

Park Presbyterian Church

May 2022

Monthly Park Branches



“And when he was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him. He disappeared from their sight. They then asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’” Luke 24:30-32 NIV

Dear Friends,

“But we had hoped...”

It is with these words that we join two followers of Jesus. They are traveling a road connecting Jerusalem to the small town of Emmaus when, on Easter evening, they are joined by a third individual, a stranger to them and apparently a stranger also to the events of Holy Week.

“What things have happened?” asks the stranger. Our two disciples proceed to recount the events we remembered last month: The betrayal, the arrest, the trial, and then the crucifixion of Jesus. It all makes for somber news.

It is uncommon to choose this story from Luke, Chapter 24 for an Easter sermon. It may also seem unusual for me to place it before us in a May newsletter article—after all, April saw us celebrate Easter.

Why have I done so?

I've done so because I believe we can feel very much like these two disciples just mentioned: We can feel tired, concerned, even disappointed—and discouraged—by what we are seeing around us. Things have not turned out as we have hoped: the virus is not gone yet, for instance. The war in Ukraine drags on. Our economic situation continues to add stress—and expense—to our daily lives. *“But we had hoped...”*

And, yet, something incredible happens along this same road—along this path the two disciples are taking: the stranger opens the Scriptures to them. He reminds them of the unmerited love and grace of God shown through the events of Holy week, through the horrible suffering undergone by Jesus; in fact, the stranger goes so far as to declare that such things were needed for the glory of God to be revealed.

Huh?

This makes no sense—and it may still not make sense to us. But the logic of the stranger is clear: God's glory triumphs in the end. There was nothing that could prevent the resurrection from happening, from being a ray of heavenly light piercing the darkness of this world.

This glory is now revealed: The three travelers have arrived in Emmaus, and, out of courtesy as much as curiosity, the two disciples invite this stranger to eat with them. He does so. And what happens? As the stranger breaks the bread they give him, they see the glory of God: They see the resurrected Jesus in their midst! Easter light fills the room! Surely, this is a mysterious moment (as the French artist Bouveret captures for us, in the above painting), but what matters is how this encounter gives these two, world-weary, disciples renewed energy—even enthusiasm. With hearts on fire, they run back to Jerusalem! They can't wait to tell others about what they have seen—and felt! But—and here's the amazing thing: When these two arrive, they are told that Jesus has appeared to OTHER disciples, as well. Jesus is EVERYWHERE, it seems, drawing together a group of men and women who will carry on His work.

That group of men—and women—as you may guess, is you and me today: The Church of Jesus Christ. Like the disciples of long ago, Jesus has also drawn us to Himself, and to one another. He has made us who we are: Sinners and also Saints—unholy people made holy by His broken body and His shed blood.

What's next?

What I continue to find amazing—and inspiring—in this event recorded by Luke, is how Jesus is revealed: Through the simplest of things, through a shared meal, in this case. We might expect God to appear to the two disciples—and to instruct them—through something big and grand, through something—to use a movie analogy—in widescreen and in technicolor. But this is not what Luke documents. There is more at play here, however: When this simple, everyday item, is broken before their eyes, these two individuals recall the actions of Jesus. Their memories are stirred. They remember Jesus' willingness to be of service to them—they remember Jesus' willingness to have his body broken—his blood spilled. God is not only revealed through the simple, everyday events of life: God is also revealed—just as importantly--by doing things, unselfishly, for the sake of others.

What's next—for us?

It need not be big or grand—or even complex: The love that Christ commands us to extend to others takes place in the simple, everyday, activities of our lives. And our Lord also reminds us that the more we can move outside ourselves—our desires and our agendas—the closer we will draw to others. In some ways, the Christian message is so simple, isn't it: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. Perhaps the “complexity” of the Christian message, friends, arise out of the need of so many people to know the love of the Lord.

Jesus gives us an example in Luke 24: he does not appear to 200 people—just to two. He does not orchestrate a grand event in which to teach the gospel—instead, he chose what passes, in some parts of the world, for an afternoon coffee break. He doesn't do much talking over the meal, either—I suspect he does more listening, allowing others the time and space to unfold what is upon their hearts and minds.

Are we up to this?

The scale of need is great—but let us not be discouraged: In the everyday events of our lives—and in the service we give to others—that Jesus does appear, bring light, love—and new life—to all.

Faithfully,

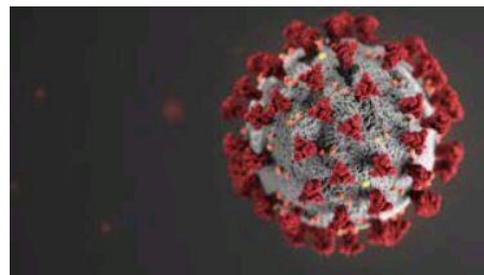
Todd

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.



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)

May 15 is just around the corner and we'd like to know by May 8 if your family and friends will attend our Family Fun Day. Sign-up sheets are on the tables at the sanctuary doors or call the church office. We'd like to know how many will attend from your family and whether you'll be bringing a side dish, salad or dessert. The Membership Involvement Committee will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages. (You might want to bring a lawn chair, too!) The fun and fellowship will be from 1 to 5 p.m. in Pavilion #1 (next to the lodge) at Two Mile Run Park on Gypsy Glen Rd. in Beaver. There will be games for all ages, a playground for the kids, toe-tapping music, prizes, and much, much more. Bring your favorite board game if you wish or just enjoy being outdoors and chatting with your friends. We're hoping to take a group photo of our Park family at about 3 p.m. after we enjoy the food.

We promise that our Family Fun Day will be an unforgettable event. See you there!

Red Cross Blood Drive Coming to Park Church

DATE: Wednesday, May 4, 2022

TIME: 10:30am – 4:00pm

Facilities Commission Meeting

DATE: Saturday, May 3, 2022

TIME: 9:00am

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

The ladies of Park meet each Wednesday at 1:30 in the Memorial Room. All ladies are invited to join in this time of study and sharing. Our final gathering of the spring session will be on May 25 with hopes to begin a new session in the fall.

Celebration Sunday

Join us in worship on Sunday, May 22 as we celebrate the children of Park and present Bibles to those finishing second grade.

Sunday School for children and adults will conclude May 22 and resume in the fall.

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 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.

A Palm Sunday to Remember

Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me" and they did on Palm Sunday as they waved palm branches during worship, listened to the children's message with Pastor Todd, and hunted for resurrection eggs in Guild Hall. A special thanks from the Christian Nurture Commission to the parents for supporting these activities for your children!



Calendar Year 2022

	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
JANUARY	35,095.96	20,264.99	14,830.97
FEBRUARY	20,480.08	16,336.36	4,143.72
MARCH	18,289.75	25,020.33	(6,730.56)
YEAR TO DATE	73,865.79	61,621.68	12,244.11

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



Jack Berenbrok	05/03	Charlie O'Neill	05/22	Luke Hardy	05/29
Richard Gourley	05/07	Joan Lanctot	05/24	Sam O'Neill	05/30
Eric Ringer	05/07	Susan Cooper	05/26	Chuck Snitger	05/31
Ellen Davis	05/13	Micah Ringer	05/26		
Dee Byers	05/16	Joy Glifford	05/28		
Dan Humphries	05/22	Jack Vaughn	05/28		

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
- Mary Lou Leslie, recovering at home
- Betty and Hermann Brosch, on the death of Hermann's mother, Hiltrude in Germany

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

- Bob and Mary Garvin, Sally Heimbrook, on death of son-in-law Fran

- 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.