

The Messenger

“He Is Risen Indeed!”



Volume II, Issue 4

March 2018

Join us on
Sundays!

8:30 AM

Morning Watch

9:15 AM

Sunday School

10:30 AM

Traditional Service

11:30 AM

Fellowship Hour

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Pastor Green's Message

Throughout our lives, we repeatedly discover that some things are not effective unless we adequately engage them. I have found that bowling twice per year does not lead to reliable scoring. Walking for two minutes each week has little effect on your fitness. The old claim that turning off the radio and air conditioner in your car will improve fuel economy has been abandoned. In each case, we could actually experience improvements if we put more into the activities that lead to improvement.

In the case of our church life, this analysis applies both to

the church and the individuals. Individuals who only attend Sunday service can not expect to experience the growth that results from study groups, choir rehearsals, participating in feeding our neighbors, or going on mission trips. Those who do not attend Sunday services have even less basis for their spiritual growth, though they are correct to claim that they can experience God anywhere.

I will be working, in the days ahead, to help to generate more opportunities for the growth of our members and our congregation. None of this has to do with

encouraging activity or busyness just to be busy. Spiritual and congregational growth have always called for engagement. Each person can count on personal growth when he/she engages more fully. Every congregation can experience improved health if it does more to reach out to the surrounding community and participated more fully in the wider Church.

We can talk more later. I have to go and do a push up.

Easter Sunday

By Linda Fasking, "The Upper Room".

I love to sit on my back porch and look out over the lake. When the sun is shining, the lake sparkles and dances in the light. But on that Easter Morning the fog covered the lake like a thick gray blanket undulating across the water. However, as the sun rose and warmed the air, the fog began to thin out and move away - leaving the lake shimmering in the beautiful bright sunlight

again. No match for the intense heat of the rising sun, the thick blanket of fog had disappeared.

I thought how appropriate this was for Resurrection morning. Because Jesus rose to give us life, the fog has been lifted from our lives, and we are able to see Jesus in all his glory. And because Jesus lives within us, we can be a light to others.

The darkness of sin and death was defeated as the stone rolled away on Easter morning.

Just as the fog that morning had no power to overcome the heat of the rising sun, sin and death have no power to overcome the love and salvation of God through Christ. Jesus is risen! Praise God!



Basin of Love

By Amy Boucher Pye, "Our Daily Bread".

One day in physics class many years ago, our teacher asked us to tell him—without turning around—what color the back wall of the classroom was. None of us could answer, for we hadn't noticed.

Sometimes we miss or overlook the "stuff" of life simply because we can't take it all in. And sometimes we don't see what's been there all along.

It was like that for me as I recently read again the account of Jesus washing His disciples' feet.

The story is a familiar one, for it is often read during Passion Week. That our Savior and King would stoop to cleanse the feet of His disciples awes us. In Jesus's day, even Jewish servants were spared this task because it was seen as beneath them. But what I hadn't noticed before was that Jesus, who was both man and God, washed the feet of Judas. Even though He knew Judas would betray Him, as we see in John 13:11, Jesus still humbled Himself and washed Judas's feet.

Love poured out in a basin of water—love that He shared even with the one who would betray Him. As we ponder the events of this

week leading up to the celebration of Jesus's resurrection, may we too be given the gift of humility so that we can extend Jesus's love to our friends and any enemies.



Meet the Ministry - Prayer Shawl



Hats made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry

When we think of the Prayer Shawl ministry, the following scripture comes to mind: "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me. (Matthew 25:40). The Prayer Shawl ministry has been working for years to make prayer shawls and lap robes for our members and friends who are facing difficult circumstances. They also provide scarves for our graduating high-school seniors, which are presented to them on Youth Sunday.

Over the last couple years, they have expanded beyond "just" shawls and robes to meet many needs in the communities we serve. In March, they donated 25

lap robes to Hospice, 24 hats and 4 scarves to St. Vincent DePaul, 22 chemo hats to Miami Valley Hospital, 36 hats and 9 blankets to Dayton Children's and 17 sweaters to the Gabriel Project in West Virginia. In December, they sent 49 hats and 3 afghans to Dayton Children's, 58 hats (including 24 red ones for February cancer awareness month) to Miami Valley Hospital, and 13 hats, 5 scarves, 1 muffler and 1 set of gloves to St. Vincent DePaul. In addition, they have provided small, crocheted butterflies for our Infant and Pregnancy Loss service every October to provide a small source of comfort

to those struggling with the loss of a baby.

This group of talented ladies meets Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship, knitting, and crocheting. At a recent board meeting, Andree Flynn indicated that they hoped to expand even further, but would need more people to help.

If you've always wanted to learn how you can help, come to their work sessions, or contact any member of the prayer shawl ministry: Jane Bernard, Andree Flynn, Claudia McCall, Carol Dooley, Ann O'Diam, Lou Anne Moody, and

Backwards to March

March was filled with activities for Central during the Lenten season!

The Youth hosted their annual **Baked Potato Lunch** on March 4th. They were able to raise over \$360 to go towards their summer trip to Lexington. Thank you to all who helped support our Youth!

On March 18th, Central was excited to welcome a little one into our midst! A **Baby Dedication** was held for Leo Alexander Serven with his

parents Michael and Sara. All the Elders and the congregation of Central welcomed him as he begins a journey to learn about Jesus.

March 25th was **Palm Sunday!** We celebrated Jesus' walk into Jerusalem and waved palm leaves in remembrance. This day marked Jesus journey to his crucifixion and resurrection.

On March 29th, Central remembered the Last Supper with a **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service**. We

reflected on Jesus' last night with his disciples and the communion he offered them.

Good Friday was on March 30th. Central had its Sanctuary open for all to come and give devotion to Jesus' sacrifice when he gave his life for the forgiveness of our sins.

On March 31st, Central host an **Easter Egg Hunt**. Many children came to enjoy finding treasures and eating treats! It was a great time for all!



The Chancel Choir singing at Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

Leaping to April

Join us as we jump into April and kick-off the spring season!

“He is not here for He has risen just as He said.”

Matthew 28:6A

April 1st is **Easter Sunday**. We celebrate Jesus' resurrection and express our joy for his sacrifice for our sins.

April 5th-7th is the **Spring Rummage Sale!** Come to collect your treasures at greatly reduced prices. Funds go towards supporting the CWF. The sale takes place

on April 5th-6th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and April 7th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

On Sunday, April 8th Central is excited to welcome **Phil Robertson**, our guest speaker! He is a part of Gideon International, whose goal is to spread God's word one person at a time. Come and join us as we welcome him and listen to his message!

April also begins new weekly challenges for the **Food Pantry!**

Apr. 1 is soap & spaghetti sauce; Apr. 8 is toilet paper & crackers; Apr. 15 is socks & canned meat; Apr. 22 is combs/brushes & shampoo; and Apr. 29 is deodorant/ first aid & canned fruit. Consider helping out Central's food pantry today!

The Gift of Liberty

In 1884 the people of France gave the United States a gift known to Americans as the Statue of Liberty. Over 130 years later it still stands tall in the New York harbor, holding high in its right hand a lighted torch and in its left hand a tablet with the date when the Declaration of Independence was signed. A broken chain lies at her feet, representing “unjust rule.” This statue became a symbol of freedom and opportunity to thousand of immigrants entering the country. A poem on the pedestal, written by Emma Lazarus, expresses what the

statue stands for. These lines ring with some of the same meaning as the call of Jesus.

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free; the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

About two thousand years ago God gave mankind a much greater gift--Jesus Christ, His only Son! Jesus grew into manhood, taught and healed the people, suffered and died on the cross, rose again, ascended to Heaven, and later sent the

Holy Spirit to guide His followers. Receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior breaks Satan's binding chain and sets us free. It is all recorded in the Bible, another gift. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Let us hold high the torch of our faith in Him, and pass it on to the next generation.



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Our Mission is to be a Christ-centered people:

LOVING one another because God is love.
FORGIVING one another as Christ forgives us
GROWING spiritually in prayer, worship, and study
SHARING our Faith Journey through stories
SERVING the needs of others using God’s abundant blessings
to touch ALL through God’s unconditional love.

Pay Attention

*A message from Moniqua
Suits, Elder Chair.*

**“Why do people pay
attention to Jesus? Jesus
was amazingly interesting.”**

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, University
Professor of New Testament
and Jewish Studies,
Vanderbilt.

Her statement caught my attention and as I did a mental repeat of her words, I wrote it down to remember. I understood why a professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies would speak to “Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi”, the lecture topic, yet I found her words so confidently and daringly posed to a group of Christians, Jews, Catholics, Greek Orthodox, agnostics, and atheists intriguing. This is a great topic to have coffee over, meditate, study, or pose in an article. Beyond accepting Jesus as my personal Savior...Why do I pay attention to Jesus? How

do I find Him amazingly interesting?

Jesus is a whole thinker with the ability to see and discuss the fieriest topics and mind boggling concepts without compromising Himself or others.

Jesus leads without pushing. He makes a compelling case for the spiritual principles and a life we can choose with Him, yet He does not demand, coerce, or nag if we do not.

Jesus drew in the sand during a monumental event. What was he drawing? Is it a way to pray? Was it a pregnant pause? Did His simple act of calm influence the others to become calm? Did His touch of the earth reach their feet and heal? Did His touch of the earth call the stones to drop?

Jesus loves children. His words to the disciples made it to Scripture for us to follow. Do not pish posh the children. Make time to be with them and make certain you bring them to Me so they learn what it feels like to be absolutely safe, unconditionally loved, and

know the truths to live a life in Me.

Jesus is the first in the Bible to treat women as an equal gender, fully capable. He opened the door for women and men to say hmm; perhaps we need to re-frame our views. He allowed women to serve, interact, participate, without crushing them. Jesus allows women to be who they are without making their perspective, gifts or ideas less than.

Love. Jesus comes to us in love. Whether we are on earth, in a boat, by a well, a leper, a tax collector, dead, on our way to destroy, He comes to us. He left His Father, His home, to offer a relationship with God that is full, without end. Jesus went beyond words to act on His faith in us when He died on a cross, rose, then comforted others before going home. We can live, we can die, but only Jesus rose again and I find that amazingly interesting!

How do you find Jesus amazingly interesting? Let me know and email me. Happy Easter!



April



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter Sunday 8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast	2 Rummage Sale Set-Up 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Kettering Community Chorus 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting	3 Rummage Sale Set-Up	4 Rummage Sale Set-Up 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group/ Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Inventor's Council	5 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale 6:30 p.m. Laudate Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	6 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale 7:00 p.m. Group Interaction	7 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale
8 1:30 p.m. Oakcreek Service 3:30 p.m. Walnut Creek Service 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	9 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Kettering Community Chorus 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting	10	11 5:30 p.m. Toastmasters 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group/ Bible Study	12 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Focus Photo Club 6:30 p.m. Laudate Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	13 7:00 p.m. Group Interaction	14 9:00 a.m. Girl Scouts
15 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	16 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Kettering Community Chorus	17 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting	18 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group/ Bible Study	19 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Laudate Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	20 7:00 p.m. Group Interaction	21 8:00 a.m. Toastmasters Speech Contest
22 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	23 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Kettering Community Chorus	24 1:30 p.m. Lydia Group	25 5:30 p.m. Toastmasters 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group/ Bible Study	26 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Laudate Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 7:00 p.m. Group Interaction 7:00 p.m. Euchre & Dominoes	28 1:00 p.m. Cheers
29 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	30 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Kettering Community Chorus			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Sunday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Morning Watch 9:15 a.m. Christian Education 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour</p> </div>		