

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

John 11:25–26 (ESV)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Romans 14:7–9 (ESV)

⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

This has been a rollercoaster winter, freezing and snow one day, 60 degrees the next. Regardless of the vagaries of this year, and the winter that seems determined to keep coming back, spring is coming and soon the icy landscape outside my window will be replaced with colorful daylilies, iris, tulips, and daffodils.

What's really interesting about bulbs like those planted along the ramp wall is that they will only sprout and bloom if they experience winter. They have to be planted in the fall so that they experience the cold. Our life in Christ is like that.

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. —Romans 6:3–5 (ESV)

Just as winter is replaced by spring, we have God's promise that, for His children, death will be replaced by resurrection into eternal life. But we must first die. We must die to ourselves, each day we must take up our cross.

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24*

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live. Romans 8:13*

*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ... **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you.** Colossians 3:2–3, 5*

Are you willing to die, in order to live? Are you willing to starve to death those habits that draw you away from God? Are you willing to kill, to mortify, your pride, your selfishness, your comfortable patterns that keep you from joining the mission of God?

God wants us to experience resurrection power and the Kingdom of God here on this earth, but we want to keep up our membership in the kingdom of this world. We're unwilling to put those old, comfortable, sinful habits to death. God wants to resurrect our hearts and lives, but we refuse to kill them. At best we're on that roller coaster: All for God on Sunday morning, all for me on Monday. We don't put to death our earthly habits, we just occasionally put them to bed.

I challenge you, this Lent: Ask God what he would have you put to death, then spend time rooting it out of your life, and just see what God will cause to bloom!

Rev Suzanne

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CHURCH CALENDAR SPRING 2018 EVENTS

March

- March 2** Ladies' Lunch, noon at Trinity Lutheran
- March 6** Ash Wednesday
- March 10** Communion—Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 12** Lenten Lunch, noon
- March 14** Change 4 Children Packing, 4 pm
- March 16** Session Planning Day, 9 am
- March 19** Lenten Lunch, noon
- March 26** Lenten Lunch, noon

April

- April 2** Lenten Lunch, noon
- April 6** Ladies' Lunch, noon
- April 8** Session meeting, 7pm
- April 9** Lenten Lunch, noon
- April 11** Change 4 Children packing, 4 pm
- April 18** Maundy Thursday, Dinner at 6; worship w/ communion at 7 pm
- April 19** Good Friday, CAMA service from noon-3 at First Baptist
- April 21** Easter Sunday
- April 25** Change 4 Children packing, 4 pm

May

- May 4** Community Yard Sale
- May 13** Session meeting, 7pm
- May 8** Mother's Day Dinner, 6pm
- May 16** Change 4 Children packing, 4 pm
- May 25** Geranium Festival

Lenten Luncheons

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| March 12: Bob Lubic, Connellsville RC Parish | Lunch: Presbyterian |
| March 19: Don Smith, World Christian Outreach | Lunch: Roman Catholic parish |
| March 26: Steven Lamb, Connellsville Cooperative Parish, UMC | Lunch: City Church |
| April 2: Will Hough, First Baptist Church | Lunch: Church of God |
| April 9: Brian Higbee, City Church | Lunch: Calvary Assembly of God |

Community Worship Opportunities

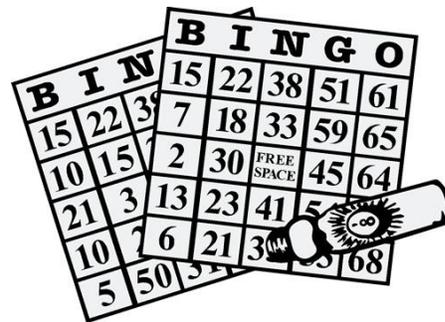
- March 9:** **Ash Wednesday** Service, 12:10 at Immaculate Conception RC Church.
- April 19:** **Good Friday** Service, Noon –3 at First Baptist Church.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays and Anniversaries are
removed for the website edition.

A Chance to Love Your Neighbor

In April, Mission and Outreach is planning a bingo outing to South Connellsville nursing home on Saturday, April 13th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. For bingo prizes, we are going to use personal hygiene items. Everyone will get some item whether they win or not. Items that are suggested by the caretakers are: body washes, shampoos, conditioners, deodorants, facial tissues, hand lotions, hand sanitizers, combs, brushes, and plug-in air fresheners. Please bring these items by Sunday, April 7 and place them in the box in the narthex. If you would like to help or join us on our visit, let Debby Mullaney or Karen Hechler know!



Shoebox Ministry

We are again accepting donations year-round for our annual Christmas Shoebox drive for children. Please bring your donations to church and place them in the box 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 10**—
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 25

Join us on Saturday, May 25 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, and clean up and return things to church.

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



Easter Flowers

We are beginning to think about Easter Flowers! We will be getting them from Cellurale's and will be offering Mums, Tulips, and Lily's. They will be \$10 each, and we will have more information coming soon in the bulletin.