



Westgate April, 2022 Witness

2235 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-1071



RESURRECTION Sunday

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 6 ABW Meeting
- April 10 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Easter Sunrise & Indoor service
- April 18 Board Meeting
- April 19 AB Men's Breakfast

EASTER

Our Easter Sunday service. will be held INDOORS at 11 a.m. with light refreshments to precede the service. After having further conversations with quite a few of you including our Music Team it was generally agreed that it would best serve the church to have the 11 a.m. service INDOORS. We will no doubt have plenty of opportunity for Outdoor worship service in the months that lie ahead. If you had your heart set on an Outdoor venue please consider attending the 6:30 Sunrise Service.

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at 106 Fairland Road, Lititz PA. Richard and Nancy Cook's neighbor Dean Ziegler hosts an Ecumenical Outdoor Sunrise Service followed by a breakfast. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and dress informally. This service incorporates people from numerous denominations including Amish folk who live nearby. We have been extended an offer and I hope many will plan to attend. Any questions can be clarified by Rev. Cook.

Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

It Is Finished !

Scripture: John 19: 17-37

A number of years ago, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel enchanted us with the song of a poor boy who went to New York on a dream and fell victim to the harsh life of the city. Penniless, with only strangers as friends, he spent his days *"laying low, seeking out the poorer quarters where the ragged people go, looking for the places only they would know."* It's easy to picture this young lad, dirty face and worn clothes, looking for work and finding none. He trudges the sidewalks and battles the cold, and dreams of going somewhere *"where the New York City winters aren't bleeding me, leading me home."*

He entertains thoughts of quitting. Going home. Giving up, something he never thought he would do. But just when he picks up the towel to throw it into the ring he encounters a boxer. Do you remember the words?

*In the clearing stands a boxer and a fighter by his trade,
And he carries a reminder of every blow that laid him down
Or cut him till he cried out in his anger and his shame --
'I am leaving, I am leaving!' **but the fighter still remains.***

"The fighter still remains." There is something majestic in that phrase. It rings with trueness. Those who can remain like the boxer are a rare breed. I don't necessarily mean always winning, I just mean remaining. Hanging in there. Finishing. Sticking to it till it is done. Very few do that. Our tendency is to quit too soon. Our human tendency is to stop before we cross the finish line. Often people quit when a breakthrough is just around the corner.

Our inability to finish what we start is seen in the smallest things. A half read book, a partially written letter, an abandoned diet, a partly mowed lawn, a written resolution without follow through. Sometimes it shows up in more painful ways: An abandoned child, a cold faith, a wrecked marriage, job hopper, church hopper, or an un-evangelized world.

Perhaps these hit close to home. If it does I want to encourage you to choose perseverance. I want to encourage you to remember Jesus' determination on the cross...His willingness to carry out the sacrificial plan, which was prophesied from of old. Jesus Christ did not quit on the divine plan handed down by the counsel and wisdom of God. His determination was revealed in the upper room as he broke the bread and gave the cup. His surrender to the will of God was tried and proved in the Garden where falling on the flat cold earth he said, *"Nevertheless not my will, but Thine be done."* His determination came to a pinnacle in His willingly going to the cross with our sins, our failure, our future. The weight of divine redemption was upon His back.

Jesus didn't quit. But don't think for one minute that he wasn't tempted to. Watch Him wince as he hears his apostles backbiting and quarreling. Look at Him weep as He stands at Lazarus's tomb or as He overlooks the stubborn unbelieving city of Jerusalem. Hear His anguish as he claws the ground of Gethsemane.

Did he ever want to quit? You bet. That's why His words are so splendid, "*It is Finished.*"

Stop and listen. Can you imagine the cry from the cross? The sky is dark. The other two victims are moaning. The jeering mouths are now silent. Perhaps there is thunder. Perhaps there is weeping. Perhaps there is silence. Then Jesus draws in a deep breath, pushes he feet down on that Roman nail, and cries, "*It Is Finished.*"

What was finished? The will of God was being fulfilled. That the only begotten should be incarnate, and be exposed to shame and reproach, suffer so much and die. The whole work his Father gave him to do, which was to preach the Gospel, work miracles, and obtain eternal salvation for God's people. The prophecies of the Old Testament which pointed to the sufferings of the Messiah, a lamb of God given for human sin were accomplished in Jesus Christ.

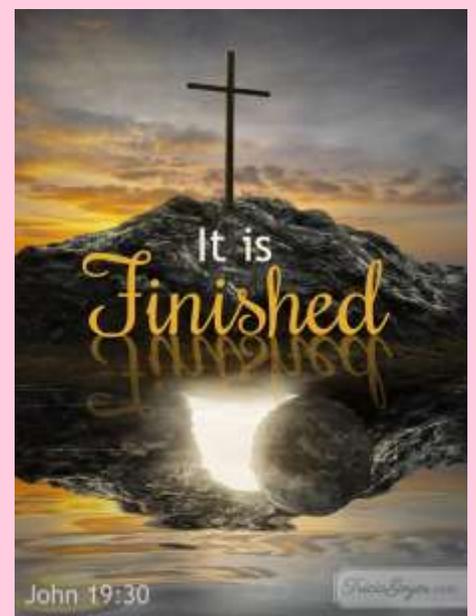
IT IS FINISHED. The ceremonial law as a way of attempting to reach God is abolished. The substance is now come, and all the shadows of how to come to God are gone. IT IS FINISHED. Redemption from the curse and condemnation of human sin is secured; complete pardon had been purchased, all the enemies are being conquered, peace with God is made, the power and judgement of transgression is replaced with everlasting righteousness. Redemption has been obtained.

IT IS FINISHED. His sufferings were now finished, both those of his soul, and those of his body. The Prophecies of the sacrificial lamb fulfilled. The historic long plan of redeeming mankind was finished. The works done by Jesus as a man on earth (save those of His post resurrection) were finished. The task of selecting and training his ambassadors was finished. The mission was complete. The song had been sung. The blood had been poured. The sting of death removed. It was over.

A cry of defeat? Hardly. Had his hands not been fastened down I say that a triumphant fist would have punched the dark sky. This was no cry of despair. It is a cry of completion. A cry of victory. A cry of fulfillment. A cry of relief. The fighter remained. And thank God for all eternity that he did.

He told me to tell you!

Faithfully,
Pastor Robert Zimmerman





AB Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on April 19th at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the **Family Fare Restaurant**, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg, PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



Easter Flowers

Kay Cameron is organizing the Easter Flower plant sale; an assortment of potted spring flowers, which will beautify our Sanctuary. **Plants will be \$8.00 each.** The order forms are in the Sunday bulletins.

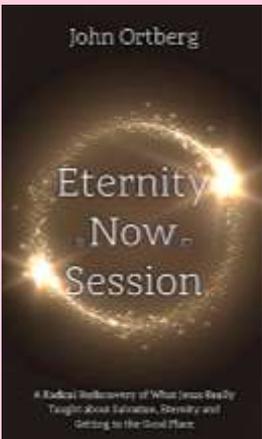
Your payment should go in the Sunday offering plate and the order form should go to Kay. Indicate "Flowers" on your payment.



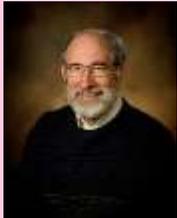
"Realizing your potentials and spirituality begins with seeing yourself as imperfect with the intent of working towards perfection." — Victor Vote

"Eternity Is Now in Session."

Most of us think of eternity as something that begins after we die. However, Jesus doesn't talk about eternity that way. In fact, Jesus defines *"eternal life"* only once, with great precision, and in a way that has been largely lost in our day. We will explore a radical rediscovery of what the Bible really says about salvation and show how to experience the interactive fellowship and joy that exists between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Eternal life here--now, every minute of every day. This curriculum will feature video from the Holy Land with author and teacher John Ortberg and will be accompanied by his book *Eternity is Now in Session* which can be ordered through Amazon. We will not be dissecting the book but you may wish to purchase it to enrich your experience of the videos and discussions. I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for study and enrichment.



“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life



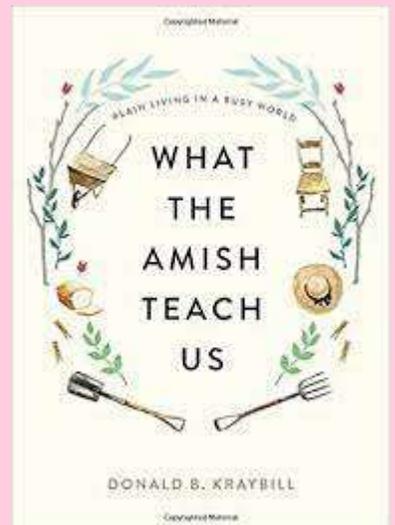
UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Beginning Sunday, May 22th Pastor Richard Cook will be teaching a 4-5 week Sunday School Class based on content taught in a book written by Donald Kraybill entitled,

“What the Amish Teach Us: Plain Living in a Busy World.”

What do the traditional plain-living Amish have to teach twenty-first-century Americans in our hyper-everything world? As it turns out, quite a lot!

It sounds audacious, but it's true: the Amish have much to teach us. It may seem surreal to turn to one of America's most traditional groups for lessons about living in a hyper-tech world—especially a horse-driving people who resist "progress" by snubbing cars, public grid power, and high school education. Still, their wisdom confirms that even when they seem so far behind, they're out ahead of the rest of us. Pairing storytelling with informative and reflective passages, Kraybill's books offers a critique of modern culture that is provocative yet practical. In a time when civil discourse is raw and coarse and our social fabric seems torn asunder, *What the Amish Teach Us* uproots our assumptions about progress and prods us to question why we do what we do.





ABW Ministries

**Our next ABW meeting is
Thursday, April 6, 1:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

ABW meets on the first Thursday of the month. We will continue working on the Luopads and reviewing ideas for future projects. Also we will be planning our May 1st Bake Sale.



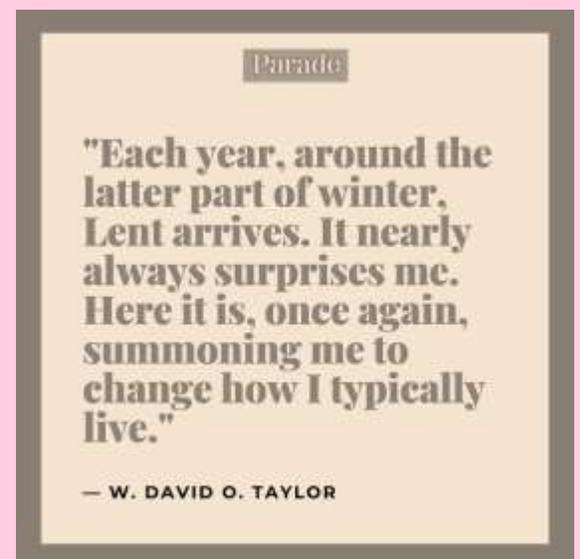
"What if we view this desert time of Lent as not just a time to reflect or to lament or to confess or to fast, but a time where we learn to be free?" — Megan Westra

Women's Bible Study

Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We have resumed our study on prayer. "Praying the Psalms," now, with an emphasis on Lent.

PRAYER

What is it? Why we pray? How we pray. We will look through various Psalms, and authors including Henri Nouwen and Philip Yancey.

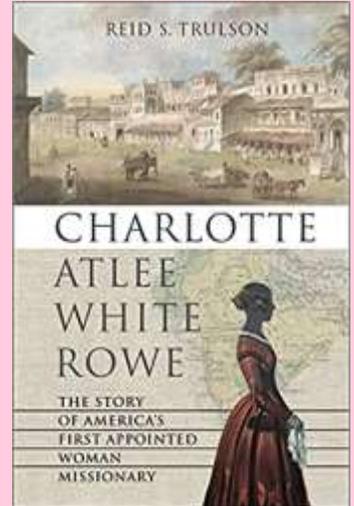


INVITATIONS TO LOCAL EVENTS

There will be a presentation about Charlotte Atlee White Rowe this Saturday, April 2 at 4:00 PM at St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster given by author and researcher, Reid Trulson.

Charlotte was a daughter of St. James who became America's first appointed woman missionary when she was appointed by the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions in 1815. Her appointment was highly controversial because she was a woman and a layperson. After overcoming the attempt to revoke her appointment, Charlotte served, self-funded for a decade, as an educator in India.

The event at St. James this Saturday will be conducted both in-person and live streamed. Here is the information:



<https://www.saintjameslanaster.org/event/charlotte-hazen-rowe-lancasters-educator-in-india/>

A concert for Easter

The Gospel according to Bach

April 8th, 7:00 PM

249 E. Main Street, New Holland, PA 17557

717.354.7871

SDG Concerts

THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO
BACH

TOM ELLIOTT, TROMBONE
CHERYL ELLIOTT, VIOLIN
RICHARD AMOROSO, CELLO
WITH STRING ENSEMBLE,
CONTINUO & NARRATOR

Save the Date!
Coming to St. Stephen's during the Lenten season...

The combination of sublime music and biblical text of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. Come experience this refreshing performance of music and drama!

FRIDAY
APRIL 8, 2022
7:00 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONCERT VISIT: SDGCONCERTS.COM

Birthdays & Anniversaries for April



- 4/1 Shariyh Lafontant
- 4/9 Marlena Saylor
Wislene Joseph
- 4/11 Ariel Pate
- 4/12 Gary Stump
- 4/13 Joan Williams
- 4/14 Marie Mohn
- 4/16 Lloyd Appleby
- 4/19 Ruth Hannum
- 4/21 Gideon Htoo
- 4/28 Gertrude Mokua



- 4/24/2021 Christian Saw & Drusilla Wah Wah
Pawter
- 4/28/2012 Timothy & Cynthia Ferris
- 4/30/1949 Daniel & Loretta Chure



Treasurer's Report

March	
Budget Income	\$8,152.00
Non-budget income	\$2,197.87



Jesus Triumphs
Over Death

What we see in Christ is sacrificial love. Merciful love. Love that values the well-being of others above itself. Love that will generously and fully pour itself out, whatever the cost, in order that the beloved might benefit, flourish, and thrive.” — Krish Kandiah

Baptist Potpourri



Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings. We continue our traveling in Haiti after we landed in Santiago, Dominican Republic. We spent a couple of days in Naverrete and then in Monte Christi in the Dominican Republic. On Tuesday March 15, we crossed to the Haitian side. The crossing was easy and quick thanks to some old friends we have. In the border city of Ouanamanthe, we stopped to check our eye clinic extension and to talk to the people present. In Cap-Haitien, people at the eye clinic were surprised to see us and didn't want us to leave.

We had a meeting with the two leading ladies. We also visited the whole clinic. We got home very tired but happy to be home. The general observation is that in the two countries, Dominican Republic & Haiti, nobody wears mask but when entering some official places like the airport and bank. Nobody talks and worries about Covid. Friday March 18, I went to the eye clinic to work. I was impressed to see many patients. The doctor was busy setting up and testing new equipment we have just bought. Kihomi has been overwhelmed with students and women all wanting her attention and her motherly helping hands.

In Haiti not many people talk about the war in Ukraine. Here the concern is for insecurity in the Capital city of Port-au-Prince, the high cost of goods and lack of money. The northern part of Haiti is relatively calm, but everybody is on the lookout. With no internet connection, it is hard to write on the small phone.

Yours in Haiti,
Nzunga & Kihomi.



Repenting ... made less easy

[Rev. Jerrod Huguenot](#)

March 9, 2022



The word translated “repent” in the New Testament has quite a powerful concept. It comes from the Greek word *metanoia*, which means to change the direction of one’s life. Such a concept asks much of the believer, yet it can be that lifeline we have been searching for, turning us toward something different or more liberating. It may be a chance to discover how to explore paths or possibilities previously unthinkable. To repent is not so much the image of the penitent coming forward at a revival’s altar call, although that is a familiar image for many Baptists. To repent in the *metanoia* sense means that you’ve decided to go a different path with your life that draws you closer to God and God’s purposes for you. Repenting means you are not going back to the way things used to be, and you couldn’t be more satisfied with this new direction!

Could we think of “repenting” as the best thing that ever happened to you?

I recall a guest preacher at our seminary chapel. As he spoke of repentance as “change,” he enumerated things that kept us down, and then through a positive change in our lives, how we could feel renewed or unburdened when making good life choices. He flourished it with a little leap in the pulpit, left to right, speaking of ways we lived before and then after repentance took place. For Christian believers, to repent means turning our lives to the way of Jesus. Rather than wearing ourselves down running the well-trodden path of the rat race, we Christians seek to trace our way through the contours and questions of the gospel. Making that leap, that change, is indeed an occasion for feeling like life has stopped getting too heavy to bear. In joy we can change our attitudes and habits, our sense of feeling stuck or unmoored.

Repentance is the beginning of an adventure you would not have found yourself on otherwise. To repent is literally a transformative act! For Christian believers, to repent means turning our lives to the way of Jesus. Rather than wearing ourselves down running the well-trodden path of the rat race, we Christians seek to trace our way through the contours and questions of the gospel. Reading our way through Matthew’s gospel, we encounter a variety of people who decided to follow Jesus rather than stay in the midst of what they knew, even those things in life they were most comfortable doing. Matthew gave up tax collecting, a life of easy money by extortion and graft, and took up the way of Jesus, who said, “You should love your neighbor as yourself,” and proclaimed that the poor are the most blessed in God’s eyes.

Repentance stretches us as we continue down a path that we could not previously have imagined. To choose repentance—the decision to reshape our lives—is necessary if we are to choose and follow Jesus. Matthew’s gospel particularly warns followers of Jesus about maintaining a too-familiar relationship with the kingdoms of Herod and Rome. (The writings of Warren Carter and Richard Horsley have been helpful in seeing this theme more clearly.) To live as citizens of the kingdom of heaven is to live in tension with the kingdoms of the world, especially those to whom we would otherwise claim close allegiance. In Matthew’s gospel, the kingdom of heaven is a different sort of reign, where local demagogues (for example, Herod who had just hauled John the Baptist off to certain misery and death) and even the ones ruling from Rome are declared second fiddle to the sovereign God. Jesus’ selecting fishermen as some of his first followers demonstrated the “otherness” of the kingdom of heaven by raising up those the empire and Herod’s court exploited and disregarded.

In turn, those following Jesus' way are called to be just like him, living out his teachings and calling others to do likewise. Disciples not only evangelize the good news but live as examples of why Jesus' teachings matter. In other words, repentant and authentically devoted Christians have many difficult choices to make about how to live faithfully in the world. To live as citizens of the kingdom of heaven is to live in tension with the kingdoms of the world, especially those to whom we would otherwise claim close allegiance.

Ethicist Stanley Hauerwas suggests that we have a choice: do we merely admire Jesus, or do we follow Jesus? To illustrate, Hauerwas recounts a story from Clarence Jordan, a Baptist who worked for desegregation in 1950s Georgia. Jordan led Koinonia, a group of people committed to racial integration living as an intentional farming community in Americus, Georgia. When his religious community experienced some legal problems, Jordan approached his brother, Robert Jordan, who was a lawyer, for help. Robert refused to give aid, for he believed his helping Koinonia might harm his law practice and his political aspirations. (Hauerwas notes that Jordan's brother was later a state senator and a justice on the Georgia Supreme Court.)

Clarence pointed out that the two brothers had joined the Baptist church on the same Sunday when they were boys and answered affirmatively the same questions about Jesus being their Lord and Savior. Clarence's brother told him, "I follow Jesus, Clarence, up to a point." Clarence replied, "Could that point by any chance be—the cross?" The brother said back, "That's right. I follow him to the cross, but not *on* the cross. I'm not getting myself crucified." Clarence said, "Then I don't believe you're a disciple. You're an admirer of Jesus, but not a disciple of his. I think you ought to go back to the church you belong to, and tell them you're an admirer not a disciple." Robert said, "Well now, if everyone who felt like I do did that, we wouldn't *have* a church, would we?" "The question," Clarence said, "is, 'Do you have a church?'"

Rev. Jerrod H. Huguenot is associate executive minister, American Baptist Churches of New York State.

