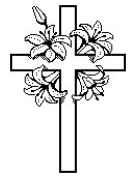


THE CHURCH CANDLE

APRIL 2022



Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY—APRIL 3

On the first Sunday of the month, our church observes Food Pantry Sunday. Each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item which will be delivered to the “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry at the Athens United Methodist Church. In March, 67 items were delivered. Thank you to all who helped the “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry. Thank you to Oliver McKeithan for delivering the food to the Athens United Methodist Church. The Methodist Church sends us this note:

Thank you for your recent donation of food to our “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry. With help like yours, we remain able to help feed the needy in our local community. Thank you again.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others for with such sacrifices, God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16



EASTER FLOWERS

For various reasons, the church will not be ordering Easter flowers this year as we have done in the past. If you would like to have flowers in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone, there are several ways to provide flowers for this season. You may bring a flower in. Or, the church office can order flowers from a local florist. Please contact Wendy, 570-888-2683, if you would like to do this. If flowers are provided, please take them home. Flowers can be brought to the church during the week of April 11 through April 15, noon to 4 pm.



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 10

Worship Service at 10 am

“Hosanna! Hosanna!”

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 14

at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary

The central focus of a Maundy Thursday service is upon the Lord’s table. The distinguishing feature of the service is the symbolic extinguishing of the lit candles, signifying the approach of Jesus’ death. A final candle, the Christ candle, remains lit throughout the service. *The light of Christ can never be extinguished.*

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 15

Noon through 5:00 pm

A Time of Meditation and Prayer

Sayre Christian Church will host a time of prayer and silent meditation on Good Friday. There will be stations for individuals to pray, light a candle, and trace a finger labyrinth for meditation. Pastor Paula will be available in the sanctuary to pray with those requesting prayer or to anoint anyone requesting a healing prayer. This will be a time for quiet contemplation and meditation. The public is invited to drop in any time during the afternoon.



EASTER SUNDAY —APRIL 17

Sunday Service at 10 am



PAULA’S PAGE

Dear Church,

Things are changing in the life of our church, new members and return of some old members are reasons for hope and celebration. My prayers are for God to use this church to be a light for this community and I am beginning to see a difference. This church is experiencing new things – like *Isaiah 43:19* “*See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.*” God is making a way in the desert for us. Our community has felt a bit like a spiritual desert since the pandemic began and I think we can begin to change that. I am excited for the future of this congregation as we begin to put our house in order.

The first change is how we see the roles of Elder and Deacon. A strengthening of these roles in the church leadership is long overdue. My vision is to see the Elders and Deacons work together to care for the church and for the congregation. This, I believe, will better enable us to minister grace and peace to the community as our mission statement claims.

The mission of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is honor God, share the love of Christ, and change lives ministering grace and peace.

Below are more specific duties of the duties or the Elders and the Deacons. These are things that need doing in every church congregation. We have been doing OK with these tasks however, as we better organize ourselves, we will be better able to help each other make sure things do not fall between the cracks. I hope you can get excited with me about change and pray that our future remains positive as it seems to be at this moment.

Blessings, Pastor Paula

Deacons serve God, the church, and church leadership and that may look different for different people. This list seems like a lot but these tasks keep the church worship service going smoothly. The following are the tasks done by various people over the many weeks in the year.

DUTIES FOR DEACONS

- Setting up the Communion for Sun service (stewards)
- Greeters: Greeting newcomers and providing a copy of the bulletin
- Receiving and counting tithes & offerings (a counter works with the Financial Secretary)
- Ensuring that candles are filled and lit
- Assisting Pastor with other elements of worship as needed
- Serves as ushers during functions of the church, i.e. concerts, weddings, and funerals
- Works with the Elders to care for the congregation



Elders are expected to encourage a deepening of the spiritual life within the congregation. Elders are expected to attend regular “care team” meetings with the deacons for education and self-care. Elders are expected to support the program of the church by regular attendance at morning worship and to cooperate with the departments which brace up the work of the entire church.

DUTIES OF THE ELDERS

- Elders pray as they offer prayer at the table of the Lord’s Supper as well as prayer for members of the congregation who need it.
- Elders teach. Teachers must be learners. Elders should attend/teach Bible study or Sunday School.
- Elders preach. When the Pastor is not available, elders will lead worship and/or deliver a message to the congregation.
- Elders shepherd as they keep up to date on the lives of members of the congregation, take communion to the homebound, and pass information to the Pastor when Pastoral Care is needed.
- Elders oversee as they serve as members of the Church Board, support and advise the Pastor.

SEED FAITH CIRCLE

The women of the Seed Faith Circle will gather for dinner on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022** at Beemans' Restaurant at **6:00 pm.** Contact Wendy, 570-888-2683, if you plan to attend.



God's Love
Endures
Forever
Psalm 118

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

This special offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be received on Sunday, April 10 and April 17, 2022. Envelopes will be available in the sanctuary. The Easter Offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ through the thirteen General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) it supports. *God's Enduring Love happens . . .*

- ◇ During Bible studies that challenge and inspire
 - ◇ When clergy have opportunities to gather in prayer
 - ◇ When spiritual care is given to those in prison
- The monies that come through the Easter offering supports ministries that *have an enduring impact . . .*
- ◇ On global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation and peace.
 - ◇ In colleges, universities, and theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming the church, society, and the world.
 - ◇ When ministry grants for congregational service help provide for hungry neighbors.

*Give thanks to God for God is good,
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 118:1*

WELCOME BACK!

On Sunday, March 20, 2022, Pastor Paula announced that **Jerry and Juanita Cron** reinstated their membership to the Sayre Christian Church. When you see Jerry and Juanita, please extend the right hand of fellowship to them. Your church family is happy to worship with you again.

GIVING REPORT FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

The following monies are received through the weekly Sunday offering and from groups who meet in the building on a regular schedule.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Undesignated Giving	\$5,268.00	\$4,030.00
Designated Giving	558.00	479.00
Building Fund	1,514.00	1,082.00
Local Outreach	106.00	283.00
World Outreach	284.00	265.00

The **Special Offering** for the **Week of Compassion** of the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** was received in February. Our church sent \$258 to this ministry that works with partners around the world to alleviate suffering.



WEEK OF COMPASSION

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

SERVING IN UKRAINE

Since February 24, 2022, Week of Compassion has been working to help the people of Ukraine through our ecumenical partners at home and around the world. If you would like to donate . . .

- ⇒ On-line donations can be sent directly to <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/>. Donations for Ukraine are to be specified "International Emergency Response."
- ⇒ If you would like to include a donation with your weekly offering, write "Week of Compassion—International Emergency Response" on your envelope. At the end of the month, the treasurer will send these monies to Week of Compassion.
- ⇒ The Outreach Fund of the SCC has sent \$300 to this cause.

Rev. Vy T. Nguyen, Executive Director of Week of Compassion expresses his gratitude for what the local church does. Details about the work of Week of Compassion can be found on their website.

ELDER: To Be Decided
STEWARD: Eva Kretsch



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

- April - 5—Valerie Mensch
- 10—Susie Kasson
- 11—Everett Greeno
- 12—David C. Harris
- 13— Bev Anderson
- 17—Donna Park

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- April 11— Oliver & Wendy McKeithan
- 20—Bill & Pat Sjostrom
- Irving & Nancy Edmunds

*Special Congratulations to
Irving and Nancy Edmunds who celebrate
66 years of marriage this month!*



CELEBRATION SUNDAY! will be held on April 24, 2022 after the worship service in Matthew’s Place (side vestry.) All are welcome to join the celebration as we honor and recognize those who have a birthday or anniversary this month. Bring your favorite dessert or snack to share.



1. Whom did God save from the flood?
2. How long was the Ark?
3. What was Moses’ occupation in Midian?

Answers on page 5



**DID YOU KNOW
TESSA MOYER?**

Tessa Moyer was the church organist and the chancel choir director of our church (then, known as the Church of Christ) from 1931—1963. Recently, the Church Office received a call from her grandson, Jens Moyer who lives in California. He is researching his ancestry and is interested in stories about his grandmother. Growing up, he spent time with her only twice in his life. If you have a memory you would like to share with him, contact him through one of the following resources.

Jens Moyer

7612 Driftwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588

jensmoyer36@gmail.com

925-200-7528

On Facebook: Jens Moyer

“THINK ABOUT THIS”

WHAT RELIGION CAN DO FOR US

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, . . .

Psalm 46: 1-2

Religion is not intended to make life an escape from hardships, but to make us the kind of people who can turn difficulties into opportunities. When we rise from our prayers we know we are not lost but that God is the guardian of our common life. Religion gives meaning and purpose in life. In these days of broken promises, lost hope, wars, and world upheavals, we all need the stability which religion can give us. Even though the storms, war, and sickness rage around us we can retain our poise and sanity with the help of religion. Today, we need people of religion and prayer whose life is given over to God. We as a Church need to stand tall for our religion and faith.

God is with us everyday.

Marlene J. Enlow

CONDOLENCES

Our church family extends their sympathy to **Fred & Rachel (Rava) Aguilar and family** upon the death of Fred's father in Mexico the week of March 27, 2022. Fred and Rachel were able to travel to Mexico for the funeral on March 31, 2022. May God give strength and comfort to those who mourn.

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

*Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.*

John 14:27

THANK YOU!

The Pennsylvania Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) manages a building of apartments known as the Thomas Campbell Apartments in Washington PA. This is low income housing with many of the residents being older. In December 2021, there was a fire at the apartments, displacing all the residents. The Pennsylvania Region began a project for "Welcome Home Boxes" to be available when the residents could return. Our church sent \$100 from the Local Outreach Fund for this project. The church received a thank you from our Regional Minister and President, Thad Allen.

Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your recent and generous gift of \$100.00 for the "Welcome Home Boxes" for our displaced members of the Thomas Campbell Apartments. Coming home after a fire is not easy. Your gift of welcome will make the transition much better and will bless the home with needed items as they are getting settled. Thank you for all of the ways that you are you. *God Speed.* Thad

Note: The residents have since returned and are settled back into their apartments.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

1. God saved Noah, Noah's wife, and his three sons and their wives.
2. The ark measured 450 ft long, 75 feet wide, & 55 feet high.
3. Moses was a shepherd in Midian.

GROUPS USING OUR BUILDING

How our church serves the community

Alcoholics Anonymous

- ◆ Monday thru Saturday: 8-9 am in the Fellowship Area
- ◆ Monday thru Saturday: noon-1 pm in Room 5 downstairs
- ◆ Guys & Gals with Gratitude: Monday at 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Area
- ◆ Friday Night Fellowship: 7-8 pm in the Fellowship Area

Narcotics Anonymous

- ◆ Thursday: 7-8 pm in Room 5 downstairs
- ◆ Friday: 7-8 pm in Room 5 downstairs

OverEaters Anonymous

- ◆ Wednesday: 7-8 pm in the Board Room
During the winter months, this group meets virtually through oa.org

Bradford County Action Inc

- ◆ On the first & third Tuesday of the month, the Career Mobile Services is in the Board Room at 9 am to help individuals find a job.
- ◆ On Thursday, from 1-3 pm, in the Board Room, preparation for GED classes is given.

Note: The above groups do provide a donation for the use of the room. These donations are deposited in to the Building Fund.

Scouts of America

- ◆ Cub Scout Pack 4018 gather in the Fellowship Area and classrooms downstairs at 2:30 pm on Sunday.
- ◆ Boy and Girl Scout Troop 4018 gather in the Fellowship Area and classrooms downstairs at 4 pm on Sunday.
- ◆ Scouts usually meet August through May.

The Music Club

- ◆ A group gathers in Matthew's Place (side vestry) on Monday at 6-7:30 pm to play instruments and sing along. Season varies. In 2021-2022, the group gathered from September thru December, then, March & April. Look for information in September 2022 when the Music Club resumes.

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Paula Kraus, Pastor
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E-Mail: sayrechristianchurch@gmail.com
www.sayrechristianchurch.org



THE "CHURCH CANDLE" APRIL 2022

CALENDAR OF APRIL EVENTS

- April 3 Food Pantry Sunday
- April 12 Church Board Meeting at 6 pm
All are welcome to attend
- 14 Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
- 15 Good Friday
Time for Prayer & Meditation
Noon thru 5 pm in Sanctuary
- 17 Easter Sunday Service at 10 am
- April 19 Seed Faith Circle at 6 pm
Meet at Beemans' Restaurant



EASTER APRIL 17, 2022

All are welcome to join
our worship service in the sanctuary
at 10 am.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
www.facebook.com/SayreChristian
to view our Worship Service