church Workday 9am-12pm YC&W Training 9am-3pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9:15 am Worship Jim Cummings of Urban Promise, preaching 10:30 am	Cubs Scouts 7 pm	Yoga II am Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Lectio-Divina 7:30 pm	Endowment 8:30 am Yoga II am M/R 4:30 pm Session (meeting with New Officers) 7:30 pm	Bible Study 9:15 am Yoga 11 am Meal 5 pm Jr. GS 5 pm Beg. Bells 6 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm		Men's Breakfast 8 am Earth Day Volunteer Day Wissahickon Trail 9am-Ipm
Sunday School 9:15 am Worship/Install & ordination of New Officers 10:30 am Jr. Seekers Hike Perkiomen Trail 2-5 pm Conf. Class 5pm 29 Sun Sch 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Sr. Seekers "The Amazing Race" 6:30-8 pm	Cub Scouts 7 pm 30 Cub Scouts 7 pm	Yoga II am Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Next Week's Sermon 7:30 pm	Yoga II am M/R 4:30 pm Relay 6:30 pm Compassionate Friends 7 pm Theology Group (C&K's) 7:30 pm	26 Bible Study 9:15 am Yoga II am Meal 5 pm Jr. GS 5 pm Beg. Bells 6 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	Confirmation Retreat (Camp Innabah)	28 Electronic Recycling Event 9am-12pm Confirmation Retreat (Camp



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