

# Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



April 2022

WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU HERE.

## THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL

APRIL 2022

from Pastor Fogal

There are 110 holidays in April (according to [www.calendar.com](http://www.calendar.com)). Saturday, April 23, has the largest number with nine, including Lovers' Day (perhaps to balance National Ex-Spouse Day on April 14<sup>th</sup>), National Take a Chance Day and National Picnic Day.

Other notable days include National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, observed on the same day as National Reconciliation Day. That makes sense—who can stay angry with

someone who shares a PB&J sandwich with you?

Major religious holidays are also all in April this year.

Islam observes Ramadan as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community, commemorating Muhammad's first revelation. This year, Ramadan lasts all thirty days of April. Muslims will not eat or drink anything after sunup or before sundown. (Exceptions from the fast include infants, the seriously ill and the aged.)

Judaism holds Passover on April 15-23 this year, commemorating the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Integral to the exodus story were the various plagues imposed on the Egyptians by Yahweh. The

tenth (and last) plague called for the death of the first born in every family.

According to the book of Exodus, God commanded Moses to tell the Israelites make a mark in lamb's blood above their doors in order that the Angel of Death will "pass over" them (i.e., that they will not be touched by the death of the firstborn). When the deaths of the firstborn occurred among the Egyptians, including the Pharaoh's first son, he ordered the Israelites to leave, taking with them whatever they wanted.

We celebrate Easter on April 17 this year. For people of faith, Easter memorializes Jesus' resurrection from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion. Easter is clearly the highest and most holy day of the Christian calendar.

In our country, Easter has historically been both a Christian festival and a cultural holiday. The cultural aspect has become quite diminished in recent years. Fewer and fewer people participate in the secular activities of earlier decades.

This isn't the case in Europe, where Easter-related festivities fill streets, squares, and stores. Outside of church, it means feasting, candy, games, and the Easter Bunny! (See "Easter Customs in Europe" on page 8.)

So what does Easter mean for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?<sup>1</sup> The imminent arrival of Good Friday and Easter is a good time to both recall some facts easily overlooked and then reflect upon what they might mean. The facts fall into four categories.

#1. The economic, social and political situation in Galilee was one in which the rich and powerful, be they Romans, priests of the temple, or landowners, oppressed the poor, constantly demanding more in taxes and in crop share.

Into this situation came Jesus with his disciples, living and teaching an egalitarian community for all. His followers included women and men, slaves were non-existent, and the group shared whatever resources they possessed, quite the opposite of and challenge to current social norms. However seemingly insignificant the movement may have been, it posed a threat to the establishment, and so Jesus was crucified and the disciples were persecuted.

#2. The Romans practiced crucifixion for about 500 years, often with thousands of victims at a time. The total number over that long a period is unimaginable, but huge as it must be, there is only one instance of an intact buried, crucified skeleton. The inescapable conclusion is that the tormented bodies were left to scavenging animals or thrown into mass graves. Denial of proper burial was part of the punishment, and Pontius Pilate was not the type of person to have pity and do things any differently.

#3. The New Testament writings called Matthew and Luke share a great deal of material. They both use the earlier writing by Mark to provide the structure of their gospels, and additionally they both contain verses so similar, if not identical, that the consensus is that they had before them another source common in the early church. Scholars call this source Q, from the German word Quelle.

The fact that Matthew and Luke include Q in their story about Jesus means that it was a reputable source and that the community that produced it was a reputable and acceptable group of disciples. Remarkably, the Q source has no reference to the death and resurrection of Jesus. So what we have is an early community of disciples of Jesus who either knew nothing of the last days of their leader and teacher or for whom those days did not matter. Furthermore, their testimony was willingly accepted, integrated with,

and placed equally alongside the gospel of Mark.

#4. As the 1st century progressed and thoughts about Jesus proliferated and spread, at least two lines of thought can be found in the Writings. One continues the egalitarianism of Jesus and is found in two places. First, the book named after James, who was leader of the Jerusalem church and likely the brother of Jesus. Second, Paul, who wrote that “in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.” In other words, all are equal.

The other line of thought represents a return to the normative oppressive social structure that Jesus had tried to overcome and replace. Its starkest expression is the book of Timothy, but is also found in many other late writings of the developing church. This line of thinking subordinated women, required slaves to be obedient, and commanded everyone to obey the authorities who, of course, represented the financial interests of the dominant rich and powerful.

So much for the facts, but how do we put them together? There are many different perspectives, and what follows is one possible scenario.

It was during his life that Jesus impacted many who then became his followers, some of whom stayed with him while others moved on. How and why he had such a profound influence are questions for another day, but the short answer is that he presented to them both an image of what human, loving life was, and also an image of a God separate from and independent of the constrictions of temple religiosity.

These concepts of loving humanity and loving divinity inspired and infused both groups of disciples. For those who stayed with Jesus, even though he had suffered the

most horrible death imaginable, those disciples felt him to be alive in their midst as they continued the community he had created. It was a mystery beyond understanding and comprehension, but for them a certainty nonetheless. Jesus had lived, died, and now lives again.

They were convinced that the evil and death manifest on the cross was not the final word, that cosmic Love overcomes evil and death, and that ultimately everything returns to God who makes all things right. For those who moved on, such as the Q community, knowing nothing of the death of Jesus, they also were certain that he was still with them even as they traveled, a spiritual presence that continued to convince them that Love is the underlying essence of the cosmos.

In the attempt to illuminate this certainty and this mystery, there evolved from the group who stayed with Jesus images of an empty tomb and stories of appearances to the disciples, neither intended to be taken literally, but intended rather as tools to help others understand the mystery.

Unfortunately, as time passed and new generations joined the nascent church, the images became identified with the thing itself, and resurrection came to mean resuscitation rather than renewal on a cosmic scale. And the revolution called for in Jesus’ proclamation that the equitable Kingdom of God was at hand, succumbed to the old way of patronage and patriarchy, the shift in thinking no doubt encouraged by the vested interests of the wealthy.

Resuscitation and the power structure we find in Timothy go hand in hand as they push aside and replace the initial gospel story.

Even as we consider all the facts, the basic story that emerges is quite simple. The dis

ciples were re-born while they lived with Jesus, and his death neither deterred nor discouraged them. Instead, they turned to one another and embraced, fully aware in their hearts that he was not only still with them, but also that the newness he embodied embraced the universe. This was the bedrock of their faith and forms the foundation for the day we call Easter.

<sup>1</sup> The following paragraphs of "Thoughts for the Soul" come from the theologian Rev. Dr. Carl Krieg, downloaded from <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/understanding-easter/>.



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

from Jan Heebner

We have been journeying through Lent extinguishing a candle on the Lenten wreath each week. It is now time to join the excited and joyful crowds on Palm Sunday (April 10) as we all hail Jesus and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Then on Maundy Thursday, April 14, each of us is invited to share in the Last Supper just as Jesus' disciples did, totally unaware of what was to transpire the following day. Please join

us in our sanctuary at 6 p.m. to worship and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Good Friday and the crucifixion follow. We will not be holding a service then.

We look forward with anticipation to the celebration of the resurrection of Christ on Sunday, April 17, at our 10 a.m. worship service.

Please join us as we sing "*Christ the Lord is risen again, Alleluia!*"



## COMMUNION

Our Communion service will be held on April 3. If you are participating from home, be sure to have the elements ready prior to the service.



## WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

from Sue Wulf

Our next book will be *Defying Jihad* by Esther Ahmad and Craig Borlase. We'll meet at Sue Wulf's home on Monday, April 11, at 9:15 am to share our thoughts on the book! Come join us- even if you haven't read the book!



### WITH SYMPATHY

Rosalie Radcliffe passed away on February 18, 2022. Her parents, Dora and Byron “Barney” Radcliffe and the children lived on Carversville Road. They were all active in the life of our church. Rosalie had lived in North Carolina for many years.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Jim and Mary Radcliffe and Frank and Audrey (Radcliffe) Taylor. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Chris and Paul Ochadlick. Paul's brother, Andrew, passed away on March 15. He and his family resided across from Chris and Paul on Tollgate Road. Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you remember Andrew.



### THINK TANK

Save Sunday, April 24, 2022 (immediately following church) for a” think tank” discussion. We want everyone’s ideas for fund raisers.....good, bad or even silly. Who knows what can come from a “silly” or “bad” idea!

We’ll also discuss whether or not we will go forward with the Pork & Oyster Dinner and the Food Festival.

We need more than a handful of people to make this work. So, please consider joining us. There could be doughnuts! If you can’t attend and you have an idea, please send it to Cathy Price at: [cathyprice2@verizon.net](mailto:cathyprice2@verizon.net) before April 24.

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Articles for the May newsletter should be sent to Cathy Price at [cathyprice2@verizon.net](mailto:cathyprice2@verizon.net) and Sue Wulf at [slswulf@comcast.net](mailto:slswulf@comcast.net) by Friday, April 15- Tax Day. Thanks!

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*“Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life.”*

- S.D. Gordon



**CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST**

**TO SPONSOR**

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING AND CHILDREN'S  
BOOK & PUZZLE DRIVE**

**TO BENEFIT A WOMAN'S PLACE**

from Barbara Burger

A Woman's Place (AWP) in Doylestown is an organization that since 1976 has offered free, private, and confidential services to survivors of domestic violence and their children. A full list of services and programs provided by AWP can be found on their website at [info@awomansplace.org](mailto:info@awomansplace.org).

**WOMEN'S SUMMER AND FALL CLOTHING  
DRIVE**

**AND**

**CHILDREN'S NEW BOOKS & PUZZLES**

**(PLEASE NOTE- ONLY CHILDREN'S NEW  
BOOKS & PUZZLES CAN BE ACCEPTED!)**

**May 15th through June 12th**

**Collection site: Carversville United  
Church of Christ**

**Collection Tent in the church parking lot  
is provided by Boy Scout Troop 64**

**CLOTHING DONATIONS MUST BE  
BAGGED AND PLACED INSIDE TENT.**

**Books and puzzles should be placed in  
the waterproof bin next to the tent.**

**Donations will be delivered to In Full  
Swing weekly.**

"In Full Swing", a thrift store at 225 West State St in Doylestown, provides funds to support the work of A Woman's Place. **100% of In Full Swing proceeds go directly to A Woman's Place.** Store inventory offers donated clothing and accessories for men, women and children. In addition there is an assortment of **new** books and puzzles (must be sealed) for sale and available at no cost to children staying with AWP clients in emergency shelter.

**Clients of A Woman's Place and their  
families can shop for free at the store.**



**TROOP 64 NEWS**

The Troop is trying out a new fundraiser for High Adventure Camps. We have a group going to Summit High Adventure in West Virginia this July and a group going to Sea Base in Florida in July, 2023. These adventure camps are more costly than our regular summer camp so we're giving the Scouts an opportunity to fundraise specifically for these trips by selling flowers for Mother's Day. Forms are available by the collection plate.

**Orders are due by April 20.**

Let's support our Scouts!



## PRAYING HANDS

Here is a list of those who would benefit from receiving cards. We encourage you all to reach out to these people as it will mean a lot.

### 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  
Gordon Keckeissen- 555 N. Broad St.,  
#508A, Doylestown, PA 18901  
Jack King- 503 Windrush Bay Dr., Tarpon  
Springs, FL 34689

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 20 ANNUAL MEETING

In case you missed CUCC's March 20 Annual Meeting, here are some items we covered. If you need more information contact either Sue Wulf or Cathy Price.

-New CUCC sign should be erected by June and Scouts will do landscaping around sign

-Budget: \$9,000 higher for 2022 than last year; approved

-Fuel oil expense increases: we have a budget payment plan

-Nominating Committee report: motion passed to disregard 3 year term limits;  
installation of officers on March 27  
list of officers will be published in the 2022 directory (out shortly)

-Brainstorming session on April 24 to collect ideas to help CUCC get back on its feet (See Think Tank article in this newsletter)

-Clothing drive to support A Woman's Place (See article in this newsletter.)

-Proposal for a unilateral governing board to replace Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees in future

### CONTACT US!

Rev. Robert E. Fogal, Ph.D., Pastor  
- Tues. & Thurs.: Office- 9:00 AM-1:00 PM  
and by appointment  
Cell: 610.945.4955  
Email: [pastorfogal@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfogal@gmail.com)

Chris Ochadlick, Office Administrator  
- Tues. & Thurs.: Office- 9 AM-1:00 PM

Email: [carversvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:carversvilleucc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.carversvilleucc.org](http://www.carversvilleucc.org)  
Church Phone: 215.297.5166



## Easter Customs in Europe

(Courtesy of PBS travel guru Rick Steves\*)

In Spain, Easter begins in earnest with Holy Week, the seven days leading up to Easter Sunday. *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) processions clog the streets.

In Britain, Holy Week heralds the arrival of the Morris Dancers. Men in black and white clothes—with straw hats, red sashes, ribbons, and bells on their ankles—dance in the streets to chase away winter. They also chase young women, hitting them with an inflated pig bladder on a stick to summon good luck.

Easter markets in Prague sell traditional foods and crafts, including hand-painted eggs personalized with your name. From Thursday through Saturday, boys go door to door, shaking rattles to scare off the betrayer, Judas. People give them money in return. Throughout the week, girls paint eggs and boys braid pussy-willow-twig whips.

On the morning after Easter, the boys go from house to house, bonking the girls with their whips to grant them good health. In return, the girls give them hand-painted eggs, and for the grown-ups, shots of alcohol. Later that afternoon, the girls splash buckets of cold water on any boys who arrive late, and vow to not speak to those who haven't shown up at all.

On Easter all over Europe, people gather in their Sunday best for the biggest church services of the year. London holds an Easter parade in Battersea Park, and ladies get decked out in fancy handmade bonnets, decorated with ribbons and flowers.

Florence's Scoppio del Carro is one of Europe's grandest Easter spectacles. During Mass in the Duomo, a mechanical dove is sent flying from the altar along a wire. It soars out the doors and into the main square to a centuries-old, two-story, ox-drawn cart. Upon arrival it triggers a magnificent fireworks display—like a time-release booby-trap left over from the city's *Carnevale* (pre-Lent) celebrations.

play—like a time-release booby-trap left over from the city's *Carnevale* (pre-Lent) celebrations.

Greece traditionally celebrates Easter a week or two later than the West (since Eastern Orthodox churches use a different calendar). The seaside village of Kardamyli takes its celebration very seriously: On Good Friday, a processional passes through town and the priest blesses each house. At midnight on Holy Saturday, townspeople turn off their lights and come to the main square. The priest emerges from the church with a candle and spreads light through the candle-carrying crowd, who then take the light home with them. Gradually the entire town is illuminated, and the fireworks begin.

Many Europeans celebrate Easter with candy, chocolate eggs (Cadbury Creme Eggs in Britain), gifts, and the Easter Bunny. The English host Easter-egg hunts; other countries hold egg-rolling and egg-tossing contests. Germans hang hollowed-out, decorated eggs from trees and bushes (or on special contraptions called "Easter trees").

In France, it's not about bunnies, but bells. The Flying Bells, having left on Good Friday to magically fly to the Pope to drop off everyone's misery over the crucifixion, return on Easter morning with joy and chocolate and eggs. Kids wake to find decorated eggs in their bedrooms and in nests they've placed outside.

Easter day culminates with a big meal, in which friends and family gather to gorge on meats and sweets. The Brits cook up ham, the Danes eat herring, and the French and Italians serve up lamb. In Greece, people sleep till noon, then rise for the big goat-on-a-spit family lunch. Rather than a big fat Greek wedding, it's a big fat Greek Easter family party.\*<https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/read/articles/easter-in-europe>