

Park Presbyterian Church

April 2024

Monthly Park Branches



“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Revelation 1:17-18 NIV

Dear Friends,

Above is a promise made to John, the writer of the book of Revelation, years ago. John has been exiled to the island of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea, for his continued faith in Christ as Lord. This is a most difficult time for him, isolated and alone as he was. Like the jagged rocks on the shoreline, everything, it seems, is designed to dash his hopes—to defeat his hope and trust in God.

And then, there is this encounter, in John’s words, with someone he describes as “a Son of Man.” John hears these words of promise from the mouth of Jesus Christ. This changes everything; indeed, it motivates John to record what we find in the last book of our Bible.

Few—if any—of us have had an experience like the one John records here. The time and place—the nature—of it are truly extraordinary. It can also be hard to hold onto the faith and hope this experience generated in John, as well.

On the morning of November 15, 1940, the citizens of the city of Coventry, England stared in disbelief at the ruins of the Cathedral of St. Michael, located in the city center. The previous evening, over 500 Nazi bomber aircraft had dropping over 30,000 fire producing bombs. Most of this treasured landmark dating from the 14th century was no more. In the midst of this rubble—not to mention in the midst of a war that was going against them—they felt terribly alone. It would have been easy to give up hope.

This is not what they choose to do. Instead, on the day after the destruction of this beloved cathedral, the citizens of Coventry decided to rebuild it. Slowly—but surely—the rubble was cleared away, some of it saved to later be re-fashioned and re-used. Following the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, this rebuilding project moved into high gear. The time drew near to begin major reconstruction.

But what would this new cathedral look like?

Over 200 design proposals were submitted.

In the end, the plan put forward by Basil Spence was selected.

Spence's design included the ruins of the first cathedral integrated into the new one—call it an Alpha and Omega design. The ruins of the first cathedral would be left untouched—as a testament to the ravages of war—while the new structure, entirely modern in design and decoration, would speak to hopes for a better and brighter future. You can see this on the cover page image.

The centerpiece of this new building would be a tapestry hung over the altar. When it was unveiled—in the year 1962—this tapestry was the largest in the world, over 80 feet high. The pictures accompanying this article show it as part of the sanctuary, and then in close up. It is entitled “Christ in Glory”. It is the work of the late Graham Sutherland.

How one responds to art is largely subjective—what I may see—or feel—in looking at a painting, for instance, can be quite different—and yet equally valid—to what you and may see and feel from the same piece.

As you look at the close up of the tapestry, what do you see? What do you feel?

For me, Sutherland has captured well the moment John describes for us—a moment when the Risen Christ both overwhelms us—and also re-assures us that God is yet in control of this world. Perhaps you may have noticed the small—very small—figure of a human being, nestled safely between the massive feet of Christ. It's easy to miss it. Sometimes it can be easy to see ourselves as so tiny, so powerless, so hopeless—in the face of all that can wreak havoc upon our bodies and souls. Sutherland graphically reminds of Who stands over—and Who stands for us: It is Jesus Christ, once dead—but now risen. Jesus Christ once among us, now enthroned in Heavenly glory.



Someday I will visit Coventry. I will sit in the midst of the past—the ruins—and in the midst of the present—this awe-inspiring place of worship. Thanks to the words of Jesus—and bolstered by looking at this mighty tapestry—I also know I will sit in the midst of a bright and better future. THIS is what Christ makes possible for us all.



May we—in this Season of Easter—never lose hope, never lose faith.
May we—like the citizens of Coventry- never cease to rebuild what is broken—to redress what is wrong—in this world God so loves.

Faithfully,

Todd

NEWS AND NOTES:

2024 E. M. Nesbitt Scholarship

The E. M. Nesbitt Memorial Scholarship is once again accepting applications. The scholarship is open to Beaver Area High School seniors who intend to continue their education and need financial assistance after graduation. Students who are Park Presbyterian Church community members are also eligible, regardless of their high school. Decisions will also be weighted for students pursuing a career in ministry or other church vocation. Applications can be found outside the Park Church office. The submission deadline for application materials is April 16. Awardees will be notified by June 1.

From Your Finance Commission

What is that yellow envelope in my offering envelope box?

It's called per capita.

What is per capita?

Going back to our earliest days, Presbyterians in our country collected an equal contribution from each member to help the church accomplish its regional and national work. They believed this to be both equitable and biblical. In those early days, travel for those from distant places was far more costly than for those nearby, so the church spread the cost equally across the church, following the pattern of the apostles who "had all things in common" and "distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:44-45) That pattern of asking all members to contribute equally to the church's regional and national work continues to this day.

Each Presbytery is required by the Book of Order to pay per capita to General Assembly and Synod for all members, whether or not their congregation remits it. What happens when congregations don't meet their assessed amount?

When Presbytery pays for congregations that don't pay or don't pay all:

- General Assembly and Synod still receive per capita for all members of all congregations
- Congregations that DO pay their per capita subsidize the congregations that do not pay
- Presbytery's operational income is reduced by the amount congregations do not pay
- Presbytery has less funds to pay staff and do its work locally

Paying your share of per capita, like giving to the congregation, should be done freely and unconditionally. It should not be ruled by the calculus, "What do we get for what we give?" Nevertheless, it is true that each congregation – whether or not it pays per capita – gains much from per capita funds whenever it has a pastoral transition, or any other situation that requires the time, presence, and counsel of presbytery staff.

Just as with all offerings to the Lord's work, per capita giving should be offered "...not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Park Presbyterian Church's Per Capita annual per member apportionment is \$45.00 per member which funds presbytery, synod, and general assembly efforts. If you have paid your per capita, THANK YOU. If not, please consider doing so that the work of the larger church can be fulfilled.

Fellowship of Sisters

The Fellowship of Sisters will meet on April 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the church Gathering Room for a catered dinner. The cost is \$10.00. Susan Cooper will demonstrate and teach the playing of the chimes using simple songs for all to enjoy. Please sign up in the Gathering Room.

A Note of Thanks

Bunny and Jerry Madden would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who were so thoughtful and helped them out while Bunny was recovering from her injury. It was truly comforting to know that there are so many kind-hearted people who were willing to step forward and assist them during their time of need. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Sincerely, Bunny & Jerry Madden

Photo Directory Update

We're Ready to go! Hopefully, you've been practicing your best smile for your photo for Park's upcoming pictorial directory. Here are a few things you need to know:

Please enter via the side door on Corporation St. and take the steps or the elevator downstairs to Guild Hall. Volunteers will be there to sign you in. You will also be asked to review your contact information (*name, address, phone number, email address and birthday*) so that everything is accurate in the new directory.

Photos are scheduled every 12 minutes, so please be on time for your appointment. If you are unsure of your photo time please call the church office. (*Photo days are Tuesday, April 9, from 1:30 until 8:30 pm and Wednesday, April 10, from 1:00 until 8:30 pm*)

For those submitting pictures:

Take your picture from the waist up against a blank wall

Send the photo electronically to the church office. Submit it ASAP.

The Membership Involvement Commission sends a huge "THANK YOU" to those of you who signed up to be photographed. Thanks to you we will have more than 70 families pictured in the directory. Thanks, too, to those who have volunteered to help on the picture days. It's the members and friends of Park who make this church special!

The Center

Hello friends in Christ!

Here are a few updates from The Center we would love for you to share:

- Eye & dental clinic (no cost) this Saturday. We have a few appointments left.
- Homebuyers Seminar (please see attached flyer)
- Women's worship through movement class- Mondays 6:00-7:00pm (all ages & abilities are welcome)- meets at 57 5th St
- We are looking for a classroom coordinator to help lead our middle and high school students beginning in June. If you have anyone who is interested, please give them my name & number 724.396.6177 or email.
- We are also looking for 2 more volunteers to help at our thrift shop on Wednesdays & Fridays.

Your partnership is crucial to the mission of The Center! Please also pray for:

- Youth (many of the youth we get to serve are facing significant trauma and instability in their homes)
- Gospel (please pray that the staff & volunteers at The Center will share Christ's love & truth boldly as we are led by the Spirit and that He will gather a harvest for His glory)
- Families (please ask the Lord to do a new work in the lives of the families we serve, filling homes with His peace, joy & love)
- Staff & Volunteers (spring is often a high energy season at The Center. Please ask God to continue to send more workers who love Him and this mission and to fill our teams to overflowing with energy, patience, and supernatural love for those we get to walk alongside.)

Thank you so much for your continued support! Have a most beautiful Easter!

Jen Miller

Executive Director

The Center

www.midland.center

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be at Park Church on Monday, April 29th, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please consider stopping by to donate!

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The children went from the joyful waving of palms in worship to the search for Easter eggs filled with candy in the dewy grass on a bright and glorious Palm Sunday. The Easter story, a game, and delicious snacks were also enjoyed. Thank you, parents for including your children in this a very special day at Park Presbyterian Church.



Church Clean Up Day

Please consider joining us on April 20th, beginning at 9:00 am, for our Annual Church Clean-Up Day! Let's all pitch in to make our building and grounds neat and tidy for this new season! Please bring outdoor tools and gloves. The Facilities Commission heads up this event. Please contact Jeff Anderson with any questions.

Spring 2025 Trip to Scotland



All those who have expressed an interest in our Spring 2025 trip to Scotland—as well as those just curious to know more—are invited to a meeting to be held in the Memorial Room following worship on Sunday, April 14th. During this time Pastor Todd will share about the dates, proposed itinerary, projected costs, plus things to look forward to during this great adventure.

See YOU there!





The month of March is quickly moving along with fun celebrations and dances and song. Many hands make light, as you can see, and being the one lifted up, well that's the place to be.



We came to school in silly socks for our Dr. Seuss celebration.



Our day started at the end and finished at the beginning. We took our daily schedule and reversed it, ending with hello! The Cat in the Hat story was read by a Mystery Reader. What a treat; thank you, Pastor Todd, you really know how to make stories fun!



We all took turns posing with a cat in the hat mask.



We drew up plans, worked as a team, then created a trap to catch a Leprechaun. We didn't catch the tricky

Leprechaun- maybe next year! What a mess we had

to clean up, sorting and scissor cutting back to a neat and tidy room.





We went on an ABC scavenger hunt, created crazy colorful Dr. Seuss like hair by blowing through a straw and had a 1 fish, 2 fish, red fish, blue fish jello snack. We had a really fun day, beginning to end. (I mean end to beginning :))



A

B

C

We are doing a great job with our Phonics listening games. We are naming rhyming words, recognizing first and last sounds in words, chopping words into sounds and blending sounds into words. We are even building words with new first sounds. We know these activities are helping us to be good listeners and future readers!



We celebrated our 100th day of school! We are 100 days smarter. We counted 100 pennies on our number chart, sorted 100 colorful balls that were thrown up into the air, and ended our day with a pizza party snack.

Spring is here, even though we woke up to a chilly surprise of snow on the ground. We sang a song and woke Coco the bear from her cozy cave. She had a surprise with her, a little cub named Coco Puff and she was very hungry. We all helped to prepare a picnic for them before having our own snack.

We'll be planting and tending to a "chia-pet" like head, planting yellow pansies and painting rocks for our preschool garden. Check it out, and it's behind the church.

We'll be celebrating Easter with a fun filled party day. A special thank you to our preschool friend Dee Byers, who has lovingly crafted quilted bunny surprises for the children. They'll be an Easter egg hunt, egg dyeing, bird nest snack craft, games, songs and a bunny hop, too! We wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

We very much appreciate every big and little thing that has been done by you for the Preschool!

Please pass the word registration is now open for the 2024/2025 school year.

-Mrs. Huwe & Ms. Britne

Mark Your April Calendar!



APRIL 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Playdates at Park 10am-11:30am	3 Adult Education 1:30pm Room 206	4	5	6
7 Adult Education 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am	8	9 • Playdates at Park 10am-11:30am • Pictorial Directory Picture Day 1:30pm -8:30pm • Session 7pm	10 Pictorial Directory Picture Day 1pm -8:30pm Adult Education 1:30pm	11 Handbell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	12	13 Sister's of Park Chime Demo & Dinner 5:30 pm Guild Hall
14 Adult Education 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am	15	16 Playdates at Park 10am-11:30am Nesbitt Scholarship Application Deadline	17 Adult Education 1:30pm Room 206	18 Handbell Practice 6pm	19	20 Church Clean-Up Day 9am New Members Class 9:30am-12pm
21 Adult Education 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am	22	23 Playdates at Park 10am-11:30am	24 Adult Education 1:30pm Room 206	25 Preschool Spring Program & Art Show 9 am Room 206 Handbell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	26	27
28 Adult Education 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am	29 Red Cross Blood Drive 10:30am -4:00 pm Guild Hall	30 Playdates at Park 10am-11:30am				



Theo Cramer	4/5	Lyndsay Bittner	4/8	Linda Gourley	4/9	Mary Ann Jones	4/9
Logan Bernard	4/11	Felix Stewart	4/13	Brub Capper	4/14	Susan DeMaiolo	4/14
Jennifer Jurich	4/16	Jack Muntean	4/17	Suvina Yothers	4/17	Dylan Owens	4/21
Don Conley	4/24	Tim Heist	4/24	Elizabeth Wolfe	4/27	Conner Shallcross	4/28
Jack Kruzelyak	4/28	Elliott Cramer	4/29				