

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

APRIL 2012

ISSUE 4



FROM THE PASTOR

"On the night of his arrest, Christ took bread and broke it saying take and eat all of you and do so in remembrance of me"....These are part of the

words of institution we use when observing Communion in our Christian tradition. We say them to remind us how Jesus took the bread and wine customarily used by Jews during the Passover meal and gave them meaning for our Christian belief in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Holy Week approaches, these words warrant further examination for Christians.

Those first words "On the night of his arrest" carry with them the reality that one of Jesus' close friends and disciples handed Jesus over to be arrested, given a mock trial, beaten, and crucified.

Thankfully death was and is not the final word; resurrection was and is the final word in creation. The power of God's love is stronger even than death. This truth is at the heart of our Christian faith.

The betrayal that resulted in Jesus' arrest has often caused me to wonder about Judas. If it was God's will that Jesus die, then wasn't Judas doing God's will? If so, then was he a greater sinner than anyone else by virtue of his sin being integral in Jesus' going to be crucified? God used this betrayal as part of the plan to offer salvation to the world. It could be God just doing what God does, redeeming the worst of us to bring about hope even in the darkest of hours. Was it a case of God bringing from a sinful action the redemption of humankind? Yes at least in part.

Are we even allowed as Christians to ask such questions? Yes. God can handle it. Remember? God is the Creator of the Universe, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, etc. "Gee I wonder if the Eternal Infinite Being of all time and space could handle being asked questions that arise from the brains we were given by the same Being." Ummmm....yeah.

It took me until I was 20 years old and attending a Presbyterian campus ministry group to have that thought affirmed. Thank you to Rev. Bob Bondurant, and PROWL (People Reaching Out With Love) at Marshall University. I had been told asking such questions revealed a lack of faith on my part. I learned from Presbyterians that it is actually an indicator of faith. Having affirmed that it was part of discipleship to examine one's own faith helped me respond to a call into parish ministry.

(continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: 937-399-0838

FAX: 937-629-0881

office@northminsterspringfield.org
www.northminsterspringfield.org

PASTORS

Dwight McCormick II, Pastor
W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

CHURCH STAFF

Deana Knotts	Office Manager
Gay Steiner	Financial Secretary
Bill Harrison	Treasurer
Greg Veith	Custodian
Lydia Smith-Lockwood	Director of Music
Kristina Ahlstrom	Organist
Dwight & Sarah McCormick Nate & Kate Smith	Youth Leaders
Dwilla Cramer Joan Generous	Presbyterian Women
Nancy Jean Graves	Parish Nurse
Ruth George	Librarian

The Northern Light is published monthly September thru May with one summer issue.

If there is an omission or an error, please contact the editor so a correction can be made.

Thank You

Deana Knotts, Newsletter Editor

Pastor's Page continued

After all if we DON'T think God can handle our questions, or we think we're NOT to ask such things then what does that say about our image of God? It would mean that God was an overly sensitive being essentially along the lines of an abusive parent. Imagine a father who says to a child, "Don't you question me and my judgment!" intimidating the child into fearful obedience. I don't believe God's nature resembles this in the least.

I find it hard to believe, no scratch that, IMPOSSIBLE to believe that God who Scripture tells us is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love would even BLINK at you and I asking faith questions, and working to understand God's nature.

Such questioning deepens our faith because it invites us to THINK about why we believe what we believe, and exactly WHAT we believe. Then we can not only trust and believe in Jesus Christ, we can do so knowing that we've grown and matured along the path of discipleship.

It comes back then to trust. Jesus had to trust Judas without regard for whether he would be betrayed. When we trust in someone, we calculate the risk of being able to handle the consequences should that person decide to betray our trust. Jesus obviously was able to handle it, you know being God and all.

What about us? Do we have people in our lives in whom we trust without regard for whether they will betray us? That's love. We can trust in Jesus Christ and know that he will always remain faithful to each of us and to all of humanity. ALWAYS God will love us. God is ALWAYS faithful to love and forgive us. That's the good news.

Descartes said Cogito Ergo Sum-"I think, therefore I am." I like to say "I think, therefore I believe." What do you think? What do you believe?

Dwight

Believe!

Session Highlights

The Session met in regular stated meeting March 20, 2012. The Moderator, Rev. Dwight McCormick, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with Scripture reading and prayer.

The Pastor reported that he plans to take vacation days April 9-14 (the week following Easter) but will be back on Sunday, April 15th.

Most committees had no action items to bring to session.

The printed financial report and balance sheet showed that total income for January 1 through February 29 was \$30,681 and total expenses were \$34,229, producing a deficit of \$3,548.

Property Committee Chair Bill Carpenter reported that an all-church outdoor workday is planned for May 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Elder Susan Dersch reported that the Nominating Committee still has two openings to fill for the Board of Deacons.

Session approved April 29th, immediately following worship, for the Congregational Meeting to elect new officers (deacons and ruling elders).

The next stated meeting of Session is April 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor and Session as we try to serve this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 29th

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 29th immediately following worship.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect new officers (Elders and Deacons) and congregational members for the nominating committee next year.



Bazaar Workshop

Meets each Tuesday morning at 9AM
in the lower level Community Room.

*Join us for a morning of coffee, conversation,
& crafting as we begin to prepare for our
Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 3.*

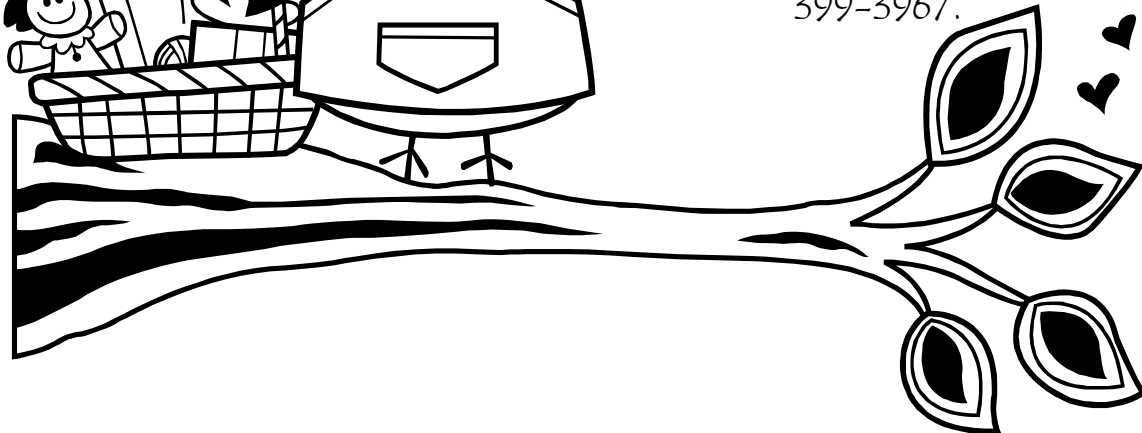
Items Needed:

1. Children's Crafts
2. Knitting worsted yarn
(bright colors/Christmas colors)
3. Buttons
4. Someone interested in painting
on small wooden items

If you are not able
to join us on
Tuesday mornings,
you are welcome
to work on items at home.



Questions:
Joan Generous
969-8130
or
Barb Aker
399-3967.





**HAPPY
APRIL
BIRTHDAY**
to:

<i>Stephanie Molnar-Whiteside</i>	April 2
<i>Anne Hines</i>	April 3
<i>Grace Adams</i>	April 7
<i>Tim Wertime</i>	April 10
<i>Tom Stout</i>	April 11
<i>Maryellen Purkey</i>	April 12
<i>Mary Green</i>	April 14
<i>Jane Johnson</i>	April 14
<i>Colin Creager</i>	April 15
<i>Laura Creager</i>	April 16
<i>Martha Ater</i>	April 17
<i>Mark Brush</i>	April 18
<i>Joyce Carpenter</i>	April 20
<i>June Hughes</i>	April 20
<i>Edna Roeder</i>	April 23
<i>Joe Stalder</i>	April 24
<i>Marta Stalder</i>	April 26
<i>Lois Shroyer</i>	April 29
<i>Helen Stalder</i>	April 29

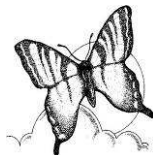
A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends,

There is certainly no way
I can express my appreciation
for the many prayers, calls, and cards
I received when my sister passed on.

Just know that I love you all,
my friends in Christ.

Dottie Good



Adult Forum Schedule for April

April 1st: Palm Sunday marks the last day of our Lenten study: “Gospel Portraits of Jesus.” We will learn about two ways that Jesus spoke of himself in the Gospel of John: “I am the Resurrection and the Life” and “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

April 8th: Easter Sunday, no forum.

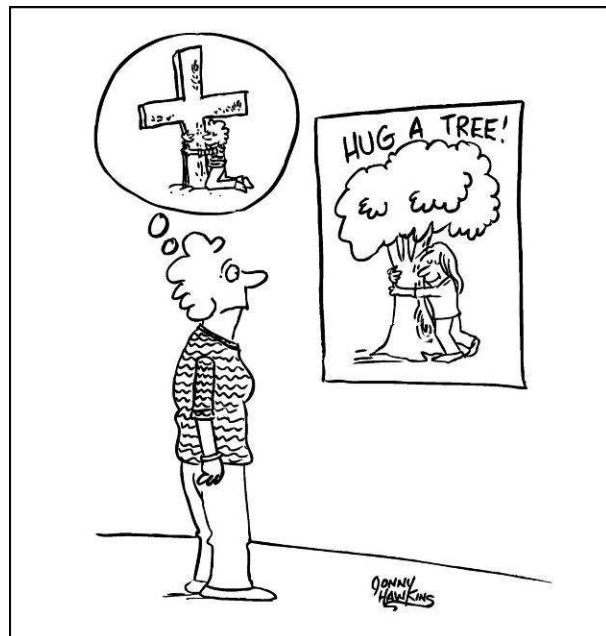
April 15th: Today’s topic is “Four Accounts of Jesus’ Resurrection,” examining the diversity and the common ground in the four Gospel accounts of Jesus’ burial and the discovery of the empty tomb and how this diversity contributes to the common witness of Jesus as Lord.

April 22nd and 29th will give us the opportunity to learn more about two mission efforts that Northminster supports.

April 22nd: Matthew Wilson of Habitat for Humanity will join us to talk about the Habitat for Humanity “Blitz Build” coming up the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May.

April 29th: A member of the mission team that spent a week last year working at the St. Joseph Home for Boys in Haiti will share that experience with us and how we can support future mission trips to Haiti.

Please come and join us after worship as we learn more about our faith and how we can put our faith into action.



Presbyterian Women

Faith, Fellowship and Fun
with a Circle of Friends.
All are welcome to participate.

Co-Moderators.....Dwilla Cramer & Joan Generous
Secretary..... Anne Hines
Treasurer.....Ruth Martin

ESTHER CIRCLE

Leader: **Cindy Chesnut**

Meets 2nd Monday

Meeting Date: **Monday, April 9**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Collier's Restaurant

Please call Janet Digel-Koerner (399-8777) to make a reservation.

RUTH CIRCLE

Leader: **Gail Davis**

Secretary: **June Hughes**

Treasurer: **Joan Garrett**

Meets 2nd Thursday

Meeting Date: **Thursday, April 12th**

Meeting Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Church

Business meeting followed by lunch. Please bring your own lunch.

Devotions: June Hughes

Hostesses and Program: Irene Hughes and Joan Morris

Questions: Gail Davis 390-2527



You're Invited!

**PW Spring
Fling**

Thursday, May 17th

Catered Dinner 6:00 PM

Speaker: Bill Felker

Writer of the Poor Will's

Clark County Almanac

in the Sunday newspaper.

CHURCH YARD SALE

Saturday, June 9, 2012

Presbyterian Women will be holding a yard sale the second Saturday in June. They will be accepting donations for the sale beginning Monday, June 4th thru Thursday, June 7th from 10 AM until 2 PM. Special arrangements may be made for other drop off or pick up times. Remember your church when you are doing your spring cleaning!



Additional information and an opportunity to sign up to help with preparations and working the day of the sale will be in the weekly bulletin announcements and the May issue of the *Northern Light*.

Contact person: Ruth Martin 323-2252

HABITAT'S BLITZ BUILD

Over nine days in April and May, which includes two weekends, local volunteers will work together to build two houses. On **April 28 and 29**, and **May 5 and 6**, the Mission Committee would like a large group from Northminster to help build these two homes to meet the needs of a select group of people who need affordable housing.

Habitat doesn't expect to get both homes completed—the main goal is to get as far as we can.

If you've always wanted to get involved with Habitat for Humanity, this is your chance. A sign-up sheet will be posed in the family room. Come and help make some family's dream come true.

- Carol Emerich



CHURCH WORKDAY—Saturday, May 12th

The Property Committee has scheduled an all-church workday for Saturday, May 12th beginning at 9AM. They could use some help cleaning up the building and church grounds as well as doing some maintenance on the picnic tables in the picnic shelter. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the family room.

For additional information contact Bill Carpenter, Property Committee chair. (399-1497)

Maundy Thursday

Worship



April 5

**@ Northminster
Presbyterian Church**
7 PM

A combined service with
Covenant, Northminster
and Oakland
Presbyterian Churches.



Easter Sunday

April 8th - 10 AM

“Big Sunday”

Everyone is encouraged to
invite someone to church.

If you miss worship
frequently, make a
special effort
to attend worship
on Easter Sunday
and bring a friend!

APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, April 1 *Passion/Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)*

Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16;

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; *Psalm 31:9-16;*

Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47

or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Maundy Thursday, April 5

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; *Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 6

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; *Psalm 22;* Hebrews 10:16-25

or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

Sunday, April 8

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Communion

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; *Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Evening: Isaiah 25:6-9; *Psalm 114*

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

Sunday, April 15

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; *Psalm 133;* 1 John 1:1—2:2; John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 22

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; *Psalm 4;* 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b—48

Sunday, April 29

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; *Psalm 23;* 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

*But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed;
you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.*

He has been raised; he is not here.

Look, there is the place they laid him.

*But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is
going ahead of you to Galilee;*

there you will see him, just as he told you.”

Mark 16:6-7

HEALTH NEWS
from the Parish Nurse . . . Nancy Jean Graves
APRIL 2012
MOWER SAFETY



With spring comes haste to once more have a neatly mowed yard. Out comes the lawn mower which is one of the most dangerous tools around the home. Each year approximately 68,000 persons with lawn mower injuries are treated in emergency rooms. More than 9,000 of those treated are younger than 18 years old. Older children and adolescents are more often hurt while cutting lawns as chores or a way to earn money.

Lawn mower injuries include deep cuts, loss of fingers and toes, broken and dislocated bones, burns, eye and other injuries. Some are very serious. Both users of mowers and those who are nearby can be hurt.

To prevent lawn mower injuries to children, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:

- Use a mower with a control that stops the mower from moving forward if the handle is let go.
- Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers.
- Children younger than 12 years should not use walk behind mowers.
- Always wear sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects (stones, toys, etc.) by picking up objects from lawn before mowing. Use a collection bag for grass clippings or a plate that covers the opening where cut grass is released.
- Anyone using a mower should wear hearing and eye protection.
- Make sure children are indoors or at a safe distance away from the area you plan to mow.
- Start and refuel mowers outdoors. Refuel mowers with the motor turned off and cool.
- Make sure the blade settings are done by an adult with the mower off and spark plug removed.
- Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.
- Always turn off the mower and wait for blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing a gravel path, roads, or other areas.
- **DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO RIDE AS PASSENGERS ON RIDE-ON MOWERS.**

Enjoy your summer and your beautiful lawn.

From: healthychildren.org

Submitted by: Patricia Fairbanks, R.N.
St. Bernards Catholic Church

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



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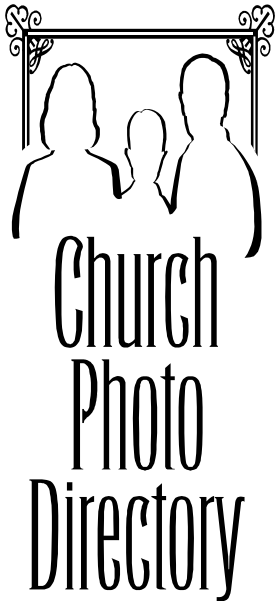
- April 1 Palm Sunday**
Blood Pressure Screening
- April 5 Maundy Thursday Service 7PM**
- April 6 Good Friday—Office Closed**
- April 7 Pancake Breakfast**
- April 8 Easter Sunday—Communion**
- April 17 Men's Breakfast Perkins N. Limestone**
- April 17 Session Meeting**
- April 21 Clifton Ave. Church of God Breakfast**
- April 29 Congregational Meeting**



Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce **we will be publishing a new pictorial directory** of our church family—our last one from **2008** is very outdated! The new directory will help connect names with faces, serve as an outreach tool, and capture a time in the history of our church congregation.

Please participate by coming to the church to have your portrait taken by the Olan Mills professional photographer. In the next several weeks we will be setting appointments before and after services at the church. Sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.



- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a complimentary directory and a \$25 portrait gift certificate.
- You will come to the church only once for less than an hour for photography and portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time. Purchases are unconditionally guaranteed.

The scheduled dates for photography are:

Monday, May 7th	2:00 PM—9:20 PM
Tuesday, May 8th	2:00 PM—9:20 PM

If you have questions please contact Diana Schneider @ 937-399-3527. Remember, everyone's participation is important to make the new directory an important and useful tool for newer and long-time members alike—it just won't be complete without *you!!*

Blessings,
Diana Schneider

WHAT IS THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING?

Immediately following WWII, Protestant churches in the U.S. made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal to support their churches' separate campaigns.

A program called One Great Hour was broadcast on March 26, 1949, over major networks and many independent stations. The broadcast closed with a request that listeners attend their local church the following morning and make a sacrificial contribution. No exact measure of receipts was possible, but it was estimated that more than 75,000 churches participated.

The next year, the offering was repeated, using the name "One Great Hour of Sharing" for the first time. At times, One Great Hour of Sharing was coordinated with both the Roman Catholic Bishops' Fund Appeal for Overseas Aid and the Jewish Passover Appeal. Free time and space were donated to this joint appeal through the Advertising Council.

From the beginning, this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to 29 participating communions. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In recent years Presbyterians have given about \$10 million annually.

Offering envelopes for the One Great Hour of Sharing will be available in the weekly bulletins up to Easter Sunday, April 8th when the offering is typically received.

April 2012

Northminster Presbyterian Church

www.northminsterspringfield.org

office@northminsterspringfield.org

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Palm Sunday Blood Pressure Screening 4:30 Youth Bible Study/Hang Out Night	2 9:30 YWM Meeting and Luncheon 10:00 PW Board 7:00 Women's Bible Study	3 9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 7:00 Christian Ed.	4 5:30 Music/Worship 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld Youth First 7:15 Choir	5 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service @ Northminster	6 Office Closed 	7 8:00 Pancake Breakfast	
8 Easter Sunday  Communion	9 6:00 Esther Circle @ Collier's Restaurant 7:00 Women's Bible Study	10 9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 6:30 Deacons	11 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld Youth First 7:15 Choir	12 11:00 Ruth Circle 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club	13	14	
15 4:30 Youth Bible Study/Hang Out Night	16 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Women's Bible Study	17 7a Men's Breakfast @ Perkins 9a Bazaar Wrkshp 6p Finance 7p Session	18 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld Youth First 7:15 Choir	19	20	21 Clifton Ave. Church of God Breakfast/Food Pantry	
22	23 7:00 Women's Bible Study	24 9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp	25 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld Youth First 7:15 Choir	26	27	28	
29 Congregational Meeting 4:30 Youth Bible Study/Hang Out Night	30 7:00 Women's Bible Study	