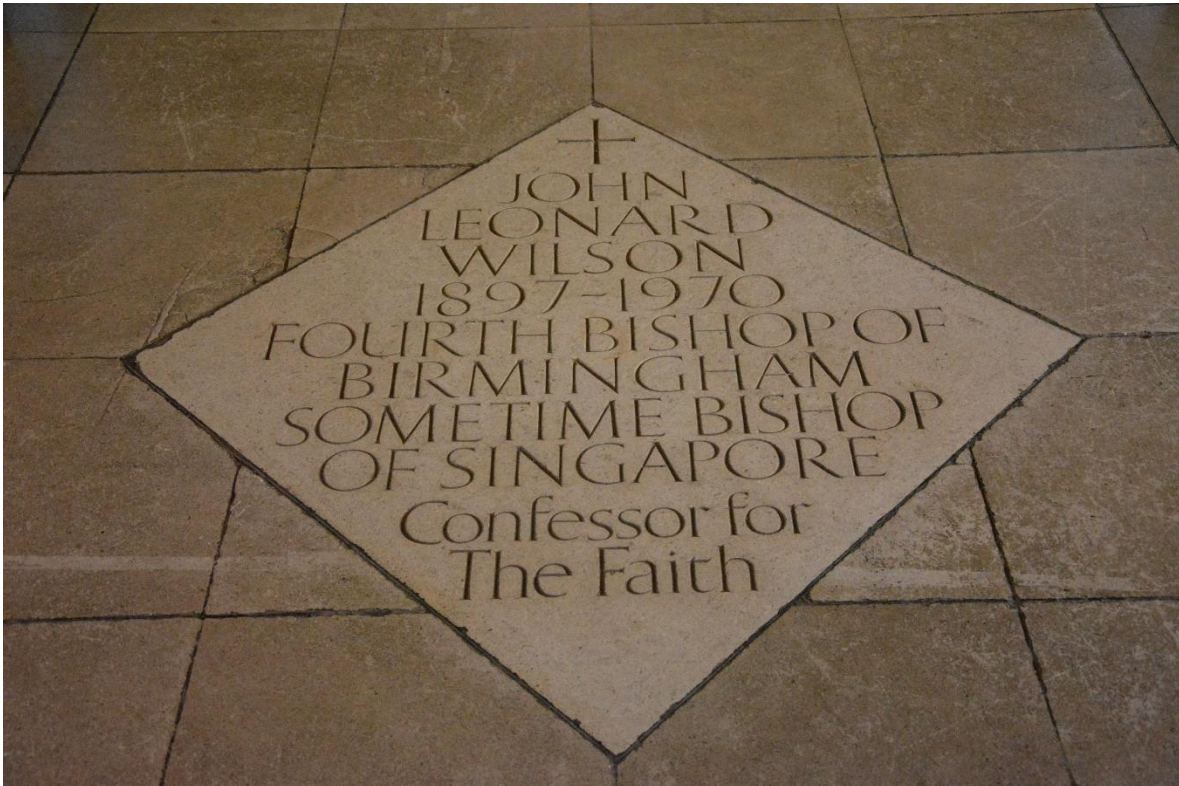


April 2022

Monthly Park Branches



“Jesus said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Dear Friends,

Holy Week is soon upon us. We enter into it beginning on Palm Sunday, on April 10th.

Holy Week runs the gamut of human experience. We travel from the high joy experienced by Jesus on Palm Sunday, with shouts of *“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”*, to the horrid shouts of *“Crucify Him! We have no king but Caesar!”* directed to him on the following Friday. In between these two days, after instituting the Last Supper, we also see Jesus arrested and then brutally tortured. Given such turns of events—and given such displays of human cruelty—it is tempting to race ahead to Easter Sunday, to Jesus’ resurrection. To do so, however, can cause us to lose sight of what kept Jesus true to his mission—and what can also keep us true to God’s plan for our lives....

As I write this, the on-going war in Ukraine weighs heavily upon our hearts. This sudden—and unprovoked—unleashing of aggression in Europe continues to shock and even stupefy us. What can possibly be gained by Russia in doing this? To me, there are no logical answer to this question, at least when it comes to the average Russian citizen, not to mention the thousands of conscripted soldiers who have already died in this war. What is without question, I feel, is the incredible resilience of the Ukrainian people. Our 24/7 news reporting continues to show us their remarkable resilience and determination. They continue to endure the un-endurable.

How is this possible?

History tells us how, in the story of John Leonard Wilson:

In the summer of 1941, Leonard was appointed Bishop of Singapore, then part of the far-flung British Empire. He arrived before Imperial Japan attacked and captured the island, and, for a time, he was permitted to visit the prisoner-of-war camps established throughout the island.

In late 1943, this changed: Wilson was interned at the infamous Changi prison. Here, he joined over 3000 other prisoners of war in squalid conditions with an inadequate diet. On October 17, 1943, he was removed for the purpose of interrogation concerning an alleged spy ring. For three whole days he was questioned and tortured before being returned to Changi prison in a semi-conscious state, missing most of the flesh from his back, legs and feet.

How did he make it through this time of suffering and inhumanity?

In a sermon preached some three years later, he said:

"I remember Archbishop William Temple writing that if you pray for any particular virtue, whether it be patience or courage or love, one of the answers God gives you is an opportunity for exercising that virtue.

After my first beating, I was almost afraid to pray for courage, lest I should have another opportunity of exercising it, but my unspoken prayer was there, and without God's help I doubt whether I could have come through. Long hours of pain were a severe test. In the middle of that torture they asked me if I still believed in God. When, by God's help, I said, 'I do', they asked me why he did not save me, and by the help of his Holy Spirit, I said: 'God does save me. He does not save me by freeing me from the pain or punishment, but he saves me by giving me the spirit to bear it'.

And when they asked me why I did not curse them, I told them it was because I was a follower of Jesus Christ, who taught us that we were all brethren. I did not like to use the words, 'Father forgive them'. It seemed too blasphemous to use our Lord's words, but I felt them, and I said, 'Father, I know these men are doing their duty. Help them to see that I am innocent'. I then muttered, 'Father forgive them'.

I wondered how far I was being dramatic and if I really meant it, because as I looked at their faces as they stood around me and took turns in flogging me, I saw faces that were hard and cruel and some of them were evidently enjoying their cruelty. But by the grace of God I saw those men not as they were, but as they had been. Once they were little children playing with their brothers and sisters and happy in their parents' love, in those far off days before they had been conditioned by their false nationalist ideals, and it is hard to hate little children; but even that was not enough. There came into my mind, as I lay on the table, the words of that communion hymn,

*"Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
And only look on us as found in him;
Look not on our mis-usings of thy grace,
Our prayers so languid, and our faith so dim,
For lo! between our sins and their reward
We set the passion of thy Son our Lord."*

And so, I saw them not as they were, not as they had been, but as they were capable of becoming, redeemed by the power of Christ, and I knew it was only common sense to say, 'Forgive'."

I cannot read these words without thinking of what we are witnessing, in Eastern Europe 2022. The same pain, suffering, and inhumanity is found there.

But so, too, is the presence of God--the answer to the prayers of so many. I am convinced that God's presence is giving the strength we are seeing, writ large, in this besieged nation. This same strength, I pray, will not only see an end to this war, but also a future that can leave what needs to be past, truly past.

For this is what Jesus achieved for us, on Easter Sunday. Easter is God's "no" to the past, and to ultimate power of evil to dictate human history. It is also God's "yes" to the start of future that can, truly, be free from the past. And here's the proof: In the year 1947, after the end of World War Two, Bishop Wilson returned to Singapore. Here, he baptized and confirmed one of the guards who had tortured him.

God always sees what we are capable of becoming.

The Spirit works to bring the lost home.

Let us continue to pray for this horrible war to end.

Let us pray also that the Holy Spirit will continue to offer comfort to the afflicted—and to afflict the comfortable all for the glory of God!

Faithfully,

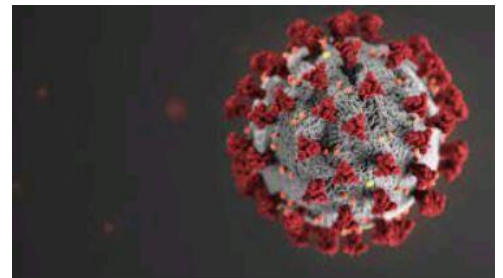
Todd

Sunday Worship as Park Apart

The worship video will be available on Sunday at 11:00 am and you can continue to find us anytime thereafter at <https://www.parkpres.org/swl-sunday-worship-live>. The bulletin for the service can also be found on the [Sunday Worship page](#) of our site. If you have announcements or prayer requests, please send them to Todd Allen on Sunday morning via text/call at 612-554 6527.

Mask Policy

The Session of Park Presbyterian has decided, for the time being, to make the wearing of masks in worship and other church activities optional. The Session will continue to follow developments concerning variants of the COVID virus. Should you forget your mask, disposable masks are available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation in this new policy as we strive to serve one another well.



Nesbitt Scholarship

High School seniors are invited to apply for the E.M. Nesbitt Memorial Scholarship which is presented annually at Park Presbyterian Church by the Nesbitt family. Graduating seniors for the Beaver area, regardless of their church affiliation, may apply. Applications for the scholarship, named for former Park Pastor E. Marcellus Nesbitt, are available in the Gathering Area of the church and through the Beaver High School counselors. Submission deadline is April 15.

One Call System

Thanks to advances in technology, there are more ways to stay in touch these days. One way is through a service called "One Call Now". Park Presbyterian has just retained this service.

"One Call Now" allows for immediate contact to be made to members and friends of Park via either text messages or voicemails. For now, we going to use voicemails to reach you. What will occasion a call from us? Too often, calls come to our phones that are, well, un-called for. Therefore, we will make use of this service only for sharing vital, time-sensitive, information, such as a change to a planned church activity, for instance, or in the event of the passing of an active church member, etc. The "One Call Now" platform also allows for calls to be made to groups within the church family, such as The Session and The Board of Deacons. The phone number we will be using is 1-877-698-3261. We suggest you program your phone not to flag it as a scam or spam call. For now, the voicemails will feature my voice, Eric or Bre Ann's voice.

I believe this new means of staying in touch will help to draw us all closer, one to another. We hope you will agree!

NEWS and NOTES

Save the Date

May 15-1 to 5pm

Pavillion 1 (next to the lodge)

We at Park Church love food, fun, and fellowship, and we're planning to have all three at a FAMILY FUN DAY Sunday afternoon, May 15, at Two Mile Run Park on Gypsy Glen Rd. in Beaver. The Membership Involvement Commission will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, and YOU will bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to our pot luck picnic. The kids will love the playground and games, and adults can enjoy music and fellowship. There is space for corn hole and other games ... or bring a board game to share! There will be more information in the May Park Branches. Sign-up sheets are at the sanctuary entrances. Please let us know how many of your family and friends will attend.

Red Cross Blood Drive Coming to Park Church

DATE: Wednesday, May 4, 2022

TIME: 10:30am – 4:00pm

Facilities Commission Saturday Workday

DATE: Saturday, April 9, 2022

TIME: 9:00am

Food Distribution Program

Eleven boxes of food were given out in March and 12 boxes are ready to give out on April 6th. We will continue the food distribution in May and June then stop for the summer. Our goal in the next few months is to reevaluate this project and consider other options for meeting this need.

We have monetary contributions to the Pantry Fund we can use to support other programs in the area.

Pre-school Re-opening

We are happy to announce Park pre-school is re-opening and accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year!

Sanctuary Flowers

Spring has sprung! Flowers are beginning to bloom everywhere. — Even in the sanctuary. Flowers are a beautiful part of nature. They express love, appreciation, and joy. They can also be a symbol of hope and new beginnings. If you would like to have flowers placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or for no reason at all, just place your donation in one of the purple envelopes in the pews with details of your giving and we'll take it from there. Or you can just place a check in the offering plate marked "sanctuary flowers". Thank you in advance. We look forward to many beautiful bouquets



The Ladies of Park

Each Wednesday at 1:30 pm The Ladies of Park gather at 1:30 in the Memorial Room to reflect on passages from the Bible and on the thoughts and experiences of other women in the group.

Eighteen women have participated in one or both of the first two gatherings and there is always room for more. All ladies are invited! Please call Susan Ivey with questions (724-843-7846).

There are no lessons to study or books to read from week to week so it is easy to miss some weeks and step right back in without the feeling that you have been left behind.

The group will meet each week until May 25. We will have a special summer event in July and then begin again in September with eight weeks of sessions.

We are learning how God grows a woman of wisdom. Will you join us on this journey?

Resurrection Egg Hunt

The Christian Nurture Commission is sponsoring a Resurrection Egg Hunt for children and their parents following the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 10. The Easter story will be told as the children hunt for special eggs near the picnic pavilion (indoors if raining). All children from toddler age through fourth grade are invited to participate with their parents.

“Tell It Like It Is” A 50 Year Retrospective

*What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing; the flowers start their blooming
That’s how it is with God’s love once you experience it
You want to sing; it’s fresh like spring; you want to pass it on.*

These are the words from the song “Pass It On” from the religious folk musical “Tell It Like It Is” by Ralph Carmichael. It was performed by the youth of Park Church 50 years ago, March 28, 1972. It was quite an exciting time in the life of our church and deserves mention on this 50th anniversary.

Today there are still members of the church who participated in this event. Winnie Dietz was the choreographer. Cast included Clif Dietz, Cindy Sheline, Ann Treleavan Humphries, and Ginny Zapsic Flick. Others who are sons of current members are Bob Hines Jr. and Wilbur Pauley. Three members of the cast went on to become ministers. And all the others are remembered fondly. It was a very special time of and hopefully we are all still passing it on.



Ukraine Refugee Support and Partnership

The Mission Commission is sending \$1000 to support the Ukraine Refugee project through the Synod of the Trinity which will match contributions up to \$24,000. Any individuals wanting to contribute send checks to Park Church marked Ukraine in the notes. We will forward it with the Mission contribution.

We have an opportunity to be part of a Refugee Resettlement Partnership with Undivided-in-Christ, a Beaver County group of churches who will support a family resettling in the area. They are working through Jewish Family and Community Services one of the formal organizations working with the U.S. government in this work. They need 30 total volunteers from Undivided-in-Christ congregations/organizations. This group will work together to come alongside one family for a calendar year as they settle into their new home in the region. For more information, please contact the church office. They can connect you to Rev Allen or Bruce McCowin.

Handmade Greeting Cards

Handmade greeting cards are available in the gathering room near the elevator. There are sold by donation with all proceeds going to the Deacon’s fund. Many of the cards are blank inside but there are also cards with sayings inside, as well! Donations may be placed inside of the metal box on the table with the greeting cards.

Adult Sunday School Classes

The Adult Sunday School class will continue to meet from April 24- May 22. Join us as we study the resurrection appearances of Jesus. We will dig into the the gospel stories that take place from Easter morning through the Ascension. Artist’s depictions of these events will inform our understanding and perhaps help us connect in new ways with the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus for our lives. Barbara Anderson will lead the class which meets in the second-floor adult classroom from 9:45-10:45 each week.

2022 Elders and Commission Assignments

Administration	Clif Dietz *
Christian Nurture	Roxanne Walker * and Susan Ivey
Facilities	Bob Gourley *
Finance	Ginny Flick * and Rich Reed
Membership Involvement	Sandra Parker * and Mary Gaydos
Mission	Bruce McCowin *
Outreach and Evangelism	Karen Capper *
Worship	Jan Pasuit * and Sally Heimbrook
Clerk of Session	Susan Ivey

Session commissions are always looking for at-large members to join them. Where can you offer your gifts and talents? Please contact the commission chair to talk about serving!

2022 Deacons and Committee Assignments

Local Mission	Kathy Bittner *
	Dave Ivey, Jerry Madden, Lyndsay Owens
Congregational Care	Carol Fedeles *
	June Phillips, Emily Dugan, Gail Rackley, Betty Brosch, Hermann Brosch
Secretary	Emily Dugan
Deacon Moderator	Gail Rackley



Ethan Davis	04/03	Felix Stewart	04/13	Bob Nunamaker	04/24
Theo Cramer	04/05	Brub Capper	04/14	Don Conley	04/24
Dean Linkimer	04/07	Jennifer Jurich	04/16	Elizabeth	04/27
Lyndsay Owens	04/08	Jack Muntean	04/17	Connor Shallcross	04/28
Linda Gourley	04/09	Suvina Yuthers	04/17	Elliot Cramer	04/29
Mary Ann Jones	04/09	Dylan Owens	04/21		

Happy Easter from Park Church staff!



*He is risen!
He is risen indeed!*

WE PRAY TOGETHER

For prayer requests, please contact any of the Deacons or Pastor Todd at 612-554-6527.

Park Members

- Rose Clark, prayers for psoriatic arthritis and nodule on kidney
- Joann and Mark Andrews
- Chester Shoop, recovering at home
- Mary Lou Leslie, recovering at home

Our Homebound

- Betty Steege, Villa St Josephs, Baden
- Dave Carver, Brighton Rehab & Wellness Center
- Naomi Wagner, at home

Those serving our country, especially

- Micah Ringer
- Dean & Christan Leonard
- Andrew O'Neill and family in Germany
- Dan Tabacchi and family, Italy, Vaughn's grandson
- Kyle Kanell, fiancé of Jenny Jurich

In the Greater Family of Faith

- The family of Beverly Harry, who passed away on March 2nd.

- Joanie, dear friend of Carole Snider, cancer treatments
- Earle Wolfe, Brother-in-Law of Doris Thompson, hospitalized with Covid
- Those wrestling with Covid questions around jobs, childcare, school choices, and all medical workers and first responders.
- Gretchen Meyer's friend Kaylee's boyfriend Alex, recovering at home.
- Jonelle Conley's sister Pat & sister-in-law Nancy, who are both recovering at home
- Lynn and Bob Gourley's niece's 13-year-old son Ethan, who is undergoing chemotherapy
- Howard (Bim) Braun, friend of Bob Gourley, recovering from heart surgery
- Laura Correll's parents, John & Sandra Kelley, now living with Bob and Laura
- Mary Burlett, friend of Susan Cooper, leukemia
- Michael Anderson, Rackley's and Walker's friend, brain tumor
- Cindy, Mat Meyer's aunt, breast cancer
- The people of Ukraine and Russia
- Hayley Budicak, granddaughter of Joe and Donette, brain surgery



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Church Office: 724-775-2936
Monday-Thursday 9am – 1pm
Email: adminoffice@parkpres.org
Website: www.parkpres.org

PLEASE NOTE: If someone who has been in attendance at a Park Church activity has tested positive for Covid-19, you will be notified via email with the person's name and the activity they attended.