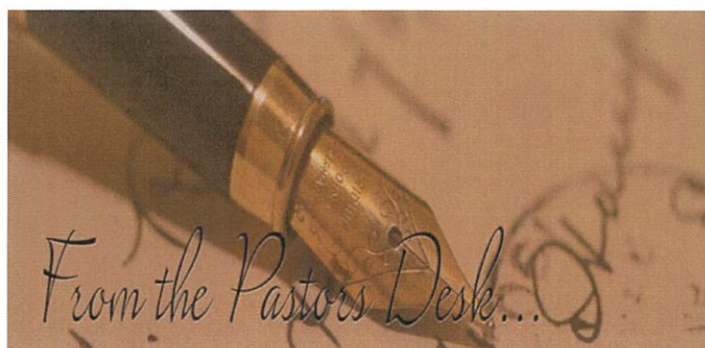


Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What will Easter Sunday mean to you? Choose carefully:

How you celebrate Easter is an indicator of your potential as a student of Jesus. “Holy Week” is filled with powerful images of the Christian life: Jesus gave us a covenant meal on Thursday night—the very night he was betrayed.



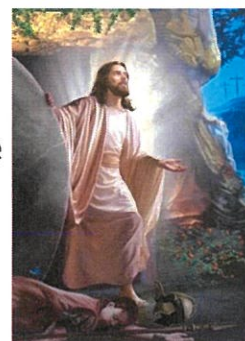
He suffered torture and death on Friday—a substitutionary death that paid the price for the sins of humanity.

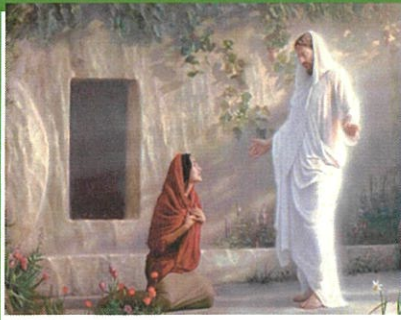
On Saturday he descended into the depths of Hades and kicked in the gates of Hell itself. And, of course, on Sunday he was resurrected with power, receiving the vindication of the Heavenly Father. We can (and should) celebrate his death. His death on the cross is unique because of who he is—the sinless perfect Son of God: The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. No one else could accomplish what Jesus accomplished on the cross, because his perfect sacrifice came by virtue of his identity as God come to earth. His sacrifice was for the sin of all people, in all times and in all places.

His death was unique. One time. Once. For all. But I would like to ask a difficult question: Is Friday’s sacrifice enough? When we concentrate on the substitutionary death of Jesus to the exclusion of his life and teaching we limit his ministry to a divine rescue mission—a rescue mission that only becomes effective for us when we die. Many Christians understand that they have no hope of heaven apart from the price Jesus paid on their behalf. But apart from gratitude for his kindness there is little connection between what Jesus did then and how we can live today. Our appreciation for what he did does not empower us to fulfill his teaching. Our gratitude for his suffering does not release the wisdom, insight, or strength for each one of us to live as a new creation, a new kind of person.

Here is one of the secrets of the resurrection: on that first Easter Sunday Jesus opened not only the tomb, he opened new possibilities for everyone who would follow him. The resurrection was not only a supernatural event for Jesus, it also opened up the resources of heaven for all who would follow him. Jesus opened the womb of heaven. Picture him emerging from the garden tomb: something new came forth that day—the power of resurrection life operating in a human being.

Resurrection life flowed into Jesus that day, but the Scripture reveals that it is now available to us as well: “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.” (Roman 8:11) This verse is not about being raised up after we die, it’s about the power of the resurrection working in us now.



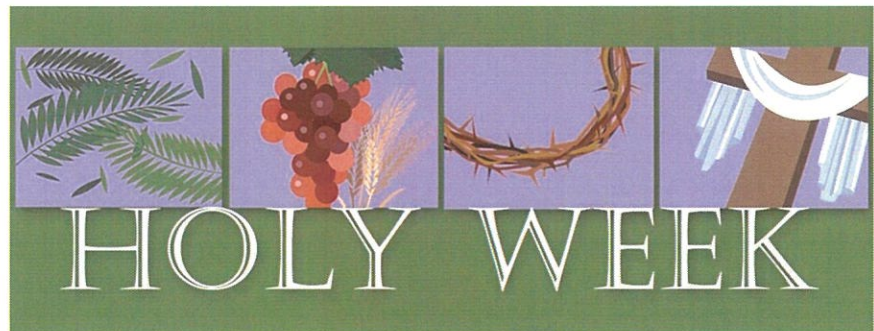


Jesus was not only our model during earthly life, he is also a model of new creation operating in us even now: the nature and power of the resurrection dwell in each new child of God. This is no mere formality. The womb of heaven has been opened by Jesus, and each believer has the potential to bring heaven to earth. Those who are born from above receive heaven's DNA in them here and now. First Jesus, then us. Not only in resurrection from the dead but also empowerment for ministry.

Our ability to see Jesus as the firstborn among many is more than a Bible-study lesson. Once we see him in this light, our role as children of God takes on new meaning, new possibilities, and new responsibilities. He opened the way for us to continue his Kingdom mission. Heaven's resources poured into us. Jesus relied upon the Holy Spirit to walk in obedience, and he sent the Holy Spirit to help us do the same. He relied upon the Holy Spirit to do powerful works that authenticated his message, and he sent the Holy Spirit to do the same for us.

Jesus indeed came to save us from our sins; he also came to empower us to live Godly lives that can look substantially like his life. That empowerment burst forth from the grave on Easter Sunday. His mandate to disciple the nations is not possible apart from the power of the resurrection. The Book of Acts reveals what happens when students of Jesus operate in the power of the resurrection. We must choose wisely during this Holy Week. Are we celebrating sacrifice apart from empowerment? Are we celebrating history without receiving the gift of the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead? The open grave stands as a portal through which heaven flows into earth—not only on that first Easter Sunday, but every day.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Don



Everyone is welcome to attend to our Easter Sunrise service on Sunday, April 9 at 6 AM. The service will be followed by a breakfast in our fellowship hall hosted by the Ministry Commission. Come and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, King Jesus!

The children's Easter Program will be Sunday, April 2 at 11 AM.
Come and see the children

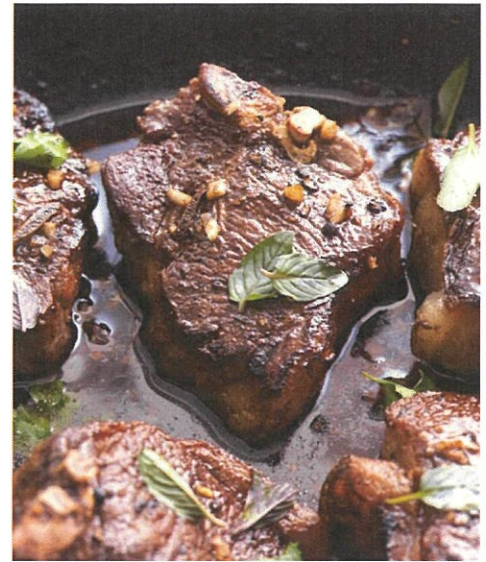


"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world."

Cooking With Pastor Don Garlic Butter Lamb Chops

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 (1 1/4-inch thick) lamb loin or rib chops
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1/4 cup fresh herb leaves, such as parsley, mint, or oregano
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Remove the lamb chops from the refrigerator and season with 1 teaspoon kosher salt. Set aside at room temperature for at least 5 minutes. Meanwhile, finely chop 4 garlic cloves and 1/4 cup fresh herb leaves and set each aside separately.
2. Melt 1 stick unsalted butter in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat until sizzling but not yet browned. Add the lamb chops and sear until browned and an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat registers 145°F for medium doneness, flipping halfway through, 8 to 12 minutes total.
3. Add the garlic and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper to the butter and cook for 1 minute more. Remove from the heat and garnish with the herbs.

Easter Sunday Service

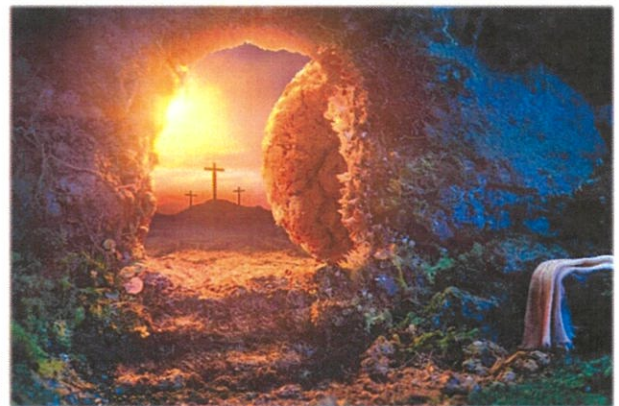
Pastor Don's message entitled :

"MY RESPONSE TO THE RESURRECTION"

Matthew 27:62-28:15



*Come out ladies and join
us for Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, April 11 @ 7 PM*



Need Help with Yard Work?

There is a sign up in the vestibule for anyone that would like yard work done on Saturday, May 6th by the youth. Youth is asking for donations for doing yard work. Any questions ask Leslie or Airen.



**MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP**

**Men's Fellowship
Tuesday, April 25**

7 PM

Easter Crosswalk:

The Worthington churches along with Center Hill will be participating in the Crosswalk on Good Friday, April 7. The Walk will begin at the Evangelical Lutheran Church starting at 12 Noon and ending at the Worthington Presbyterian Church.



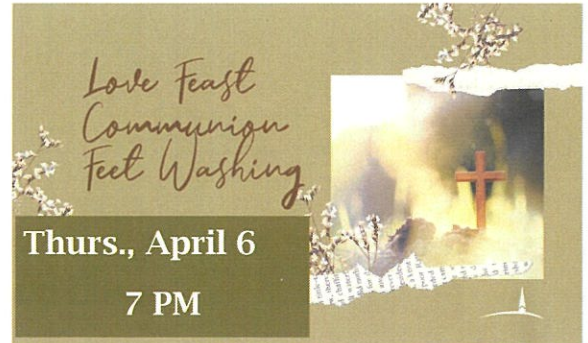
WE NEED YOU
to make our new family directory complete

Please schedule your photography appointment time for the new church directory. You can schedule your appointment before and after the morning service or you can call the church office at 724-548-7226.



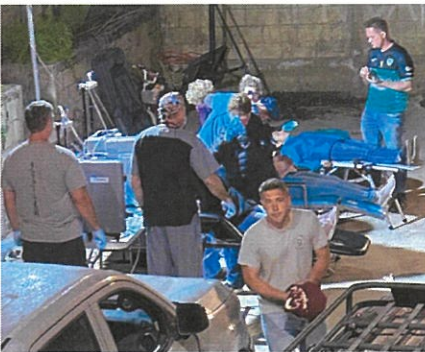
Church Council Meeting

The All Church Council meeting will take place on Monday, April 17 at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to attend!



A Blessed Mission Trip

I hardly know where to start to tell you of the blessing the team that just returned from Guatemala experienced during our short-term mission trip. The team included six leaders from the Covenant Brethren Church. During the trip, we made contact with a local church that wants to apply for membership in the Covenant Brethren Church denomination. Of course, this will be a process, and nothing is sure until the application is reviewed by the Ministry Committee and the Executive Board. The very fact that they are asking is exciting and points to the possibility of the CBC expanding into Central America.



During the day, our dental team saw about 500 people. They did fillings, extractions, and cleanings. Their equipment had to be hauled in the back of a pick-up or on top of an SUV to some of the most remote mountain villages we have ever been to. At the same time, the rest of the team passed out 500 fifteen-pound bags of food and Bibles to various groups of people. These groups were organized by local pastors in different locations, one of which was extremely remote. It required crossing four creeks and a river while traveling down roads that were not much better than traveling in creek beds. The trip was almost five hours.

During these stops, we installed wood burning cook stoves, twenty-four in all, that were vented with a flue pipe. That is very important because when people don't have anything like this, they cook in a smokey room over an open fire, breathing in the smoke. Over time the smoke wrecks their kidneys, lungs, and livers causing sickness and death even for the children.



At each site the Gospel was shared by different CBC preachers through an interpreter. People with health issues were prayed for and God was glorified.

The Gift of Touch

Was Jesus Christ a hugger? The Bible may not give us an entirely definitive answer. But I do know that Jesus was a frequent toucher. To be sure His touching was always discreet and with complete respect and without any impure motives. He used touch to extend grace and tenderness toward those in need of a special blessing that only He could give.

He touched blind eyes and they saw again. He touched a young man's dead body and he was brought to life. He touched young children as He drew them to Himself and blessed them. Jesus stayed close to those He sought to bless. And there was something about the demeanor of Jesus that welcomed closeness. Sometimes people would "throng him." You'll remember in the upper room one of the disciples was "leaning on Jesus' breast."



One of the most touching scenes of the Bible is recorded in Luke 8. It is the account of a woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years. And she had spent all her money on physicians without getting help. One day she pressed through the crowd and touched the hem of His garment and was immediately healed. Jesus knew that the power of his virtue had left Him and wondered who touched Him. When she could not hide her actions, she bore testimony to her great healing. She never forgot the gift of touch she received.

Interestingly, the gift of touch is a part of our church life when we observe the ordinances. We touch when we wash one another's feet. We touch when we administer trine immersion baptism. We touch when we observe the holy kiss. We touch when we lay hands on those who are ordained to preach or those who are commissioned to go out as missionaries. We touch when we anoint someone for healing. We are commanded to use the gift of touch.

Dating couples usually have a desire to be close to each other. Someone has quipped, "In the church sometimes it is a challenge to keep young people apart and also to keep the older people together." I once heard of an older couple who were driving behind a young couple in the car ahead. She said to her husband, "John, do you see how close that young couple up ahead is sitting?" "Yes." "Do you remember when we used to sit that way?" "Yes." "Why don't we sit that way anymore?" And John said, "Who moved?"

Jesus still wants to use the gift of touch. He is still saying, "Come unto Me." And don't forget, spiritual closeness is a two-way street. The Bible says, draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. The hymn writer got it right when the song HE TOUCHED ME was written. Here are the words of the chorus.

He touched me, O, He touched me.
And O, the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole!

Jim Myer – CBC Executive Board member

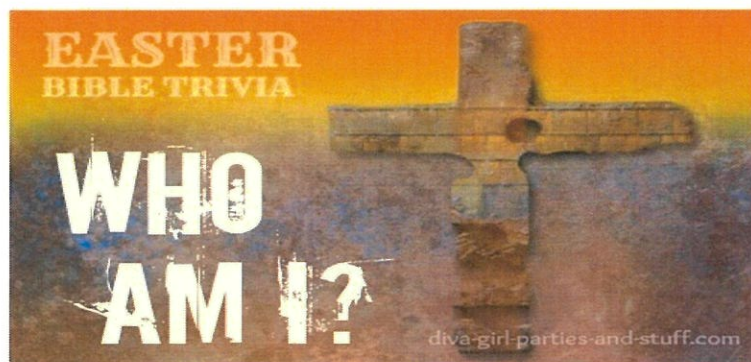




Welcome,
Daughters of
the King:

*Please join us for
the Mother/
Daughter Banquet
on Tuesday,*

*May 9, 2023. You are welcome to
wear your royal robes or your
princess gown and crown. Come
and celebrate being Daughters of
the King. Keep watching for
more details.*



Jesus gave me the name Cephas.

Who Am I? 25 points

I did not want Jesus to wash my feet.

Who Am I? 20 points

I had a brother named Andrew.

Who Am I? 15 points

I tried to walk to Jesus on the water.

Who Am I? 10 points

Jesus told me I would deny Him three
times and I did.

Who Am I? 5 points



THE
Lamplighter

Center Hill Covenant Brethren Church

2039 Freeport Road

Kittanning, PA 16201

Email: centerhillchurchpa@gmail.com

Web: centerhillchurchpa.org

