

Good News

C O N N E L L S V I L L E P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

T H E M I N I S T E R ' S M U S I N G S

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:5-9

⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

¹⁸ "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise. "

—Isaiah 43:18-21

I was reading through Isaiah 43 the other day. I really like Isaiah 43 for the way it starts off: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ...I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you." It is a wonderful thing to know that the Holy God loves us and calls us by name. It is crucial that we understand that basic promise. But the chapter doesn't stop there. God's word to His people doesn't stop there. God says, you're mine, and you're precious to me, but I have a purpose for you that doesn't allow the same old, same old.

I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

As we are examining Mark on Sunday mornings, we are looking at the lessons that Jesus taught: The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. We are living in God's Kingdom. Jesus has claimed us as citizens of His Kingdom, with the task of advancing the Kingdom. We ARE beloved and precious, but we also have a job to do.

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The church is gathered to declare God's praise, but we are also tasked to be a light to the nations (Is 49:6; Rom 11:1-5), the body of Christ on earth (1 Cor 12:27), inhabited and empowered by God's Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 1 Cor 3:16, 17) to show to the world God's love (1John 4:11-12) and God's priests to show His reconciliation (1 Peter 2:9, Exodus 19:6, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). We are commanded by Jesus to "Go and **make** disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

God loves each of His children. But that's only the beginning of the story. How he advances His Kingdom through his children is the true adventure! Come join us as we examine what it means to be God's agents in this world. I guarantee, it will NOT be boring!

Rev Suzanne

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CHURCH CALENDAR SPRING 2018 EVENTS

March

- March 3** Ladies' Lunch at noon at Keedy's
- March 6** Lenten Lunch, noon
- March 11** Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 12** Session meeting, 7pm
- March 13** Lenten Lunch, noon
- March 20** Lenten Lunch, noon
- March 20** Faith Finders Dinner, 6pm
- March 25** Palm Sunday
- March 29** Maundy Thursday, Potluck Dinner at 6pm; worship and communion at 7pm
- March 30** Good Friday -CAMA Community Service noon-1:30
- March 31** Children's Easter Party, 10:00am to noon

April

- April 1** Easter
- April 7** Ladies' Lunch, noon at Keedy's
- April 9** Session meeting, 7pm

May

- May 5** Community Yard Sale; Ladies' Lunch, noon at Keedy's
- May 14** Session meeting, 7pm
- May 9** Mother's Day Dinner, 6pm
- May 26** Geranium Festival

Faith Finders

Our spring session of Faith Finders will end on **March 20th**. We will have our traditional wrap up dinner at 6:00 pm and program following dinner. All of the children's families and our church family are invited to attend and celebrate our Faith Finders.

Lenten Luncheons

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|---|------------------------------|
| March 6: Andy Spore, United Methodist Church | Lunch: Church of God |
| March 13: Nelson Confer, Church of God | Lunch: Otterbein |
| March 20: Matt Goldsberry, Calvary Assembly of God | Lunch: Roman Catholic parish |

Community Worship Opportunities

- March 30:** Good Friday Service, Noon to 1:30pm at Calvary Assembly of God.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays & Anniversaries have been removed for the website edition.



* Easter Flowers



* We are now taking orders for Easter flowers. If you would like to order
* Easter Flowers to beautifully enhance our Easter worship and to deco-
* rate your home after worship, **please order by no later than March 14.**

* Selections are:

* Easter Lilies	\$10.00
* Tulips	\$ 9.00
* Mums	\$10.00

* Order forms are in the bulletin. Please call Jana at the office with any questions.



Shoebox Ministry

We are again accepting donations year-round for our annual Christmas Shoebox drive for children. Please bring your donations to church or Faith Finders and place them in the basket located in the Narthex.

February: Soap and wash clothes

March: Activity and coloring books and crayons

April: Combs and hair accessories

May: Toothbrushes (due to customs problems, they are no longer accepting toothpaste)

June: Small toys and small stuffed animals

July: Pencils, sharpeners and erasers

August: Kids jewelry, Nerf balls

September: Small toys and small stuffed animals

October: Tablets and notebooks

The age groups we are collecting for are 2-4; 5-9 and 10-14. Remember these are suggestions and we will accept any donations at any time of year. \$9 is needed for each shoe box to cover shipping, so you can always make a monetary donation.

If you want to know more about Operation Christmas Child, stop by and talk to the local area coordinator —our secretary, Jana.



Remember: Daylight Savings Time begins on March 11—
turn your clocks FORWARD

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEP-EPC.ORG

**Connellsville Presbyterian Church
701 S.Pittsburgh St
Connellsville PA 15425**

Geranium Festival May 26

Join us on Saturday, May 26 at our booth at the Connellsville Geranium Festival. It is such a great opportunity to reach out to the local community and invite people to join us in worship at the Connellsville Presbyterian Church, and for children to join us during Bible School. Any money we raise will go towards mission. We need people to agree to help set up, man the booth, make the food, and clean up and return things to church.

If you can spare some time, we would love to have your help!



Alpha

We are offering the world-wide Alpha program at our church. Alpha is a program designed to introduce people to Christianity. It covers the basics of the faith in a non-threatening, no expectation way with a video and discussion. We are in our second offering, the first was mainly people within our church so they could understand what the program is, this second offering is primarily people from the community. We will be offering the course again in the fall. If you'd like to stop by on a Sunday night and see what the program is or how it operates, we'd love to have you. If you'd like a postcard so you can invite someone to the fall course, the postcards are available in the narthex.