News & Views

Brownback’s United Church of Christ April 2019

Spring City, Pennsylvania

# Music Appreciation Sunday

In recognition of all the time and practice that our church members dedicate to the music program at Brownback’s UCC, the church will observe Music Appreciation Sunday on **April 7** during the 10:00 AM Worship Service. Each of the following music groups will perform, as well Elizabeth Sweitzer on flute, and Patsy Kandler on organ:

Chancel Choir

Good News Singers

Worship Ensemble

Chancel Handbells

Youth Handbells

Kid’s JAM

The service will culminate with a musical performance involving all singers and instrumentalists who take part in the program. Come enjoy a morning of great music in worship of God!



## Calendar of Events

| Date | Time | Event |
| --- | --- | --- |
| April | | |
| 3 | 7:00 PM | Lenten Service at Bethel UMC |
| 7 | 10:00 AM | Music Appreciation Sunday |
| 8 | 8:30 AM | Men’s Breakfast at Ridge Restaurant |
| 10 | 7:00 PM | Lenten Service at St. Vincent UCC |
| 11 | Noon  6:30 PM | Young at Heart  Theology on Tap at Spring Hollow |
| 13 | 11:00 AM | Easter Egg Hunt |
| 14 | 10:00 AM | Palm Sunday  *Easter Flower Order deadline* |
| 18 |  | Maundy Thursday |
| 19 | 7:00 PM | Good Friday service at Brownback’s |
| 21 | 7:00 AM  10:00 AM | Easter Sunrise at Bethel UMC  Easter Worship at Brownback’s UCC |
| May | | |
| 5 | 11:00 AM | Mother’s Day Tea |



## Recurring Events

Sunday Worship:

8:45 AM – Adult Sunday School

10:00 AM –Worship Service, Worship Time for Children, Kids JAM

Faith Formation:

Women’s Bible Study – 10:00 AM, Tuesday

Men’s Breakfast – 8:30 AM, 2nd Monday

Theology on Tap – 6:30 PM, 2nd Thursday

Music:

Chancel Choir – 9:15 AM, Sunday

Worship Ensemble Rehearsal – 5:30 PM Wednesday

Good News Singers Rehearsal – 6:00 PM, 4th Wednesday

Chancel Handbells – 6:45 PM, Wednesday

Fellowship:

Fitness Classes – Monday/Wednesday at 8:45 AM,

Young at Heart – Noon, 2nd Thursday



## Pastor’s Ponderings

As I sit to write this letter for April, being in the middle of Lent, days seem to be passing by very quickly. My focus has been on Sunday preparation, pastoral care, and remembering what day it is. ☺

The East Coventry Union of Churches has been busy with our Lenten services on Wednesday. I wanted to thank the Kitchen Committee and all who brought desserts for the service we hosted. It was a great service with Pastor Jacqueline Hines preaching and offering an anointing and prayer time.

As we all benefit from those moments of silence and being in God’s presence, I hope that your Lenten journey is providing those moments for you as well. My journey this year is focused on slowing down and recounting my blessings, my family, friends, and especially this growing faith body. All of these moments provide that time that I know I need, moments seeing the positive and God-given opportunities in my life. I hope you are all able to do the same.

Seeing the positive moments and God-given opportunities in our lives provides a refocusing of our priorities. As this journey continues though, I hope that our priorities become a clearer path to God, through community and this faith body.

Switching gears to other pastoral news, I continue to offer communion to our homebound members and am looking for ways for me to become more visible in our community. I have attended and helped with the Spring City Food Pantry, which I hope to make a more constant outreach for me. I also have our daughter, Addyson with me on Thursdays which make this time more fun, as the energy level certainly increases when a smiling baby pops in. ☺

We are still gathering for our Theology on Tap. The topic last month and moving forward will be “our relationships with God”. Last month we discussed specific barriers that we encounter that slow us down in that pursuit. There was great conversation about this and it was helpful to hear the thing that slows one of us down may be the same thing that slows all of us down. However, coming together with ways to work through those barriers provides those moments where we experience God in our lives.

As I conclude this article, my prayer is that we as a faith body continue to grow, reach out to new ministries, and be the church wherever we go while on our Lenten journey.

In the Spirit of Christ,

*Rev. Mark Stryjak*



## Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars! The Easter Bunny will be hopping by Brownback’s UCC on Saturday, **April 13** at 11:00 am for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Children through Grade 6 are invited to hunt for eggs in the lot across Slonaker road from the cemetery. Thanks to Judy White for allowing the bunny to hide eggs on her property! Immediately following the hunt, join us inside for games, prizes, snacks, and fellowship.

This event is rain or shine. In the event of bad weather, the bunny hides eggs inside the church!

## Lenten Services Planned

During the Lenten Season, we join with the East Coventry Union of Churches for Wednesday night services. All Services will begin at **7:00 PM** and are followed with a time of fellowship and refreshments.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **April 3** | **Bethel United Methodist Church 952 Bethel Church Rd, Spring City** |
| Teacher | Rev. Robert Davalt II, Parkerford Baptist |
| **April 10** | **St. Vincent UCC 37 Ridge Rd, Phoenixville** |
| Teacher | Rev. Ron Hughes, St. Matthews UCC |
| **April 18** | **Parkerford Baptist AND Bethel United Methodist Church** |
|  | Maundy Thursday service (7:00 pm) |
| **April 18** | **St. Matthews UCC** |
|  | Tenebrae service (7:30 pm) |
| **April 19** | **St. Matthew’s UCC** |
|  | Open for prayer (12-3 pm) |
| **April 19** | **Brownback’s UCC** |
|  | Good Friday service (7:00 pm) |
| **April 21** | **Bethel United Methodist Church AND St. Matthews UCC** |
|  | Easter Sunrise Service (7:00 am) (Light breakfast follows) |

## Mother’s Day Tea

Save the Date! Join us on Sunday, **May 5th** after church for a Mother’s Day Tea to celebrate all mothers. Everyone is welcome! More information to come…

## Men’s Breakfast

The men of the church are invited to breakfast at The Ridge Restaurant on **April 8** at 8:30 AM.

Breakfast is BYOB – Bring Your Own Bible. We will discuss Luke 23:1-49.

## Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap provides an opportunity for members and friends to gather together in a relaxed setting to enjoy a presentation or group discussion, learn more about their faith, and to engage in meaningful conversation.

Theology on Tap will be held on **April 11** at 6:30 PM at Spring Hollow Golf Club. There is no cost to attend or to register! Participants are welcome to purchase food and beverage from the menu. Contact Pastor Mark if you have questions.

## Cemetery Flower Pots

Used planters will be available after March 20. You can find them along the side of the garage.

Our cutting season is almost upon us. Gentle reminder… Please, no solar lights, rocks, or pebbles around the head stones. This is a safety hazard for the lawn service.

## Hawk Mountain Comes to Young at Heart

Erin Brown came to Young at Heart Thursday, March 14th, and presented the program “Raptors Over the Ridge”. The “ridge” at Hawk Mountain is a geographically contoured ridge that creates an ideal fly-way for migratory birds (and butterflies). She mentioned that hawks were prevalent in the state of New York but moved further south to Hawk Mountain as winters became colder. The area was populated by farmers with chickens and small game was prevalent. It was a time when people struggled and hunted to survive. A bounty was evidentially placed on hawks and other game birds, which provided a small income for some. However, the birds began dwindling in number.

In 1934, Rosalie Edge visited the area and was disturbed that so many hawks were being killed. She conceived and developed the idea of a *protected* area for all migratory “flyers” along the ridge and even raised funds for the project.

Now, Hawk Mountain Conservational Trust has over 2,600 acres; provides protection for the “migrators”; tags, tracks, counts, and collects data on the birds, butterflies, and bats (85 years worth); and presents educational programs and on-site tours and activities.

Sixty-six of us enjoyed the program presented by Ms. Brown following a meal of roast beef with gravy, filling, side dishes, and awesome desserts. The door prize of wind chimes was won by Edith Northacker.

Nancy Peiffer announced that the next meeting of Young at Heart will be held on **April 11** at Noon. The program will be presented by the Colebrookdale Railroad. So come aboard and join us on the 11th.

*--Pat Diener*

## Daily Walk With God

### 6. Vulnerability

This month we are going to try a spiritual practice called centering prayer. I purposely picked now to try out this practice because I am hopeful that you are all starting to be comfortable in your prayer time and developing your spiritual life. Centering prayer is opening up to the presence of God. We are not supposed to do anything or say anything. The challenge of centering prayer is to empty ourselves of distractions so we can be open to the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes I think when we open ourselves like this it can leave us very vulnerable and so our bodies/minds are hesitant or scared to do it. So, during this practice, you may struggle with focusing or your thoughts may continue to come and get in the way of being completely open, but that is okay. If you find your mind wandering, just return to your prayer. There is no judgement, no “right or wrong” way to do this. This prayer is a “discipline to foster a relationship [with God]. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

I found this to be the most difficult of the prayer practices for me, because my mind continues to move and create distractions. However, I also find this prayer to be a safe space; a space where I am being held, a space where I am open to the possibilities God has for me and for transformation. So although this type of prayer is challenging, I think you are all up for it. Here are the steps for centering prayer.

Begin by entering and preparing your prayer space. Then seat yourself comfortably and relax into your prayer space.

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention for your prayer time. This can be a religious or secular word. The word is just supposed to bring your back to your intention of being open to God.
2. Sitting comfortably and with your eyes closed, settle yourself and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God’s presence and action within.
3. When engaged with your thoughts, body sensations, feelings or images, let them flow out of you as if they are going down a river and return ever-so-gently to your word. Continue to release any thoughts, ideas, or images as they come to you during this time of silence.
4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with your eyes closed for a couple of minutes.[[2]](#footnote-2)

God Bless,

Chaplain Rev. Kimberly Stryjak

## Reading Phillies

This year’s Brownback’s UCC trip to the Reading Phillies baseball game is **June 27**. The game starts at 7:05 PM, and tickets cost $10 each.

## News & Views Deadline

The deadline for the May issue of the   
*News & Views* newsletter is **April 18**. To include information in the newsletter, you can leave information in the *News & Views* mailbox in the church lobby or email information to Penny Sallade at [pennysallade@yahoo.com](mailto:pennysallade@yahoo.com).

## Paper and Plastic Grocery Bags

The Spring City Food Pantry is in critical need of paper and plastic grocery bags (particularly paper bags). Please consider donating your used bags at church to be delivered to the pantry. Boxes are labeled and located under the table at the back of Fellowship Hall.

## Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2019 is now available on the bulletin board in the lobby near the Sign-Up Center. Please consider sponsoring the purchase of flowers to decorate our sanctuary during Worship. Flowers cost $40 per week, with checks payable to “Brownback’s UCC”. Sign up for a week now! Spots fill quickly.

## Concerts With a Cause

Royersford United Methodist Church is hosting two concerts that will benefit Project Outreach in Spring City. Both concerts will start at 7:30 pm. A free-will offering will be received.

### April 5th - Songs of Faith and Justice

Lydia Muñoz's voice, vision, and activism for a more just world is inspirational and well-known in regional church circles and beyond.

### April 26th - Celtic Concert by Charlie Zahm (with fiddler Tad Marks)

Charlie Zahm is an extraordinarily talented Celtic who weaves magical moments for the listener. With a rich baritone voice, Charlie entertains people of all ages. Joining Charlie on stage will be renowned fiddler, Tad Marks (The Del McCurry Band, Hazel dickens, Ola Belle Reed).

For more information, go to <http://sfconcerts.org/concerts.html>.

## Prayer Concerns

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” –Matthew 21:22

For those who serve:

* Reed Bauer, West Point, The United States Military Academy
* Derrick Boaman, Army Reserves
* Nathaniel Cherubini, Chief Warrant Officer 3.,   
  United States Marine Corp. Nephew of Rick and Jeanette Francesco
* Brock Fasnacht, nephew of Doug and Sue Kandler, Army National Guard
* Paige Juliette Freeman, Trooper First Class, Delaware State Police
* Andrea Shade, second year cadet at West Point Military Academy
* Thomas Shade, 1st Lt in the 130th Engineers Brigade based in Hawaii

**Members**: Joe Kandler, Sr., Bob Keeley, Sr., Michelle Kullen, Connie Megay, Thelma Nelson, Terry Overholtzer, Marie Painter.

**Friends of Brownback’s**: Chris Clark, Eva Diener, Eli Hallock, Keith Patterson, Helen Pomeroy, Jim Raifsnider, Mike Sands, Leroy Sadler, Patty Sadler, Craig Warwood.

## April Birthdays

We rejoice with those of our church family who celebrate birthdays in April.

4/2 Arlen Copenhaver

4/3 Karl Glocker

4/4 Cameron McCollum

4/6 Carol Procyk

4/7 Ken Shade

4/8 Riley Ruilova

4/9 Regina Glocker

4/11 Pat Moore  
Linda Raifsnider

4/13 Bob Miller

4/14 Luke Procyk

4/17 Linda Bauer  
Dave Kurtz  
Owen Laird

4/19 Katelyn Copenhaver

4/21 Herb Davis

4/23 Tammy Kurtz

4/24 Missy Martin

4/25 Dan Brady

4/26 Jarrod Ford  
Madeline LeBlanc

## April Anniversaries

We congratulate the following in our church family who are celebrating wedding anniversaries in April.

4/8 John and Janet Garges

4/21 Joe and Pat Kandler

4/25 Greg and Maureen Siwik

4/28 John and Amy Meravi

# Brownback’s Church

# Easter Flower Order Form

Help us make our Sanctuary more beautiful for Easter Sunday

by ordering flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Then, take yours home after our 10 am Easter Service.

I/We wish to order the following Easter flowers:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Lilies** with 6 – 7 blooms

\_\_\_\_\_ **Purple Hyacinths** with 4 blooms

\_\_\_\_\_ **Red Tulips** with 8 bulbs in a 7” pot

Easter Flowers this year are $12 each.

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please use the reverse side of this form to include more info.

Make your check payable to **Brownback’s Church** and return it with this form to the Easter Flower Box on the Welcome Center or to Jeanette Francesco on or before **Sunday, April 14**.

## Our Church Leaders

Rev. Mark Stryak, Pastor and Teacher

Barry Vining, President

Linda Raifsnider, Vice President

Amy Stone, Secretary

Anne Behe, Financial Secretary

Holly Vining, Current Treasurer

Kaitlin Iezzi, Benevolence Treasurer

Calvin Idler, Major Improvements Treasurer

#### Elders

2019 Pat Diener Linda Raifsnider

2020 Earl Brungess Barry Vining

2021 Randall Ruilova Mark Sweitzer

#### Deacons

2019 Amy Stone Judy White

2020 Derrick Boaman Kaitlin Iezzi

2021 Calvin Idler Anne Behe

#### Cemetery Board

2019 Calvin Idler Bob Jacob

2020 Rick Francesco

2021 Brian Iezzi Greg Siwik

#### Endowment Board

2019 Rich Bauer John Stone

2020 Mike Houck

2021 Bob Keeley Barry Vining

#### Our Church Staff

Kris Houck, Parish Administrator

Penny Sallade, Choir Director

Patricia Kandler, Organist

Larry Simmers, Sexton

Kaitlin Iezzi, Christian Education Chair

Greg Siwik, Cemetery Superintendent

Brownback United Church of Christ

640 Ridge Road

Spring City, Pennsylvania 19475

Address Service Requested

1. Thomas Keating, *The Method of Centering Prayer: The Prayer of Consent* (Butler, NJ: Contemplative Outreach, 2006), 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid., 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)