

NEW HOPE PRESS

APRIL 2016

The Season of Easter

Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a season. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a "week of weeks"), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord.

The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen



Christ in the church. If your congregation doesn't already celebrate the Lord's Supper (a feast with the risen Lord) each week, the season of Easter is an excellent and appropriate time to explore this practice.

Of course, Easter really isn't just a season either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11), called to "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for fifty days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter — as we await its completion in the fullness of Christ's reign.

Church Wide Fellowship

Please join us on Saturday, April 2nd, for a field trip to Purina Farms. We'll meet at church at 9:30 am and transportation will be provided. The field trip will include something for everyone:

- Wagon Rides from 11 am—2 pm
- Baby animal petting area
- Animal Barn & Hayloft Play Ares
- Face painting
- Photos with Peter Cottontail
- Cow-milking demonstrations
- Canine performances at 11 am & 1 pm
- Pet Center
- Educational exhibits
- Columbia, MO Kennel Club Dog Show
- And MORE!



We'll also be providing sandwiches for lunch. Transportation, lunch and admission are free, but reservations are required. Please complete a RSVP form from the Information Table or contact the church office to let us know you're going!

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...



Dusk had arrived. The time had come. This was the night. Since the ancients didn't have clocks to tell them when it was 12:00 a.m., they told time by the placement of the sun in the sky. For the ancients, a new day began at sundown. Notice the order: "*And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*" (Genesis 1:5, and following with each successive day of creation) Easter had arrived.

We gathered on the front lawn around a newly lit fire. Prayers were spoken and sung. We proclaimed the promise of John's Gospel: "*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*" (John 1:5) With that, the Paschal candle was lighted and we followed it into the sanctuary to receive the Easter proclamation, that Christ is risen from the dead.

We had gathered, of course, for the Great Vigil of Easter, the night of all nights when we gather in the holy silence of anticipation and expectancy, and relive our holy story as God's people by hearing, again, the stories that tell of God's salvation history, God's deliverance of God's people throughout time. This is the night we tell our name to ourselves. We belong to God.

There are many readings, many stories that are told that night, but there are two, in particular, that are told every year at the Easter Vigil, one from each Testament. From the Old Testament, we hear the story of the Exodus, which is the faith-defining story at the heart of Judaism. It tells of how God delivered (saved) the Israelites from slavery to sin in Egypt, to freedom as God's covenant people who would be a blessing to all nations. From the New Testament, we hear the story of the Resurrection of Christ, the faith-defining story of at the heart of Christianity. It tells of how God delivered (saved) the whole of creation from slavery to the old life of sin and brokenness, to the freedom of living newness of life in the gracious promises of Christ in baptism. One of the many

results of this is that it enables us to focus on freely serving our neighbor in need, rather than becoming focused solely on our own salvation.

There are other stories, as well. The story of creation, and how it all began. The story of Noah and the flood, and how God tried to begin again. The story of Abraham and Isaac, and how God provides. The stories of the prophets, who continually call us back to our covenant with God. However, through the prayers and the liturgy, images again and again speak of the Exodus from Egypt, God's salvation of the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea.

This year we were gifted with an original painting by Bob Dencker for the Easter Vigil that will remain in the chancel for the season of Eastertide. It depicts the salvation of the Israelites with God as the pillar of fire by night, leading the Israelites through the Red Sea to freedom. Just so, the Paschal candle is our pillar of fire and the waters of the baptismal font are our local Red Sea. On that night, we gathered around the font to give witness to God's salvation, as we celebrated the baptism of Gregory Ryan Marshall. (And on Easter morning, we did the same with Patrick Grant Tilk.) Other Travelers along *The Journey*, likewise gathered to affirm and give thanks for the covenant promises of their baptism. It was a sight to behold, and a holy one at that!

As the waters came back together, we came to the Lord's Table to share the meal, nourishment for our journey that is this life of faith. This was the tenth time New Hope has gathered for the Easter Vigil. This first service of the Easter season ended with the chant still ringing in our ears: "Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Amen." If you missed it, rest assured, we'll gather again next year. Mark your calendars now. Sunset, April 15, 2017.

Faithfully,

Chris

2016 Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School, "Surf Shack—Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love", is scheduled for July 11 - 15 from 9:00 am until noon. Please plan to be a part of this great week of sharing God's love with boys and girls age 2 through fifth grade. There are many, many opportunities to help! Volunteer forms will be available soon on the Information Table in the Narthex. We need your help to make this year's VBS a success. Please consider volunteering!



Youth Mission Trip Bake Sale ~ Car Wash



On Sunday, April 10th, the Youth Mission Trip participants will be sponsoring a bake sale and car wash. There will be lots of baked goodies for sale in the Narthex and cars will be washed before, during and after services. The rain date for the car wash will be April 17th. All profits from the car wash and bake sale will benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Pensacola, Florida June 25th—July 2nd.



Female Connection

The Female Connection is going to the St. Louis Brewery of Anheuser-Busch for lunch at The Biergarten followed by a brewery tour on Saturday, April 23. We will meet at the church at 10 to car pool to the Brewery. Female Connection is an open ladies group and we would love for you to join in our fellowship. For more information, please contact Deb Mackin.



Sign of New Life

The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. During this Eastertide, we encourage you to look for signs of resurrection, of new life. Take a photo, paint a picture, write what you see, and bring it here to share the new hope with our New Hope congregation. You may also email your photos to Linda Dencker at rldencker@att.net. We'd like to display these signs of resurrection and new life throughout this Easter season as a reminder of God's presence with us now and always.



With gratitude for God's gifts,
The Journey Leadership Team

Presbyterian Women



What could be more precious than gold? Diapers. All babies and toddlers need them, but many families in the St. Louis area lack the funds to make this necessary purchase. Diaper need is a growing problem in our country, and has negative impacts on moms and children. Unfortunately, no state or federal programs offer diapers. In response, the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank was created. Please join us on Sunday, April 17 to hear Jessica Adams, Executive Director of the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank, discuss how we can help alleviate the struggle these families face. She will be briefly speaking at the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services and during the Sunday school hour from 9:45-10:30 a.m. This will also serve as the Presbyterian Women's April meeting. We would like all Sunday school classes, especially the senior high class, to attend this informative, interactive program. We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary.

Additionally, we will accept an offering during the worship services earmarked for the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank. If you cannot help financially, they are always looking for volunteers. We will also have a box for you to bring diaper donations to the church from April 17-May 15. This month-long diaper drive will ensure that the Diaper Bank is well stocked. They especially need the large size diapers (size 4 and up). Please consider attending this important event. Need more information? You can visit their website at www.stldiaperbank.org or contact Alyssa Murray at amurray03@live.com.

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS	March 2016	Year To Date 2016
Budget	35,614.00	106,842.00
To-date Actual	34,289.00	105,950.00

April Birthdays

Sue White	04/01	Xavier Steele	04/13
Benjamin Moore	04/02	Tina Johnson	04/14
Betty Osiek	04/02	Amy Connor	04/15
Ruth Reilly	04/02	Katelyn Ward	04/17
Deb Garten	04/03	Linda Carr	04/22
John Moore	04/03	Eli Cox	04/24
John Dittmar	04/05	Rick Etling	04/24
Kelsey Etling	04/05	Jordyn Johnson	04/24
Willie Hantack	04/05	Karen Merod	04/25
Caleb Calvin	04/06	Marion Hamilton	04/26
Calvin Lippert	04/07	Jacob Hurrell	04/26
William Judd	04/08	Philip Wahler	04/27
Jennifer Everly	04/09	Jennifer James	04/28
Susan Greene	04/09	Martha Lamey	04/28
Chris Truett	04/09	Jonathan Hamilton	04/29
Sally Usai	04/09		
Clark Hurrell	04/11		
Madison Larrew	04/11		
McKenzie Larrew	04/11		
Susan Phillips	04/13		



April Anniversaries

Dave & Barbara Lynn	04/04/1987
William & Linda Judd	04/09/1983
Norris & Marge Dalton	04/16/1943
Jim & Jane Cox	04/17/1999
Earl & Juanita Bostic	04/19/2002
Jerry & Rhonda Dyer	04/23/1983

Deacon Corner

Deacon names and contact information can be found on the Information Table. Please contact a Deacon if you know someone in need of a meal or transportation.

There are also prayer cards available on the Information Table that can be filled out to share a joy or prayer concern.

June 5th the Deacons are hosting a pot luck! Please save the date and watch the News & Opportunities for more information. And mark your calendars for these Deacon events in 2016:

- Sept 11—Blood Drive
- Sept 18— Deacon Picnic
- Nov 20—Harvest of Talents
- Dec 5— Year end Dinner
- Dec 9—Cookies with Santa





APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:30am Church Wide Fellowship Field Trip to Purina Farms
3 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey	4 7:00pm Deacon Meeting	5 5:00am Election Board 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 7:00pm A.A.	6 7:15pm Choir	7 1:00pm Agape/Jubilee Circle 7:00pm Joy Circle	8	9 9:45am Oasis Food Pantry
10 8:30am Youth Bake Sale & Car Wash 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Presbyterian Women 12:20pm The Journey	11	12 7:00pm A.A.	13 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	14 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15	16 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
17 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey	18 6:00pm Ministry, Mission & Evangelism Committee 6:00pm Fellowship Committee 7:00pm Session Meeting	19 7:00pm A.A.	20 7:15pm Choir	21 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry	22 3:00pm Boy Scout Blood Drive	23
24 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey	25 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee	26 7:00pm A.A.	27 7:15pm Choir	28	29	30

<p>New Hope Presbyterian Church 1580 Kisker Road St. Charles MO 63304 Phone: 636/936-2200</p>	<p>Fax: 636/447-7676 E-mail: office@newhopepc.org Website: www.newhopepc.org Preschool Phone: 636/922-9900</p>
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