



# CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER HERSHEY PA

A Monthly Update in the of Life our Church

## Contact

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### From our Pastor....

**“Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”**

That passage from the 43rd chapter of Isaiah, my favorite prophet in the Bible, always speaks vividly and poignantly to me. “Behold!” God is saying. “Pay attention, I am doing something amazing. Have you not noticed?”

We seldom think of life’s journey as a physical wilderness or tangible wasteland. Those references - written in an era of vast undeveloped and uninhabited lands, oceans and lakes - were the realities of the ancient world.

But today we face spiritual, emotional or even financial wildernesses just as daunting. Have you never felt lost in ways that no map, compass or GPS device could fathom? Perhaps more seems lost in life than found some days? Or right as you read this?

The movie “Mary Poppins Returns” features a hopeful ode to all things lost called “The Place Where Lost Things Go.” The Oscar-nominated song acknowledges that we all grieve many lost things. But if we can also cherish memories of things lost, I wonder, can they direct us toward hope and comfort?

Here at Church of the Redeemer - Hershey, we believe that holding God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit close to our hearts offers hope and softens despair. Perhaps you say angels, higher power, the Great Spirit or the universe in your prayers, meditations or conversations. I consider myself spiritual and religious.

We can’t promise to solve your problems, banish your grief or eliminate all of your suffering. We can promise to listen to you respectfully and meet you where you are in life. We welcome visitors as gifts to us! Please call me, email me or join us for Sunday worship at 9:15 AM. Trust that you are reading these words for a reason!

*Blessings,*  
Pastor Tom

# 2019 Holy Week Schedule

Redeemer will begin Holy Week on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> with our **PALM SUNDAY SERVICE** beginning at 9:15 am.



**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES** will be held at Redeemer in partnership with Hummelstown UCC Church and will begin at 7pm, followed by our **PRAYER VIGIL** from 8:30 to midnight.

The **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** and Meal will be held on 4/18 beginning at 7pm. Members and Guests are asked to sign up in advance for the meal by contacting the church office by Monday 4/15. Communion will be celebrated as part of the service.

Members (individuals and families!) are encouraged to sign up for 30-minute slots in the Prayer Vigil Schedule. Contact the church office for information on available time-slots. If you have not participated in the past, please consider doing so!



**JOIN US**, family and friends, to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on **EASTER SUNDAY!** Services begin at 9:15 am. Communion will be celebrated.

Members who have honored loved ones with the purchase of flowers will be able to retrieve their flowers at the end of the service. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary for Easter!

## Leadership Team Adopting Oversight Model

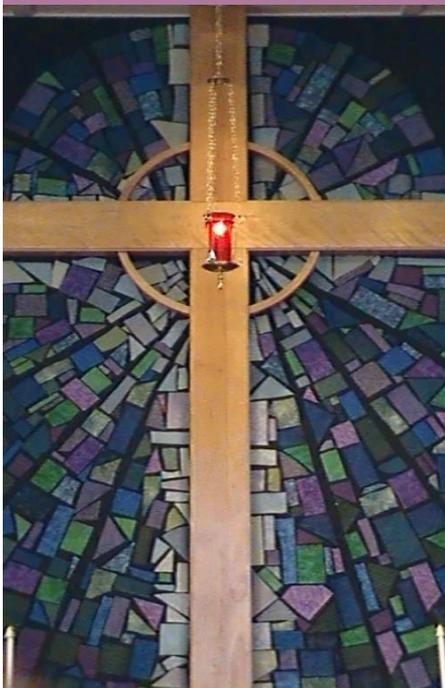
A vital interim task for churches in transition is adopting a leadership style and structure that best helps it fulfill its mission and ministry. The traditional committee model for operations no longer serves churches - even large ones - well. With guidance from the interim pastor, the Leadership Team is adopting an "Oversight Model" where Leadership Team members function as a "resource center and switchboard" for seven elements of church life. Some areas have overlapping functions.

Areas and LT Member responsible for them include:

1. Worship and Music – Kim Merkert & Judith DeChamplain
2. Building Maintenance and Use – Dave Stong & Bill Baker
3. Community Outreach – Bev Patton & Bill Baker
4. Finance – Jonathan Bell & Dave Stong
5. Staff – Dave Stong and Kim Merkert
6. Technology – Tom Bell and Jonathan Bell
7. Pastoral Care and Visitation – Judith DeChamplain & Bill Baker

The Oversight Model is task-driven vs. committee-driven. Ideas about a church fund-raising dinner, for example, should be routed to Finance Oversight folks. Rather than tackle the dinner themselves, Finance Oversight folks would find volunteers to help them. The volunteers' obligations end when the project does. That means folks in the seven areas could focus on their germane issues, projects and challenges vs. the whole LT collectively tackling everything or struggling to delegate tasks.

Reports from Oversight Teams will be provided as activities develop. For more information on Teams, please feel free to reach out to our Leadership members!



Articles for **CONTACT** are requested by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please reach out to Jorja in the church office for more information by calling 717-533-7300 or email at [info@redeemerchurchucc.org](mailto:info@redeemerchurchucc.org).  
**Thank you!**



Kate Good, Executive Director of the Parish Resource Center, joined the March Leadership Team Meeting to provide information on the benefits of membership with this organization. This 85 member-based organization provides an array of services including workshops for church leaders and members, financial guidance, and social media development and coordination to name a few. Leadership voted to approve membership for one year. Workshop schedules and other opportunities will be shared as available.

## UPDATE ON INTERIUM JOURNEY

*from Dave Stong*

Pastor Tom, myself and the LT, our new secretary Jorja, and a few volunteers have been making great progress as we continue through the interim journey. A major goal has been to improve, streamline, and organize church "governance", the term for how the church organizes, communicates and functions with a half-time pastoral position and part-time secretary.

Here are some of the more recent accomplishments and goals:

- George Kapp has resurrected our Facebook page and created a Website
- Tom Bell and Jorja have helped to revive our weekly use of projected slides in worship.
- Pastor Tom and Jorja have identified online sites where Redeemer can find copyright-protected material for bulletins, slides and online content. Jorja, in consultation with the Music Director, is making sure we are properly using music in church and online.
- All church documents, notes and emails will eventually be stored online in digital form.
- Pastor Judith has taken over organizing and implementing our communion schedule.
- Jorja is creating an electronic calendar initially accessible to LT members and then others; resolving how to handle future newsletters; posting communion schedules and Sunday sign-up lists online, trimming office costs and increasing efficiencies.
- Pastor Tom and Jorja have scheduled two "ministry trips" for Redeemer folks in May to other churches to plan, organize and implement worship services.
- Pastor Tom, Dave and Jorja have identified conference workshops to help Redeemer move ahead. The first was growing churches through small groups on March 30.
- Along those same lines, the LT voted March 21 to enroll Redeemer as a member of the Parish Resource Center, a Lancaster based non-profit that provides training, software, financial guidance, office support and other services to churches.
- LT is also reviewing the Church's membership rolls and updating contacts and mailing lists.
- Dave scheduled regular followup with Pastor Tom and Jorja
- Dave is chairing a second set of LT "mini-meetings" monthly after worship

*Did you know* that you can read copies of Pastor Tom's sermons online?!

Just visit our website homepage at [www.redeemerchurchucc.org](http://www.redeemerchurchucc.org) and click on the link to sermons!

## Leadership Plans Worship Visits

In an effort to learn more about how other churches plan and implement worship services, members of the Leadership Team will visit two churches in May. Visits include the Market Square Presbyterian Church Alternative Worship Service at 6:00 PM on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and Church of the Good Shepherd UMC, Lebanon, on May 19<sup>th</sup> for their alternative and traditional services at 9:50AM and 11:00AM. Each visit will be followed by a light meal and a meeting with church leaders. Redeemer Members who have interest in these visits are also encouraged to join us! Please contact Pastor Tom or Jorja for more details!





### **Prayers of Concern and Healing for:**

*Kim Merket* for continued healing from her fall

*Terry Kostoff* who is facing treatment for liver cancer

*Tyrell Johnson, Logan Wilson, E. Thomas Wojdylak* for continued healing

*Sara Johnston* as she pursues medical options

*The Rev. India Garnett* as she undergoes treatment for cancer

### **Prayers of Support for:**

Prayers for *members of Colonial Park UCC/Harrisburg* as they ponder how to revitalize and publicize the church's Charging Station worship

A safe and smooth move for *The Rev. Susan Fairo*

**Prayers for the Larger Community:** For those who serve and protect; for those in government who make decision that affect our world, our country, our commonwealth, and our communities.

## April Redeemer Celebrations

### **Birthdays... Have a happy one!**

- Nathan Davis 4/1
- Barry Mongold 4/6
- Adrienne Bell 4/12
- Chelsea Reihl 4/20

### **Anniversaries... Congratulations!**

- Dave & Jan Stong 4/12
- Mr & Mrs. Henry Wagner 4/15
- Tom & Adrienne Bell 4/18
- Gerald & Lana Worley 4/19
- George & Nancy Kapp 4/28

## Redeemer Supporting Its Community

We are a Church with open walls, and we welcome groups who use our facilities to hold their meetings. Through our doors each and every week pass countless numbers of individuals, many of whom make a special point to compliment and thoughtfully thank Redeemer for allowing them the opportunity to congregate here. We are proud to be a host for these groups and a hub for such good work!

Groups include the following organizations:

- **AA KISS Group** who meets Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, & Sunday
- **AA Nooner Group** (the largest long standing AA group in our area!) who meets Monday through Friday
- **AA Sunrise Saturday Group** who meets on Saturday mornings bright and early!
- **Overeaters Anonymous** who meet on Monday evenings.
- **International Pharmacists Anonymous** who meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.
- **Voices of Palmyra**, a wonderful local choir led by Mike Wojdylak our Minister of Music.
- And warm welcome to **FARA (Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous)** who joined us in April and meets on Tuesday mornings.



Hosting these organizations each and every day of the week also allows us to introduce our Church and extend a warm invitation to join in worship with us. Pastor Tom will be reaching out to each group in the near future in order to personally extend that invitation to learn more about our Redeemer Family.

# April



CHURCH OF THE  
**REDEEMER**  
HERSHEY PA

# 2019

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[info@redeemerchurchucc.org](mailto:info@redeemerchurchucc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12 pm AA 7:30 PM OA	2 9:00 FARA 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM VOP	3 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 6:45 PM Choir	4 12 PM AA 12 PM FP	5 12 PM AA	6 7:00 AM AA 12 PM AA
7 9:15 AM Worship Profile Task Force – Following Worship 12:30 PM Piano Recital 3 PM AA	8 12 PM AA 7L30 PM OA	9 9 AM FARA 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 7PM VOP	10 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 6:45 PM Choir	11 12 PM AA 12 PM FP 7PM Leadership Team	12 12 PM AA	13 7:00 AM AA 12 PM AA
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:15 AM Worship LT Mini Meeting (after worship) 3PM AA 6:30 IOP	15 12 PM AA 7L30 PM OA	16 9 AM FARA 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 7PM VOP	17 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 6:45 PM Choir	18 12 PM AA 12 PM FP 7 PM <b>Maundy Thurs Services</b> (Communion)	19 12 PM AA <b>Good Friday</b> 7:00 Worship 8:30-12 PM Prayer Vigil	20 7:00 AM AA 11 AM Easter Flower Delivery 12 PM AA
21 <b>HE IS RISEN! EASTER</b> 9:15 AM Worship (Communion)	22 <b>Earth Day!</b> 12 PM AA 7:30 PM OA	23 9 AM FARA 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 7PM VOP	24 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 6:45 PM Choir	25 12 PM AA 12 PM FP	26 12 PM AA	27 7:00 AM AA 12 PM AA
28 9:15 AM Worship 3 PM AA	29 12 PM AA 7L30 PM OA	30 9 AM FARA 12 PM AA 6:30 PM AA 7PM VOP				

*Join us for Holy Week Services!*

# Volunteer!

*Worship Helpers! We need YOU!*

Assisting with worship is a service that all Redeemer members are encouraged to do! Sign-up sheets are located at the rear of the sanctuary if you would like to assist with any of the following duties (or you can call the church office and we can add you to the list of helpers!).

Duties include:

**Altar Guild** - Preparing altar flowers for the service, distribution afterward (putting silk flowers away if they have been used), dismantling the altar candles and covering the altar for the week. You might also be called upon to help arrange Easter or Christmas plants, water, etc.

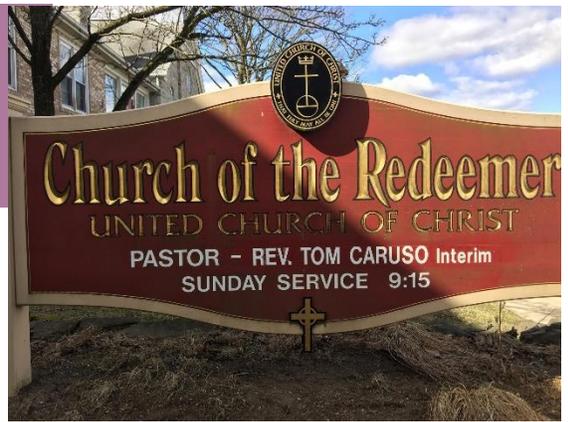
**Greeter** – Provide a warm welcome to worshippers as they arrive, offering information to visitors about location of restrooms, introductions to other members, etc.

**Usher** – Greets worshippers in the sanctuary and distributes bulletins; provides assistance to pews if need be; assists with offering collection

**Lector** – Assists in worship by reading scripture passages.

**Counter** – On Monday mornings, this individual works with Jorja to count the offering, sort money and process the bank deposit. The counter will also be responsible to safely secure the offering on the Sunday PRIOR to counting.

**Technology Assistance** – Worship services now include visual representations projected on the overhead screens. This individual will assist Tom Bell with set up and during worship as needed.



## ***In The Next CONTACT..***

- History of our Labyrinth Garden
- Leadership Team Updates
- Message from Pastor Tom
- Profile Taskforce Update
- Redeemer Member Spotlight
- **Save the Dates** - Annual Church Grounds Clean-up May 18<sup>th</sup> & Mim's Pond Dedication June 2

**Contact us at 717-533-7300 or email @ [info@redeemerchurchucc.org](mailto:info@redeemerchurchucc.org)**

**Be sure to visit us on Facebook page and our website at [www.redeemerchurchucc.org](http://www.redeemerchurchucc.org) !**



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