FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

April 2025 (V15-4)

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YA newsletter Calendar

We are gathered together as a family of faith to share God's love by: Inviting and welcoming all people of God's creation. Worshiping and praising God. Teaching and preaching the Good News. Caring for the needs of one another, the community, and the world.

April 2025 Newscaster

Blindsided by Easter

She did not know that it was Jesus. -- John 20:14b

When Jesus journeyed with his followers to Jerusalem for the last time, he kept foretelling that he would suffer, be rejected, and be killed. His followers didn't want to hear the news that the evil of the empire would assert itself, or about Jesus being brutalized, or the fragility of his body, and or his dying an untimely death. They didn't want to hear this news, until they could not avoid it when Jesus was arrested in the garden in the middle of the night by authorities who didn't want their identities known to the public. Then they were in the maelstrom. Things quickly went from bad to worse, from terrible to traumatizing.

Jesus was gone. God seemed helpless and distant. They could never get back to their relationships with Jesus, the enlivening excitement of his ministry, the sweet naivete of unstoppable progress in his name. All they could do was grieve.

But on the third day, when they went to offer their rituals of mourning, they found the tomb was empty. It didn't make sense. Even when the risen Christ showed up, somehow he was different enough that Mary didn't not recognize him. To one degree or another, all of Jesus' followers were blindsided by that first Easter.

Jesus is alive? How could it be? God loving presence is close and personal? How can it be?

We too may be blindsided by Easter. After six weeks of Lent, when we have been reminded that we are finite and fragile, incomplete

and unfinished, when we are all too aware that we do the hurt we should not, and don't do the good we should, how can that be that Jesus is now alive?

We also may be blindsided by Easter by the heightened awareness that our institutions are finite and fragile, that our leaders are cruel and hard-hearted. It's so frightening we may not only close our eyes to the desolating daily news, but to the reality of the living Christ. How can that be? We didn't see him!

If we are blindsided by Easter, let us daily give ourselves time and permission to listen for God's heart of love beating at the center of our own lives, and God's Spirit breathing life and peace into us. Let us daily give ourselves time to sing a song of life-giving love with our neighbors. The love we hear can become the interdependent love, grace, and mercy we see, even in this unjust and fragile world.

So let us proclaim with hope and faith: Christ is risen!

Peace, Pastor Dave



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Worship Helpers, April 2025

Date	Acolyte	Streaming; Sound	PowerPoint Projection	Read Scripture	Greeter	Head Usher	Communion Preparation
Apr 6	Holden G.	Chip H. Terry M.	Holden G.	Pat J.		Kathy S.	na
Apr 13	Emily H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Luke M.	Sally K.		Kathy S.	Bonnie M.
Apr 18		Chip H. Terry M		Bonnie M.		Kathy S.	na
Apr 20	Grant H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Josh B.	Luke M.		Kathy S.	na
Apr 27	Josh B.	Chip H. Terry M.	Josh B.	Jen M.		Kathy S.	na

Events & Announcements

Food Pantry Shopping Cart requested for this month: Jello, Pudding and Peanut Butter

<u>The need is great!</u> We will again be putting together Church World Service hygiene kits this year on Easter Sunday morning. No need to shop! All items are purchased in bulk ahead of time. Simply take a tag or two from the little tree in the narthex and return in a special offering envelope with the cash or check payable to St. Paul's UCC by Sunday, April 6th. Thank you in advance for your support!

<u>Spring Grove hygiene kits</u>: We need 20 bottles of shampoo (16 to 20oz), 45 individual toothbrushes, and 25 pk. of Kleenex for the hygiene kits for Spring Grove students. Please have them at the church by Sunday, April 27. Thank you, Maryann

Save the date! Saturday, June 7th 11am – 4pm St. Paul's UCC Block Party 2025

There is no better way to get together and meet your neighbors than to have a block party. a day to renew our neighborhood awareness, exchange greetings, and to celebrate the importance of neighborhood relationships, while opening the doors to St. Paul's UCC.

Plans are moving along to hold another block party this spring that will be much the same, but better, as last year. We've invited several local groups/vendors to be part of the day and are hoping for everyone to participate as able in welcoming our friends and neighbors to this community event.

Sunday Morning Intergenerational Faith Discussions

Join us at 9:00 am on Sundays to reflect on the fundamentals of our faith.

We'll be using a video-based resource called Animate Bible and Animate Practices. It's a resource designed to put you on the edge of your seats. Come and join the conversation!

Grace | Love Is the Bottom Line | Jay Bakker (April 6 & 13)

(Easter, April 20, we will have special activities as described below)

Prayer | Oriented Toward God | Brian McLaren (April 27 & May 4)

Food | Eating, With Jesus | Sara Miles (May 11 & 18)

Worship | Seeking God's Presence | Mike Slaughter (May 25 & June 1)

Shared Mid-week Meals and Lenten Worship: Reflecting on the Psalms

For the second year, seven churches in the Spring Grove area, Bethlehem UMC, St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Paul's UCC, St. Peter's Lischey's, Trinity Lutheran, Trinity Roth's UCC, and Zeigler's Lutheran will be hosting Soup Suppers and worship on mid-week during Lent. On Ash Wednesday, and each Wednesday thereafter through April 9, and on Maundy Thursday, one of these congregations will be hosting a soup supper beginning at 6:00 pm. (Note that the first disciples did not eat on Good Friday. A soup supper won't be served that day.) On those days on which there is a joint choir, an open rehearsal before worship for anyone who would like to sing will be scheduled. Worship services will begin at 7:00 pm. The pastor of the host congregation will also host the worship service, along with a guest preacher. Our theme, based on a book by the same title, is *Pause: Spending Lent in the Psalms.* Offerings for the purpose of helping those in our area in need will be determined by each hosting congregation. Below, please find the schedule.

Date	Host Church	Focus Psalm	Preacher	Joint choir?
Wednesday, April 2	St. Paul's Lutheran (Stoverstown)	Psalm 23: Tables	Rev. Matt Folkemer- Leonard	
Wednesday, April 9	Trinity Roth's UCC (Spring Grove)	Psalm 130: Waiting	Rev. Larry Smith	
Maundy Thursday, April 17	Bethlehem UMC (Jefferson)	Psalm 116: Listening	Rev. Jean Ward	Yes
Good Friday, April 18	St. Paul's UCC (Stoverstown)	Psalm 22: Being Alone	Pastor Ron Heagy	Yes

Upcoming Fellowship Events

April 6 First Sunday of the month fellowship and recognizing April birthdays will be held after our 10:15 am worship service.

April 20 Easter morning (details on next page)

Our April Birthdays

Our April birthdays include the following: Scott Young (1), Christina Loesch (6), Robert Dubbs Jr. (7), Blaine Smith (11), Zoe Stover (16), Karen Brooks (16), Johnny Wilhide (17), Janice Hoke, Matt Gobrecht, Darren Gobrecht (20), Larry Bare (22), Larry Thoman Jr., Nathan Bollinger (24), Ollie Barr (25), and Rachel Miller, Wesley Pritt (26).

Sunday, April 13 at 2 PM St. Paul's UCC 2173 Stoverstown Rd, Spring Grove PA 17362 Please RSVP by April 5 to millerjen1acomcast.net or 717-309-5472

Women's Bible Study

A Women's Bible Study group will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. The next gathering is on *April 15*. We will gather in the room at the end of the classroom hall. We will first be studying James using a study guide written by Max Lucado entitled <u>Life Lessons from James</u>. If you are interested in joining us, please contact either Joyce Kain at 717-817-0914 or Jane Bankert at 717-225-3738.



Thank Yous to...

- Jane Bankert and Joyce Kain for starting our Women's Bible Study.
- Chip Hoover and Rachel Miller for completing the paving work for our Heritage Grove.
- Mark Sterrett for organizing our bowling fellowship event, with almost 40 people.
- Darlene Hoover for playing the organ at the mid-week Lenten service at Zeigler's Lutheran.

Easter Egg Hunt Planned



We are planning an egg hunt at North Codorus Township Park for ages 0-12 on *Saturday, April 19, at 1:00 pm.* Co-sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran (Stoverstown).

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Worship

Sunday, April 20, 8:00 am

We begin our celebration of the Risen Christ at a service in our Gazebo, weather permitting, otherwise, in the sanctuary. New life can be found in the garden!

Easter Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, April 20, 8:45 – 9:45 am

A breakfast buffet is available in the narthex (lobby) for an hour following our Sunrise Service.

Living as Easter People

April 20, 8:45 to 9:50 am

Fellowship, service projects, and Easter hymn sing.

Mid-morning Worship

April 20, 10:15 am

This service is the joyous culmination of the week, when we remember the amazing Good News of Easter and in response sing *Alleluias* praising God, and share Communion with our risen Savior.



Revised Common Lectionary Scripture Readings for April				
Date	Notes	Scriptures		
Apr. 6	Fifth Sunday in Lent; Seasons of Grief and Joy	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8		
Apr. 13	Palm Sunday; The Things That Make for Peace	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40		
Apr. 18	Good Friday at 7:00 pm;	Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18-19		
Apr. 20	Easter Sunrise at Gazebo, 8:00 am; "In the Garden of New Life"	John 20:1-18		
Apr. 20	Easter Sunday, 10:15 am with Communion; More Than an Idle Tale	Luke 24:1-12		
Apr. 27	Second Sunday of Easter; Resurrection Witness	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31		

Dear Friends,

April is National Stress Awareness Month. What is stress? According to the dictionary, it is mental or physical tension or strain.

Mental health can positively or negatively impact your physical health and risk factors for heart disease and stroke, according to "Psychological health , Well-Being, and Mind-Heart-Body Connection", a scientific statement in the American Heart Association Journal Circulation.

Stress factors may contribute to poor health behaviors linked to increased risk for heart disease and stroke include:

- Smoking
- Overeating
- Lack of physical activity
- Unhealthy diet
- Being overweight
- Not taking medications as prescribed.
- Stress and strain, body and brain-worries about work, money and health care
 and staying safe from Covid, as broader issues like discrimination and climate change-can pile on the
 stress.

Simply put, stress can kill. People with high levels of chronic stress or psychological distress are more likely to die of various causes, including heart disease and stroke.

Chronic stress is also linked to anxiety disorders and major depression. And stress can underlie other problems, such as irritability, sleep disruption, headaches, and changes in appetite, gut discomfort and reduced fertility.

Stress busters:

- 1. Get out of the house-take a walk in nature and enjoy the sight and sounds.
- 2. Use your network-reach out and contact regularly with family and friends.
- 3. Lean on a furry friend-pets may help reduce physiological reactions to stress.
- 4. Sleep tight-set a regular bedtime and wake up routine; turn off or dim electric screens as bedtime approaches.
- 5. Put your mind to it-explore mindfulness, a type of meditation that focuses your attention on your present experiences without interpretation or judgment.
- 6. Work it out-regular physical activity- a recommended 150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes vigorous activity or a mix of both weekly can relieve tension, anxiety and depression and give you an immediate exercise high.

Walking Day is Wednesday, April 3rd. Walking is one of the most versatile forms of exercise, because you can do it just about anytime, anywhere. You can fit in walking in the morning, noon or night.

May our Risen Lord bless your days with peace and joy.

Happy Easter, Maryann





Please pray with us!

Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. —Psalm 25:17-18

Holy One, we pray for:

Those shut in their homes/assisted living:

Liz Chubb, Clair and Mary Ellen Fritz, Fay Herman, Sarah Senft

Those who need healing:

Sara Bare, Bob Brenneman, Rylan Borys, Kevin Baum, Ken Church, Robin Gentzler, Sue Howes, David Klinedinst, Larry Thoman, Erin Trayer

Those recovering from hospitalization or surgery:

Scott Gross, Fay Herman, Sharon Smith

All those longing for peace in the world, refugees escaping terror, people suffering from disasters All those struggling to pay their utility bills, rent, mortgage, and groceries.

All soldiers serving their country in the military, especially:

Chris Glass, Jason Moncuse

Our college and graduate students:

Mackenzie Fritz, Darren Gobrecht, Hannah Mansfield, Rachel Miller, Emily Ramsay, Bryce Thoman, Christopher Wilhide

Those who have lost loved ones:

The family of Deb Gruver (Terry and Cindy Gruver's sister-in-law).

Monthly Mission Offering: York Habitat for Humanity

York Habitat for Humanity is a volunteer driven, Christian housing ministry that builds safe, decent, and affordable homes in partnership with lower-income York County residents living in substandard housing. Funded mainly by private donations, York Habitat provides a "hand up, not a hand out" by offering qualified families interest free, 30 year mortgages. With the completion of York Habitat's 136th home in 2019, over 750 local community members live in Habitat Homes in York County!

Contact Information

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 - 11:30 am.

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

Prayer Chain Contact Pastor Dave (716-946-7349), Jane Bankert (717-225-3738), or Darlene Hoover (717-792-3153) to begin the prayer chain. To add a name to our printed prayer list, contact the church office.

Emergency Pastoral Needs For more immediate care, please contact Pastor Dave at 716-946-7349 (cell).

Submission due dates:

Newsletter:

Refer to Calendar

Sunday bulletin requests:

Tuesday of each week

Committee minutes:

Tuesday prior to Consistory meeting

Requests for use of the church building: Forms are in the narthex tray.

Ways to Support St. Paul's UCC

Grocery Cards Giant, Weis and Kennie's cards are available in amounts from \$10 to \$100. The church receives 5% of your purchase toward our expenses. Call Maryann Brenneman (717-225-4497) for additional information.



ADDRESS: St. Paul's United Church of Christ Stoverstown

2173 Stoverstown Rd, Spring Grove PA 17362-7829

WEBSITE: www.stpaulsstoverstown.org
E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net

FACEBOOK PAGE: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucc CHURCH CALENDAR: http://tinyurl.com/spucccalendar CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: (717) 225-6357

Please "like" us on Facebook and refer us to your friends.



St. Paul's UCC - Stoverstown

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am Intergenerational Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship Travis Hoffman; Brynn Gruver	31 Eleanor Henry	5:30pm Sonshine Singers Scott Young	6:00pm Soup Supper-St. Paul's Lutheran 7:00pm Lenten Worship Darcey Hull; MacKenzie Fritz	6:00pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee Daniel Fake	4	Susan Davis
9:00am Intergenerational Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship 11:30am First Sunday Fellowship Christina Loesch	7 7:00pm Worship & Christian Education Committee Robert Dubbs, Jr. Tom & Denise Harlacker	5:30pm Sonshine Singers 6:00pm Stewardship & Mission Committee Prev. Dave & Bonnie Martin	6:00pm Soup Supper-Trinity Roth's UCC 7:00pm Lenten Worship	10	Haine Smith	12
Palm Sunday 9:00am Intergenerational Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship Sharon Smith	6:00pm Plannned Giving Committee	Tax Returns due 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Sonshine Singers Newsletter deadline The Christina Stough	7:00pm Lenten Worship Karen Brooks Robin Gentzler; Samantha Ripple	Maundy Thursday 6:00pm Soup Supper-Bethlehem UMC 7:00pm Worship Johnny Wilhide	Good Friday 7:00pm Good Friday Worship-St Paul's UCC	Holy Saturday 1:00pm Easter Egg Hunt at N Codorus Township Park Lucinda Gruver
Easter Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Sunrise Service 8:45am Easter Brunch & Activities 10:15am Worship with Communion Matt Gobrecht; Darren Gobrecht	21 7:00pm Consistory	5:30pm Sonshine Singers Larry Bare	7:15pm Shalom Choir	Larry Thoman,	25 Collie Barr William & Jane Bankert Joyce Dubbs	Rachel Miller; Wesley Pritt; Abby Leonard
9:00am Intergenerational Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship Robert & Maryann Brenneman Susan & Ed Davis	Faith Brenneman	5:30pm Sonshine Singers	7:15pm Shalom Choir	1	2	Holden Gobrecht



Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

NEWS of the 24 Churches of the York Association

Like us on Facebook: yorkucc Website: www.yorkassociationucc.org

YA Email: info@yorkassociationucc.org

APRIL 2025 - Newsletter

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

York Community Lenten Services with Lunch, Thursdays: Lunch beginning at noon, Service at 1 pm

"Dreaming God's
Dream...
from Genesis to
Revelation"



March 27: at St. John's Blymire's UCC, 1009 Blymire Rd, Dallastown, PA, Rev. Rick Pulling, 1 Samuel 13

April 3: at Hayshire UCC, 100 Haybrook Dr, York, PA Jamie Gruber, Rev. Brenda Marin, Peter in Acts 10

April 10: at Trinity UCC, 32 W Market St, York, PA 17401, Rev. Kellie Turner, Rev. Dr. Dominique Denman, Revelation 21 and 7:9-10

LENT

Lenten Season 2025 Community Services & Meal Schedule

Order of Events	6:00 PM- Soup-Supper 7:00 PM- Worship		
Ash Wednesday March 5 th	St. Paul's UCC, Stoverstown		
March 12 th	Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson		
March 19 th	St. Paul Ziegler's Lutheran, Seven Valleys		
March 26 th	St. Peter's Lischey's UCC, Spring Grove		
April 2 nd	St. Paul's Lutheran, Stoverstown		
April 9 th	Trinity Roth's UCC, Spring Grove		
Maundy Thursday April 17 th	Bethlehem UMC, Jefferson		
Good Friday	No meal. Start time- 7:00 PM		
April 18 th	St. Paul's UCC, Stoverstown		

Interested in starting a handbell choir at your church but don't know where to start?



Elaine Mann, Zion Lutheran's handbell choir director, and Laine Knaub, music director at Hayshire UCC and Zion Lutheran will be offering a FREE 4-class course on the basics of starting a handbell choir and handbell ringing!

Whether you are a music director, church council or staff, church member, or enthusiast looking to start a handbell choir, Elaine and Laine will provide you with essential information on how to organize a group, develop fundamental ringing techniques, where to find resources, and implement practical strategies for success.

Pre-registration is required. There is a maximum enrollment for 40 people in the class. We encourage you to register as early as possible to help guarantee your attendance.

Classes will be held at Hayshire United Church of Christ (100 Haybrook Drive, York, PA 17406) from 7-8pm on: May 12, May 15, May 19, and May 22, 2025.

To register, please call, text, or email Laine Knaub at: <u>Lbeachley@gmail.com</u> (717) 781-5602 and you will be sent a link to register online.

Starting a handbell choir can be a rewarding experience that fosters teamwork and musical growth. With dedication and practice, your new group can create beautiful music and bring joy to congregations and audiences.

We hope to see you there!

Around the Association

Trinity UCC & LOGOS Academy present Fame Jr. – March 29, 2:30pm & 7:00pm

For info please call 717.848.1775

Locust Grove UCC, 1035 Locust Grove Road, York

will have a **Chicken BBQ Dinner and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 11am.** Dinner consists of ½ BBQ chicken, a baked potato, applesauce, roll & butter, cupcake, and a bottle of water. Dinners are served downstairs from the Social Hall; they may be Eaten In or Carried Out. Cost is \$12. You may pre-order by calling 717-755-1318, please leave your name, phone number, and the number of dinners you wish to purchase. SERVING UNTIL 2PM OR SOLD OUT. RAIN OR SHINE.

Our next Chicken BBQ and Bake Sale will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 11am.

New Hope Fissel's UCC 3426 Fissels Church Rd, Glen Rock, Free Coffee and A Prayer

Fissel's Drive-Thru with FREE Coffee and A Prayer each Friday morning is returning on Friday, April 4th through Friday, May 9th from 7:00 AM - 8:00 am. Setup time is 6:45 AM. Two volunteers are needed each Friday. Please contact Don or Connie Markle 717-235-3316 or donconni44@gmail.com to volunteer and pick your date. Thank you!

New Hope Fissel's UCC Easter Bunny Egg Hunt

Please invite your family & friends to our Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny on **Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 am** for children ages 12 & under. Look for the Easter Bunny at the Pavilion!



COM - SAVE THE DATES PLEASE

The York Association Council on Ministry requests that churches in the Association reserve the following Sunday afternoons for possible Ecclesiastical Councils:

May 18 and September 14. Thank you!

Hayshire UCC - 100 Haybrook Dr – York River City Singers Saturday, May 3rd at 7:00pm

Join the River City Singers for their 2025 Spring Concert, "When all else fails, PERHAPS LOVE". Admission is free with a reception to follow. A free-will offering will be taken. Harrisburg's River City Singers is a community chorus, coming together to sing songs of hope and love.

"Our mission is to serve our community by sharing choral music through high quality performances; to welcome volunteer singers and instrumentalists from all ages, faiths, ethnicities, and gender identities; to dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of musical excellence. We strive to be: - open and accepting to any who wish to share our journey; - a group that members want to be part of, not only for making music, but because of the need to be a voice for the voiceless, the need to create community, and the need to have fun together"

Heidelberg UCC, 47 W. Philadelphia St, York Friday, April 4, 2025 – 6:00pm

Plan to stop by and spend York's First Friday at the Heidelbean Coffee House. Musicians, Soji & Ian will be on the auditorium stage at 6:30pm and Dick Frey, organist, will be playing the Austin pipe organ in the sanctuary.

York Association Council Meetings are Open

Anyone in the York Association UCC is welcome to listen to the York Association Council meetings. If you have an idea for strengthening our Association, and would like to put it on the agenda, at least one week prior to a scheduled meeting contact the Council President, Rev. Dave Martin, at pastorstpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net. The 2025 meetings are on *Tuesday, May 13*, *July 22*, *September 16*, and October 21 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's UCC (Stoverstown). A Zoom link will be published the month of each meeting.

Attn: York Association UCC Clergy and MIDs

York Association Clergy and MIDs will meet on **Wednesday, April 9, at 11 am** for brunch at Lion's Pride Restaurant in Red Lion.

The next newsletter, MAY, will be emailed April 20.
Please send articles to news@yorkassociationucc.org
by April 18.
Thank You!