



THE CHURCH CANDLE

APRIL 2023

Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY—APRIL 2

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, 78 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 78 items for our “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry. Your faithful support helped us serve over 100 families last month. We appreciate you!

*I do not cease to give thanks for you.
Ephesians 1:16*



EASTER FLOWERS

For various reasons, the church will not be ordering Easter flowers this year as we have done in the past. All are welcome to bring flowers in for our Easter service. If you would like to have them recognized to be in honor of someone or in memory of someone, let Wendy in the Church Office know. She can include this information in the bulletin. Flowers can be brought to the church during the week of April 3 through April 7, noon to 4 pm. Please take the flowers home after Easter.



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 2

Worship Service at 10 am

“Hosanna! Hosanna!”

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 6

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 7

1:00 through 3:00 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 9

Sonrise Service at 7:30 am

Sunday Service at 10 am



PAULA’S PAGE

Dear Church,

The birds are back! I’ve been lamenting that I have tried to keep my little bird feeder full for the birds but not one had partaken of those meals all winter long. I cleaned the feeder and changed my food but the birds weren’t interested. However, with the warmer weather and sunshine I have noticed they are back. Isn’t it funny how in our lives we find little things that either pick us up or cause us to lament and truly that bird feeder is a little thing.

This season of Lent has been a busy one. I am happy to see us return to our SonRise service on Easter Sunday – even though that causes more work for me. Maybe that’s why I lamented not seeing the birds through my office window. Those birds chirping gave me the opportunity to pause and enjoy creation.

This makes me think of Spring Cleaning. I really don’t do much “Spring Cleaning” because I try to keep things in good order throughout the year. I look around this church however and I see a need for some “Spring Cleaning” much like we are going to do with our boiler room by getting a new, more modern, system. I see a need to haul away clutter and spruce things up a bit, not by spending more money but by spending more time. I wonder if that has been a Lenten focus of mine, cleaning out the clutter and becoming more streamlined in my approach to worship and my time spent with God. Even though in April we will put Lent behind us and rejoice for a risen Christ, maybe we can all spend some time clearing out the cobwebs of our personal time with God and take a fresh – Spring like – approach.

Blessings,
Pastor Paula

HAM DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Meal service begins at 4:00 pm
at the Sayre Christian Church

Baked Ham—Mashed Potatoes
Vegetables—Coleslaw
Assorted Desserts
Beverage
Cost is \$12.50

MOVIE BEGINS AT 6 PM

“Samson” from Sight & Sound

This event is a fundraiser to put money back into the Legacy Fund which has been used to refurbish our stained glass windows and the recent project to renovate our heating system. Jerry Cain, Mark Allis, and Sue Hurd are the team which will do the preparation. A clean-up crew will be needed. Also, the team is asking church members to provide the desserts. Contact Sue Hurd if you are able to clean up or bring a dessert, 570-423-5191.



1. How did God destroy Sodom & Gomorrah?
2. What did Pharoah’s daughter name the baby she found in the river weeds?
3. Did Moses receive anything else from God while on top of Mount Sinai?

Answers on page 4.

THANK YOU!

A special note of appreciation goes out to the individuals who continue to perform special music each Sunday. In January, February, and March, Jerry Cain, Oliver McKeithan, Sue Hurd, Julie Allis, and Laurel Mareck shared their musical talents. Julie played her guitar several times and also the clarinet. Oliver shared his talent on the mandolin. Our church family is very grateful to have Janet Frisk as our pianist every Sunday. She also coordinates the special music and gives of her time for the extra practice required.

SEED FAITH CIRCLE

The women of the Seed Faith Circle will gather for dinner on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023** at Tomasso's Restaurant at **6:00 pm**. Contact Wendy, 570-888-2683, if you plan to attend.



This special offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be received on Sunday, April 2 and April 9, 2023. Envelopes and information will be available in the pews. On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news. General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through:

- * Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by climate change.
- * Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- * Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.

And, so much more . . . *we are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.* Please give to the special Easter Offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as God directs you.

THE MUSIC CLUB RESUMES!

Same Time—New Day

The Music Club resumed meeting in March with a new day. **The group now meets on Thursday, 6-7:30 pm in Matthew's Place (side vestry.)** They continue to enjoy their time together by playing and singing along to their favorite tunes. If you play any kind of instrument, you are welcome to join the group. Call the Church Office for more information

GIVING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

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

Undesignated Giving	\$4,775.71
Designated Giving	1,064.00
Building Fund	2,123.00
Local Outreach	139.00
World Outreach	\$8.00

The **Special Offering** for the **Week of Compassion** of the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** was received in February. Our church sent \$550 to this ministry that works with partners around the world to alleviate suffering.

APRIL IS

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Blue Sunday—April 30, 2023

The Children's House Child Advocacy Center of Towanda PA have provided the church with this information asking our church to provide support for **Blue Sunday**.

People of all faiths are asked to join together in a day of prayer to demonstrate their support for children and families who have been touched by abuse, and appreciation to those who help abused and neglected children. *Pray for:*

Children who are at home with their abuser

A loving, healing, home environment

Children to have the courage to speak out

Individuals who work to rescue and protect children

HOPE, HEALING and JUSTICE

What else you can do:

- **Educate yourself.** In 2021, Bradford and Sullivan Counties received a combined 362 reports of child abuse. Only 1 in 10 children will ever disclose their abuse.
- **Advocate for Children.** Share what you've learned within your community. Empower youth to speak out.
- **Report Child Abuse.** The path to healing from abuse can only begin when someone makes a report. Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313
- **Engage with Children's House Child Advocacy Center.** Volunteer. Donate. Attend an event. Request a prevention presentation.

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR April 2023

ELDER: To Be Decided

STEWARD: Mark and Julie Allis



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

April 3—LuAnn Raupers
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
67 years of marriage this month!*



CELEBRATION SUNDAY! will be held on April 30, 2023 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. This is the fifth Sunday of the month. So, bring a dish to pass to share a pot-luck meal.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

1. God destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah by a rain of sulfur and fire to come down on the two cities.
2. Pharoah's daughter named the baby she found in the weeds Moses.
3. While Moses was on top of Mount Sinai, God gave Moses instructions for making the Tabernacle and its furnishings.

Bible Trivia submitted by Marlene J. Enlow

CONDOLENCES

Our church expresses their sympathy to the family and friends of **Edward Sefcik** who died at home on March 9, 2023. Edward was the husband of Sandy Sefcik. May God offer peace and comfort to those who will miss Edward.



ELDERCARE of THE BRIDGE

SCC gives to Athens Healthcare & Rehab Center

The Bridge of the Penn-York Valley Churches has established a ministry for Eldercare. A coordinator works with the staff of a nursing care facility or personal care home in the Valley to assist residents who may not have family or friends who can provide for them. Donations of a variety of items are kept on hand for the residents' use. Since our church visits the Athens Healthcare and Rehab Center monthly to offer a worship service, the Elders and Deacons of our church have decided to be a part of this Bridge ministry there.

Since we initiated this outreach our church family has been very generous in providing donations. *Thank you for your generosity.* Just a reminder, this is an on-going ministry. The residents received a large collection of nail polish, so the request for donations include:

- ⇒ Nail Polish Remover
- ⇒ Cottonballs
- ⇒ And, disposable razors as they wear fast!

A list of other items needed is available on the table by the front door of the sanctuary. Any donations may be placed in the white basket by the table.

Wendy McKeithan, Outreach Coordinator

SAFETY and SECURITY in OUR CHURCH—PART 1

Church, workplace and school violence have, unfortunately, become commonplace in our country. No place is safe from those who choose evil to lash out at what they perceive as an affront to themselves. Even though we live in an area where this type of violence is unheard of, there is always a chance it could happen. And, it could happen in our church.

We, the board, looked at ways we could improve the chances of preventing a shooting or other act of violence at our church. We have already taken some steps: keeping the front door locked except when services are to start; having a camera installed at the Lincoln Street door; installing an automatic door locking system on the Lincoln Street door; and some of the members of the church acting as lookouts.

The board felt we needed to go further so we invited Brian Wibirt, one of the Bradford County deputies, to do a talk and power point presentation and a walk around to see where we are in regards to safety issues. Mr. Wibirt was at our church on Tuesday, March 21st for his presentation and we had nine attendees.

Mr. Wibirt's talk stressed the acronym **A.L.I.C.E.** which stands for **Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.** These are not steps to be taken in order, like checking off a list, but some or all of them can happen individually or at the same time. If there ever occurs an act of violence in our church not everyone will be thinking and doing things in a rational and logical order.

In the second article, which will be in the May newsletter, I will talk about each letter in more depth. But for now, the most important thing is to be aware of one's surroundings. It seems to go against the grain to have to do this in a church but the times we live in necessitate this. Know where the exits are. Know who comes to church. Know who might be going through problems that could lead to violence. Know what to do in case of an active shooter. The emphasis is knowledge. Knowledge can go a long way to either preventing an incident and/or minimizing injuries and/or the loss of life.

Oliver McKeithan, Church Board Chairman

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTREACH in our COMMUNITY

DONATIONS needed for "WILDCAT CLOSET"

at the Lynch-Bustin Elementary School

The staff at the Lynch-Bustin Elementary School have developed a "Wildcat Closet" to help ensure the students have proper clothing, shoes, and even hygiene products for the changing seasons. This project aims to improve the students' health, well-being, and access for appropriate clothing. The staff has approached our church, asking for donations. If you or family members are cleaning out a closet or drawer, and have clothes that are still in good condition and no one is wearing, please consider donating them to this effort. Socks and underwear should be new.

Items needed:

- *Sock Sizes: Small, Medium, and Large
- *Underwear sizes: Extra small thru Extra Large
- *Hats and gloves: Ages 5-12
- *Sweatpants: Extra-small thru Extra Large
- *Sweatshirts: Extra-small through Extra Large
- *Sneakers: Sizes 11-6

The "Wildcat Closet has been used since the fall. Donations are still requested. **Popular sizes are: 8, 10/12, and 12/14.** Donations may be given to Wendy McKeithan or place them in Matthew's Place (side vestry) in the box available.

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**THE “CHURCH CANDLE”
APRIL 2023**

CALENDAR OF APRIL EVENTS

- April 2 Food Pantry Sunday
- 6 Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
- 7 Good Friday
Time for Prayer & Meditation
1 thru 3 pm
- 9 Sonrise Service at 7:30 am
Easter Sunday Service at 10 am
- April 11 Church Board Meeting at 6 pm
All are welcome to attend
- April 15 Ham Dinner & Movie Night
Meal begins at 4 pm/Movie at 6 pm
- April 18 Seed Faith Circle at 6 pm
Meet at Tomasso’s Restaurant



APRIL 9, 2023

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