News & Views

Brownback’s United Church of Christ May 2019

Spring City, Pennsylvania

# Property Cleanup Day

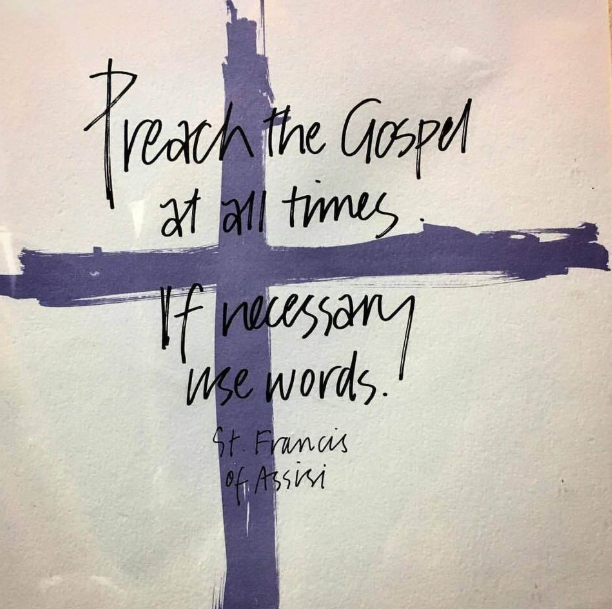
The Property Committee has scheduled the annual Church Clean‑up Day for Saturday, **May 4**. Please mark your calendars with this important date. We will gather at the church starting at 8:30 AM and plan to work until Noon with spring cleaning activities throughout the building.

There is a long list jobs that need to be completed to maintain the beauty of our church building and property. Many hands make light work! Coffee and donuts will be provided. We look forward to seeing you on May 4th!



## Calendar of Events

| Date | Time | Event |
| --- | --- | --- |
| May | | |
| 4 | 8:30 AM | Property Cleanup Day |
| 5 | 11:00 AM | Mother’s Day Tea |
| 9 | Noon  6:30 PM | Young at Heart  Theology on Tap at Spring Hollow |
| 11 | 10:00 AM | Community Garden Planting |
| 13 | 8:30 AM | Men’s Breakfast at Ridge Restaurant |
| 16 |  | *News & Views* deadline  Deadline for Graduate information |
| June | | |
| 2 | 10:00 AM | Graduate Sunday |
| 2 | 11:00 AM | Church Picnic |
| 17-21 | 6:00 PM | Vacation Bible School |
| 27 | 7:05 pm | Reading Phillies Game |



## 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

Hello and I hope your Easter and Holy Week was all it could be. Mine usually ends with a symbolic deep breath after the Easter service has concluded. It is an emotional week that ends with lots of excitement and drains most of all pastors’ energy.

On Sunday, I mentioned that I was going to focus on moving deeper into spirituality, thinking of how I can push forward to find that peace that only God can offer in this world and to share those ideas with all of you. I have no idea how it will turn out, as I am leaning on prayer and the Holy Spirit to guide me, but I encourage you all to have conversations about this as well.



Our upcoming events include the Men’s Breakfast and Theology on Tap, which may turn into “theology in a cone” since it’s getting warmer out. I am happy to say these groups are growing! I think the single most important thing that can come from these gatherings is that we have the discussions and make the time to talk about what we hold dear, how we live out God’s enfolding love. I look forward to continuing with these gatherings throughout the year and expanding on them as opportunities arise.

Regarding our upcoming Sundays, we will have 7 Sundays of Easter before we arrive at Pentecost. On those Sundays, the colors in the sanctuary will be white. We will be hearing from the Gospel according to John, and I will be working on bringing out the spirituality that is presented there.

As these Sundays will undoubtedly come quickly (because they always do), I hope that you can carve some time into your days or nights, or maybe early mornings like me (when our puppy decides she wants to head outside) to stop and thank God for all that we witness. My witnessing lately has been on my family, specifically our children, Mikey, Logan, and Addyson and how I am teaching and modeling a spiritual life, knowing how hard it can be to cut through the current busyness of daily life.

As always, I look forward to making time to meet any of you for a cup of coffee or a lunch, if there is anything you wish to discuss or ask me. May the days ahead be filled with God’s loving Spirit to guide you and to share that spirit of caring and love with all whom we meet.

In Christ’s name,

*Rev. Mark Stryjak*

## Mother’s Day Tea

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **May 5** after the worship service to honor the many mothers at our church and in our lives. Everyone is invited – bring the special mothers and women in your lives to share a relaxing light lunch with friends and family.

While you do not need to sign up for this event, we do ask that you spread the word and invite the special mothers in your life to attend!

## Community Garden

The Garden Club has been busy! We have one bed planted with beets and another planted with strawberries. We will be working on Saturday, **April 27** from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. The goal is to get the remaining beds ready for planting on **May 11** at 10:00 AM. You do not need to have a green thumb to join us. Hope to see you at the garden!

## Men’s Breakfast

The men of the church are invited to breakfast at The Ridge Restaurant on **May 13** at 8:30 AM.

Breakfast is BYOB – Bring Your Own Bible. We will discuss John 13:31-35.

## 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 **May 9** 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.

## Vacation Bible School

Have you signed up for Brownback’s VBS yet? It’s only a short 2 months away! The fun starts on **June 17** at 6:00 PM. Join us each night from 6:00‑8:00 PM for music, Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts, and more!

Check it off your list today! Volunteers and kids register at this link: [vbspro.events/p/brownbacks](file:///C:\Users\Kris\Downloads\vbspro.events\p\brownbacks)

Let me know if you have any questions!

*--Kaitlin Iezzi, VBS Director*

## Young at Heart

Daffodils, colorful eggs, and center pieces greeted people as they arrived for Brownback’s Young at Heart on April 11th. Pastor Mark Stryjak offered a Spiritual Opening and Grace. Then everyone dined on ham, cheese-macaroni, stewed tomatoes, mixed vegetables, and salad plus an assortment of delicious desserts.

“Happy Birthday” was sung to Linda Raifsnider. The door prize, a planter of spring flowers, was awarded to Todd Fielding.

Nancy Peiffer introduced Frank Buttaro, Jr., Director of Marketing and Business Development for the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust. He, along with Conductor George “Pat” Hunter, presented a PowerPoint program detailing the history and development of the Colebrookdale Railroad from 1865 up to the present.

The Colebrookdale Railroad now offers scheduled circuitous rides from Boyertown to Pottstown, a 16-mile trip, with scheduled activities. Some activities include a Valentine’s Party, Mother’s Day Tea, Breakfast with Santa, and “Mud -Ball-Toss” filled with wild flower seeds, a Boy Scout Event.

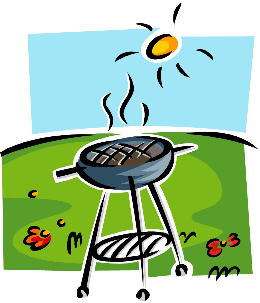
The railcars were hired by a movie company for scenes in a current movie. They also wanted a snowy landscape; they got snow that day and a few lucky movie extras from the area.

Conductor “Pat” awarded 2 tickets for a ride on the train to Edie Fulmer. The train activities are autism-certified. Future projects include a new train station in Boyertown and one in Memorial Park, Pottstown.

Nancy announced the program for **May 9th** will be presented by Vija Long, who will share about her mission trip to California to help the needy. Come and join us!

*--Pat Diener*

## Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic is scheduled for **June 2** at Warwick Park immediately following the worship service. This is a great time of fun and fellowship, with a chance to spend time with new and long-time friends in our church family.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and paper products will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Church events wrapped around food are the best!

The church has reserved the second pavilion on the right, which is conveniently located near the playground. Games will be available for all ages!

So, mark your calendar for a time of fellowship, food, and games. Come to the worship service in your picnic clothes, and meet at the park right after church.

## Kudos

Congratulations to **Dr. Richard Aaron Francesco** and **Dr. Andrew Wesley Freeman** (Paige’s husband) on their shared graduation from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) on May 24! We wish them God’s continued blessings in their respective fields.

**Kennedy Houck** recently started working as a research assistant at the Caron Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center in Wernersville, PA. Kennedy works in the research department analyzing connections between the brain and treatment outcomes. Congratulations to Kennedy!

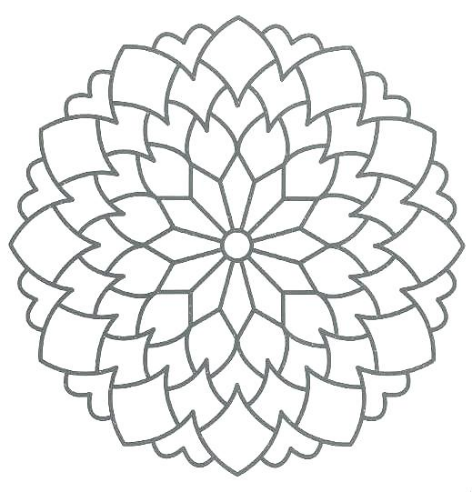
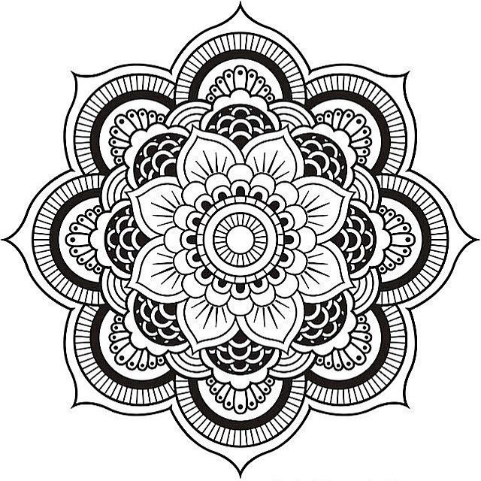
## Daily Walk With God

**7. Solitude**

You made it! You did a month of centering prayer. For some of you it may have been a wonderful, powerful experience and for others it might have been a daily struggle. But again, as I have pointed out before, the purpose is that you showed up and did it. You are working at developing your spiritual life and trying out different spiritual practices to see which ones speak to you. So thank you for sticking with it.

This month we are going to move into prayer through art. To simplify things, I am going to encourage you to prayer through coloring. However, if you feel more daring and want to try other forms of art throughout the month, please do so! One of the most ancient forms of prayer is a mandala. On its most basic level, a mandala is a circular form with patterns that build off of a central point. So even though this symbol started outside of Christianity, many Christians use it to connect with a spiritual power through meditation and contemplation.

So for this month we are going to be using this symbol to pray. You will need something to color with – crayons, colored pencils, or markers – whatever you prefer. You will also need a mandala. You may create your own, print them off the computer or buy a coloring book of them. I will attach two different ones to get you started. As you begin your prayer time, begin to color! “As you color, let your mind wander. This is not about the end result, but about the process of prayer. There are no expectations in this time; it is just a time to open yourself up a space to God. Spend time in prayer and talking with God as you color.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Or, simply release yourself into this space and allow God to speak to your heart. You can say scripture or a prayer as you color, but whatever you do, let yourself go into this space to draw nearer to God.

*--Chaplain Rev. Kimberly Stryjak*

## Graduate Sunday

Graduate Sunday is **June 2**. Please notify the church office no later than **May 16** (*News and Views* deadline date) if you are a church member and are graduating from high school or college. Please include where you're graduating from and where you'll be working/attending college. Email us at [brownbacksucc@comcast.net](mailto:brownbacksucc@comcast.net?subject=Graduating%20Student) or call the church office at 610.495.6788.

## Cemetery Reminder

A friendly reminder from our Cemetery Board… No trees (potted or planted), monuments, flowers, shrubbery, or plants of any type may be planted or erected on graves or lots anywhere in the cemetery. No corner stones, iron railings, or enclosures of any type may be put about a lot or grave.

## 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

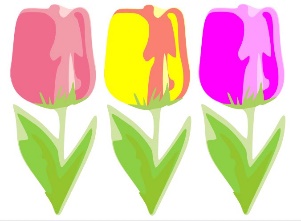
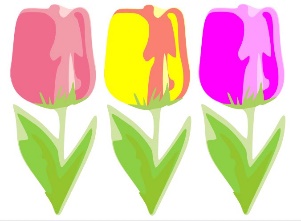
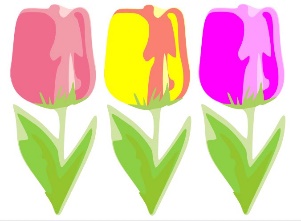
The deadline for the May issue of the   
*News & Views* newsletter is **May 16**. To include information in the newsletter, you can leave information in the *News & Views* mailbox in the church lobby or email information to Penny Sallade at [pennysallade@yahoo.com](mailto:pennysallade@yahoo.com).

## 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.



## 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., Thelma Nelson, Kyle Overholtzer, Marie Painter, Phyllis Prizer.

**Friends of Brownback’s**: Greg Conover, Eva Diener, Eli Hallock, Mike Sands.

**For those who Mourn**: the Copenhaver family on the death of Allen Byrd, Peggy’s son-in-law and Shirley’s husband.

## May Birthdays

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

5/1 Mary Ann Acar

5/2 Paul Brady

5/11 Cara Spiess

5/12 Bernie Brungess  
Angela McCollum

5/13 Donna Brady  
Sam Garges

5/14 Colleen Spiess

5/16 Kennedy Houck

5/17 Steven Brady

5/20 Allison Kandler

5/21 Noah Vento

5/23 Barbara Guy

5/26 Amanda Sallade

5/27 Marie Painter

5/28 Tom Moore

5/29 Alissa Vining

5/30 Brian Copenhaver

5/31 Kris Houck

## May Anniversaries

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

5/2 John and Lorraine Cassady  
Rick and Jeanette Francesco

5/4 Derrick and Deb Boaman  
Brian and Dina Copenhaver  
Julie and Paul Radel

5/27 Barry and Holly Vining

5/30 Calvin and Nancy Idler

5/31 Justin and Velma Valbert

## Did You Know…

… that honey bees are responsible for between 1.2 and 5.4 billion dollars in agricultural productivity in the United States?

… it is physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

… your heart beats over 100,000 times a day.

… a sneeze travels out your mouth at over 100 m.p.h.

… women blink nearly twice as often as men.

… the longest bout of hiccups lasted nearly 69 years.

… men can read smaller print than women, but women can hear better.

… every time you lick a stamp, you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.

… our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.



## 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. Dawn Boyer et al., "How to Use Coloring in Your Prayer Time," Kathryn Shirey, May 14, 2018, 2, accessed June 6, 2018, <https://www.kathrynshirey.com/prayer-circles-using-mandalas-in-prayer/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)