

The Carversville Christian

Vol. XXXVI No. 4

Carversville United Church of Christ

April, 2020

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you here."

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



COVID-19 and Faith

Let's begin with some facts.

The outbreak of a new coronavirus began in China in December and has now spread around the world. While often being referred to as "the coronavirus" in media reports, coronaviruses are actually a large family of viruses that can affect animals or humans. They are named for their crown-like appearance when viewed under a microscope.

In humans, several coronaviruses cause respiratory infections such as the common cold, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), as described by the World Health Organization (WHO). The most recently discovered coronavirus—the one making headlines worldwide—is called COVID-19.

There's still much to be learned about COVID-19, but we do know that it spreads easily from person to person through respiratory droplets contained in sneezes, coughs or exhalations from an infected person. Although it's thought that people are most contagious when they have symptoms, it's possible that infected people who have mild cases or those who are asymptomatic can also spread the disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes that symptoms— fever, cough and shortness of breath—may occur as early as two days after exposure or as late as 14 days after someone's initial exposure. Hence, the need for 2-week quarantines.

Because of the ease with which COVID-19 passes from person to person, the primary preventive measure is social distancing, which is causing massive upheavals—in the world's societies and the global economy as well as in our individuals lives. Of course, we also need to wash our hands a lot.

Isolation is a major consequence of social distancing.

So in addition to respecting the preventative and health care norms of the pandemic, people of faith need to exercise more care for others—those we know well, those with whom we may be only casually acquainted, and maybe even strangers. This is a special time to consider the ways we can show love for our neighbors.

Let's pray for each other as well as those we do not know personally. Let's look out for one another, demonstrate care for one another, and simply check in on one another. A phone call or text or email has great meaning and provides a lifeline for those who are alone. You can even Skype and see each other!

Our conference minister, Rev. Bill Worley, reminds us to be “. . . people of faith, not of fear. God needs us to be sources of non-anxious presence in a very anxious time. That is the most certain path to witness to the very powerful presence of the resurrected Spirit of Christ Jesus and God's dominion over this world and our lives.”

Our national United Church of Christ leaders ask us to join them in this prayer.

Holy God, ever present with us, we are mindful of these times in which we live. Uncertainty, anxiety, and fear are present among us as we listen to and care for one another in these days. We ask that your peace and healing presence be with us, as we pray for and hold each other in love. We ask your guidance and direction as we live out your command to love one another as we are called to love you. In the name of the one who has called us and prepared us for these challenging days, we pray. Amen.

— Pastor Bob Fogal



will present special music. Our pastor, Dr. Robert Fogal, will deliver the message. Just a reminder: there is no Church School on Easter so that families may worship together.

Wave the Palms

On Sunday, April 5, we share the experiences of Jesus over 2000 years ago. **Palm Sunday** recognizes that day when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey with the crowds cheering as they waved their palm branches. At the conclusion of the 10 a.m. worship service we will receive our personal palm branches.

Maundy Thursday Service

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at our Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday on Thursday, April 9, at 7::00 p.m. Through readings, prayer and extinguishing of candles we are reminded of the fact that not only Christ's disciples deserted him, but we often do as well.

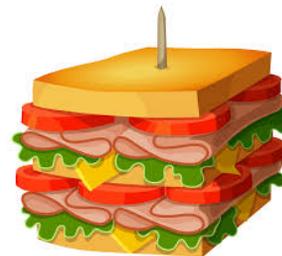
Easter Hosannas

Sunday, April 12, at 10 a.m., the congregation will celebrate the Resurrection with all the joy and beauty of Easter morning. You are encouraged to invite your family and friends to share in the good news of Easter. Our choir, under the direction of Lynn Bullock, organist,



WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

The Book Group will not be meeting until the coronavirus is under control. Hopefully we'll be getting together soon!



MEN'S LUNCH

The men will meet at noon on Tuesday, April 14, at Pho.

The day the Lord created HOPE was probably the same day He created SPRING.

- Bernard Williams

BRIARLEAF ☽ MARCH, 2020

**Briarleaf Nursing & Convalescent Center
252 Belmont Ave in Doylestown, PA.**

"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."

Attributed to *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne

On March 1st we visited Briarleaf Convalescent Center in Doylestown bringing song sheets, cookies and juice. Lynn Bullock accompanied us in singing hymns chosen by the residents and Catherine Halper provided a brief meditation on the writings of St. Augustine – particularly his emphasis on love.

At the end of our visit we took the time to speak to residents individually. There is increased fear among the residents these days, as residents are coping with increased isolation due to the Covid – 19 virus.

Briarleaf is currently closed to all visitors and will be reviewing this policy on a week by week basis.

We are making plans to replace our visit with a shower of cards during April and will be compiling a list of recipients through the Briarleaf Activities Director.

If you would like to write a short note to a Briar Leaf resident on behalf of Carversville UCC, contact Catherine Halper at chalper@aol.com.

The small investment of your time will yield rich rewards!

"To write is human, to receive a letter: divine!"

Susan Lendroth

EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT SCHEDULED

You and I know that Easter begins and ends with a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. But for many who are searching, Easter is about bunnies, colored eggs, candy and the excitement of The Hunt!



Never let it be said that we do not know how to host fun at Carversville UCC! Be certain to invite & bring your youngest friends!

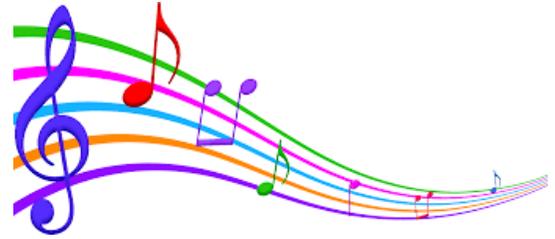
We will be hosting our TRADITIONAL EASTER EGG HUNT ON EASTER SUNDAY, April 12, 2020 AFTER SERVICES AT 11AM. Children who arrive early at 10 am can take part in an Easter bag decorating activity.

The Easter Bunny is scheduled to arrive much earlier and hide eggs among our ancestors resting in the Carversville Cemetery next door.

We reserve a special section for children under two to hunt – the Easter Bunny kindly leaves eggs containing finger puppets for children at risk of choking on candy.



If you would like to assist the Easter Bunny, call Catherine at 215- 285-0551.



JAZZ VESPERS

Our Jazz Vespers, featuring Eric Mintel's group, will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26.

If you have attended Jazz Vespers services you know you can proudly invite friends and family to attend. If you haven't attended, treat yourself to a very special service and join us. To offset the cost, a free will offering will be taken during each service.



We are very pleased to announce . . .

Our very talented office manager, Chris Ochadlick, has had one of her photos accepted into the internationally known and juried Phillips Mill Photo Exhibition.

Also known as the PMPE, the Exhibition received 220 entries from the United States, France and England; of the 1000 photos reviewed, 142 were chosen.

There is an opening reception for artists and guests on Saturday, April 4, 5-8 p.m. with an awards ceremony at 6 p.m. The Exhibition is open from April 5 thru April 23 on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00-9:00 p.m.

The Phillips Mill is located at 2619 River Road, New Hope, PA, 18938. Phone: 215-862-0582.



Jingles is practicing social distancing right now. Please continue to save your coins for the Jingle Jar when church resumes. Many thanks!



MODERATOR'S MINUTE: WATER KEEPERS

The Hwulqw'selu watershed is a 77,000-acre area within the territory of the Cowichan people on Vancouver Island. It includes all the land that drains into the Koksilah River, from its source in the western mountains, down through the communities of Cowichan Station and Hwulqw'selu and out to the sea at the Cowichan estuary. It is home to salmon, elk, bear, cougar, farming, forestry, and more. The watershed supports many lives.

Fifty years ago, along with my husband, infant daughter, and a group of idealistic social workers, I was living on a crown lease of 25 acres high above the Koksilah River. We built geodesic domes and log cabins, dug a well, cleared land and established a five-acre garden in order to create a group living center for delinquent youth¹.

We hiked down a sixty-foot cliff to take daily dips in the glacier-fed waters of the Koksilah when the work got too heated. The river otters would fearlessly come out to play, sliding down the bank. On April 22, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Much has changed, including the climate, in the last half-century. Drought now threatens the Hwulqw'selu and the lives it supports.

Closer to home, we need to remember that there is a direct connection between our back yards and our local streams. When we clear out native trees and shrubs, we also lose the blanket of decaying leaves, needles and wood that acts as a natural sponge. The lawns we replace them with are non-absorbent, repelling rain along with fertilizers. This increases run-off yet dries up the source for the aquifers that replenish our drinking water, streams and rivers. The natural landscape is alive with life – birds sing, otters scamper, insects pollinate. Even the forest² is a social network. During the next fifty years, my prayer is that we practice living in harmony with God's Creation.

- Catherine Halper

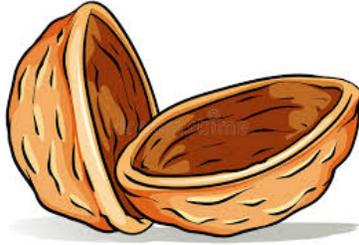
CUCC OFFICALLY RECOGNIZED

Carversville UCC recently received official recognition as an Open and Affirming Congregation from the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. Our congregation joins hundreds of UCC churches throughout the United States who, as we state in our Open and Affirming Declaration, embrace diversity and affirm “. . . the dignity and worth of every person, all of whom are created in God's image. . . . We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation.”

During our church closure please remember to send your church offering to Carversville UCC at P.O. Box 26, Carversville.PA 18913.

¹ The program provided an alternative when the government outlawed jails for juveniles.

² The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate - Discoveries from a Secret World. Peter Wohlleben



APRIL EVENTS IN A NUTSHELL

Sun., April. 5- Palm Sunday

Communion

Briarleaf- 2:30 pm

Thurs., April 9- Maundy Thurs.- 7 pm

Sun., April 12- Easter Sunday- He Is Risen!

Mon., April 13- Scout Leadership Mtg.- 7 pm

Tues., April 14- Men's Lunch at Pho- noon

Sun., April 26- Jazz Vespers



Events listed in the newsletter are subject to change based on guidelines pertaining to the coronavirus. Decisions will be made on March 30 regarding Easter activities. You will be notified by e-mail or you can call the church office.

Articles for the May newsletter should be sent to Cathy Price at cathyprice2@verizon.net and Sue Wulf at slswulf@comcast.net by Wednesday, April 15. Thanks!



PRAYING HANDS

Here is a list of those who cannot attend services and would benefit from receiving cards. We encourage you all to reach out to these people by sending them a card.

Card List for April

Pearl Howard - c/o Future Care Chesapeake,
Room 208, 305 College Parkway,
Arnold, MD 21012

Jim & Sally Seeton- 1850 Lower Mountain
Road West, Furlong, PA 18925

CONTACT US!

Dr. Robert Fogal, Pastor

- Tues. & Fri.: Office- 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and by
appointment

Cell: 610.945.4955

Email: bobfogal31@gmail.com

Chris Ochadlick, Office Administrator

- Tuesday and Friday: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Catherine Halper, Church School Supt.

Cell: 215.285.0670

Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com

Website: www.carversvilleucc.org

Church Phone: 215.297.5166

YES THERE IS FEAR...

Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But is blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the
housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading
fliers with her number through the neighborhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter
the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and
reflecting.
All over the world people are looking at their
neighbors in a new way.
All over the world people are waking up to a new
reality.
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.
To **Love**.

So we pray and we remember that,
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes, there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the
soul.
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of **love**.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live
now.

Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.
The birds are singing again!
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by **Love!**

Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able to touch across
the empty square,
Sing.

By Richard Hendrick

CUCC FAITH FORMATION

LAUDATO SI:¹ PRAISE BE TO YOU

*"Praise be to you, my Lord,
through our Sister, Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit
with colored flowers and herbs."²*

Francis of Assisi

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues. This year Earth Day is on Wednesday, April 22—the holiday's 50th anniversary.

For those of us old enough to remember, Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller "*Silent Spring*" raised the specter of the dangerous effects of pesticides on the American countryside. Later in the decade, a 1969 fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River shed light on the problem of chemical waste disposal. Until that time, protecting the planet's natural resources were assumed to be anyone's for the taking and recycling was not a thing.

On April 22, 1970, rallies were held in most American cities. The Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act were all passed during the 70s. The Environmental Protection Agency was created to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment—air, water and land.

Pope Francis's 2015 environmental encyclical "*Laudato Si*" has been welcomed by many environmental organizations of different faiths – the Pope envisions the "real problem" as the fact

¹ The title of Pope Francis' 2015 environmental encyclical is a phrase from Francis of Assisi's 13th-century "Canticle of the Sun" (also called the Canticle of the Creatures), a poem and prayer in which God is praised for the creation of the different creatures and aspects of the Earth.

² Canticle of the Creatures, in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol. 1, New York-London-Manila, 1999, 113-114.

that we no longer view God as the Creator, therefore, we see "*other living beings as mere objects subjected to arbitrary human domination*" and do not realize that "*the ultimate purpose of other creatures is not found in us.*"

He observes that everything is interconnected and that all of creation is a "*kind of universal family.*" Our social and environmental crises are thus one complex crisis that must be solved holistically.

"Let the sea resound & everything in it, the world, & all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy" Ps 98:7-8

The UCC Environmental Ministry envisions Solidarity³ with those who are experiencing environmental injustice as one form that love takes. One of the notable successes of the Standing Rock Movement is the powerful tactic of divesting from banks that fund pipelines.

An effort that began with opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline has now spread as leading organizations like Honor the Earth, the Sierra Club, and 350.org push for divestment from banks funding other pipelines. Several online resources have emerged to help individual investors divest. One is called Breaking up with Your Mega-Bank⁴.

Let's celebrate Easter 2020 by doing one thing to renew our faith, in love for our universal family.

FAITH FORMATION STORIES & READINGS

DATE

LENT

04/05/20 Matthew 21:1-11: *Donkey Ride*

EASTER

04/12/20 Col.3:1-4: *Seated at God's Right Hand*

04/19/20 1 Peter 1:3-9: *A New Birth*

04/26/20 1 Peter 1:17-23: *Born Anew*

05/03/20 John 10:1-10: *Enter by the Gate*

³ https://www.ucc.org/ucc_stand_with_standing_rock

⁴ <https://www.greenamerica.org/find-a-better-bank>