

CHRISTIAN HERALD

WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Laddie J. Benton, Pastor

April 2017 Number 353

FEATURING
APRIL NEWSLETTER



From the Pastor's Desk
Teaching Elder, Laddie J. Benton, Pastor

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

*Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus
who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.
(Matthew 28: 5b-6 –New Revised Standard Version)*

THE SEASON OF EASTERTIDE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Dear members and friends of Washington Presbyterian Church (USA),

Eastertide is a fifty-day period of seven Sundays, beginning with Easter, the festival of Christ's resurrection. Ascension Day, forty days after Easter, is celebrated to affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord of all times and places.

Easter Sunday is the most important day on the Christian Church calendar. It is the day that Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead, granting everlasting life to all believers. On this "great day," Christians rejoice in knowing that they are living fully in God's wonderful love.

Attendance at Easter Sunday is usually the largest during the church year. I was once told by a person that he may not attend church services much of the year, "but on Easter Sunday, I am always there." It is true, that many attend Easter Sunday services that are seldom present throughout the year.

I am extending an invitation to all of you to join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate the festival of Christ Jesus' resurrection. Let us worship and fellowship with one another as we praise God for the gift of eternal life through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

***Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Laddie J. Benton, Pastor

***STAND UP FOR JESUS!
STAND UP FOR WPC!***

SICK, SHUT-INS AND BEREAVED FAMILIES

Joan Marshall, Teondré Morrison-Cooper, Claudette Carter, Justin Johnson, Kevin Herring, Joyce Beckett, Linda Hobbs (Pastor's sister), Daisy Patience, Marie (Flood) Rhodes, Monica Fruit (Joan Reppert's granddaughter), Maurice Alexander, LaKeshia Green & Family, Viola Jefferson, Tammy Marshall, Aimy McKnight, Ethel Kinkaid, Will Kinkaid (Tremont Rehab.), Diana Flood, Maria Mootarim (Barbara's co-worker), Cherie Spillane, Agnes Snead, Mrs. Thelma Winfrey, Jeffrey Godboldte, Derric Burden, Rosalie Moore, John and Damarcus (sons of Penny's co-worker), Joseph Harmon, Patricia & Shirley Wilson (mother & daughter), Shania Hunter (Janice's niece), Vickie Bowers (Pennside), Connie Lantz (Vickie's mother), Patricia Stupp and Arlene Speaks (Penny's co-workers), Kiara Delgado (Penny's granddaughter), Katrina Boykin, Eric George, Henry Johnson, Tomishia Johnson, Melba Stamm, Dale Brown, Valerie Phelps, Kenneth Randall, Sabrina (Alex's friend), Sandy (Renwick) Martin, Alex Auston, John and Mary Lou Haynes, Jason Whitlock, Oliver & Freida Carter, Sharon Davis, Nancy Kerper, Jimmy McKee, Rose Fletcher, Sharon Good (April's sister-in-law), Richard Newkirk, Marty & David Banks, Eddie Ramos, Harold Jackson, Jean Pingatore, Shawn Marshall, Tommy Ridley, Nora Hartford, Jessica Levan, Mrs. Marjorie MacNeil, Paulette Amprey's family, Nicholas (Amber's client) and Kim Scott.

PRAY FOR THE BEREAVED

SCRIPTURES

April 2	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11
April 9	Matthew 21:1-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11
April 16	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4
April 23	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	I Peter 1:3-9
April 30	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	I Peter 1:17-23

STANDING COMMITTEES

Christian Concerns – April Coleman
Christian Education – Alexis Green
Evangelism – Yvonne Lewis
Finance – Toni A. Brooks
Property – Stephen Greer
Stewardship – Sharon Davis/Yvonne Lewis
Worship Committee-Pauline Johnson/Alexis Green

BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday 10:00 AM & 6:30 P.M.

LECTIONARY READINGS

John 11:1-45
Matthew 26:14-27
John 20:1-18
John 20:19-31
Luke 24:13-35

SESSION

Pastor – Rev. Laddie J. Benton
Clerk of Session – Barbara Davis
Church Treasurer – Toni A. Brooks
Benevolence Treasurer – Sharon Davis
Club Fund Treasurer – Winnie J. Burden
Sunday School – Sharon Davis

ORGANIZATION

Men's Fellowship – Oliver Carter
Pastor's Aid – Toni A. Brooks/Winnie Burden
Personnel – Stephen Greer
Presbyterian Women – Alexis Green/LaKeshia Green

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Senior Choir – Thursday 1:00 PM – Director - Mrs. Janet Arms

**WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL ACCEPT DONATIONS
FROM ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH OUR MISSIONS.**

WPC WEB PAGE: WPC1823.COM

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.” (John 20:1)

APRIL 2017

* Denotes Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						April 1
2 Self-Development of People Justice Advocacy	3 Diana Flood * Stephen Randall *	4	5 Bible Study – 10:00 AM Bible Study – 6:30 PM Donald Lewis *	6 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	7	8
9 Communion 10:00AM Sunday Service	10	11 Worship Committee Meets – 10:00 AM	12 Bible Study – 10:00 AM Bible Study – 6:30 PM	13 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	14	15
Passion/Palm Sunday Communion 10:00AM Sunday Service	17 Passover Begins	18 Worship Committee Meets – 10:00 AM	19 Bible Study – 10:00 AM Bible Study - 6:30 PM Jazzmine Foster *	20 Maudy Thursday Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	21 Good Friday Vivian Key *	22
16 One Great Hour of Sharing Resurrection of the Lord/Easter	17 Taxes Due	18 Demerik Benton- Weglinski *	19 Bible Study – 10:00 AM Bible Study - 6:30 PM Jazzmine Foster *	20 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	21 Vivian Key *	22
10:00AM Sunday Service	International Day of Farmers' Struggles	25 Passover Ends	26 Bible Study -- 10:00 AM Bible Study - 6:30 PM	27 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	28 Corbin Scott *	29 Jayvian Phelps *
23 LaCiya Dianna *	24	25	26 Administrative Professionals Day	27 Holocaust Remembrance Day	28 Arbor Day	
10:00AM Sunday Service	Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day					
30 10:00AM Sunday Service	31					

WHEN & WHERE

Saturday, April 22
8AM - 12PM
715 N 10 St, Reading PA

HOW MUCH

\$5 For Seniors & Kids
\$7 For Adults (15 & Up)

WHAT ELSE

Ticket price includes all-you-can eat pancakes with all of the fixings (1 serving eggs, meat, beverage). Grits & a la carte items available.

Street parking available.

PANCAKES!

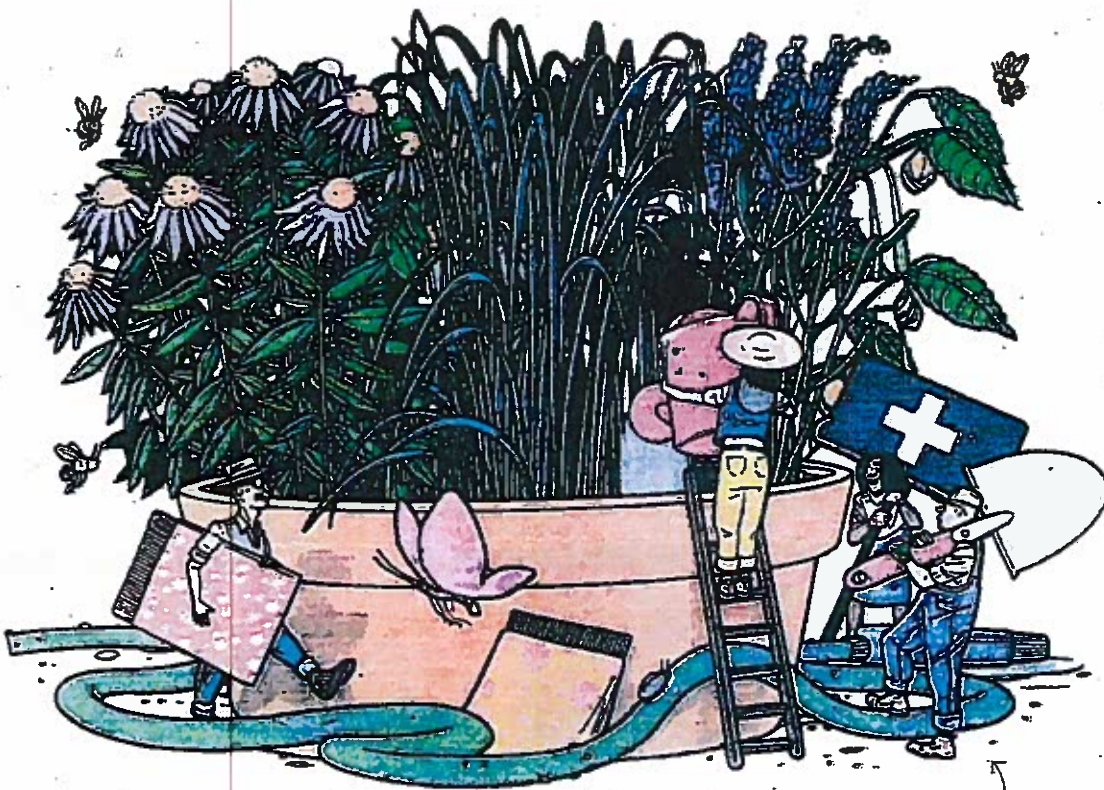
SATURDAY | APR 22 | 8AM - 12PM

JOIN US FOR A MORNING
OF FOOD & FELLOWSHIP.

DINE-IN AND TAKE-OUT
BREAKFASTS ARE
AVAILABLE.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
WASHINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AND THE
GREATER READING
COMMUNITY.





Garden to your health

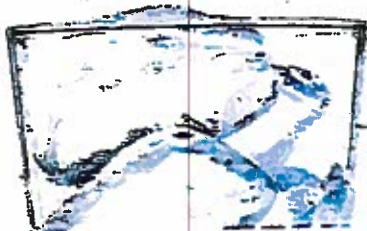
THINK HEALTH remedies can't come from your backyard? These easy-to-grow summer plants offer all kinds of benefits, from warding off disease-carrying mosquitoes to helping you sleep.

Plant	Health Benefit	How to Use
Echinacea	Fights summer colds and other infections	Steep fresh or dried leaves, flowers and/or roots in boiling water for tea.
Citronella grass or lemongrass	Repels mosquitoes	Crush the leaves and rub them on skin.
Lavender	Promotes sleep, eases anxiety	Put the leaves and flowers in water in a vase on a nightstand—to take advantage of the soothing scent.
Jewelweed	Keeps poison ivy rash from forming	Slice the stem, then rub the juicy inside on exposed skin.



Laundry room tick tip

YOUR BEST defense against blood-sucking ticks this summer? The dryer. The high heat dries out the ticks, killing them, says University of Rhode Island tick expert Thomas Mather. Five to 10 minutes is sufficient.



REV UP YOUR ENGINE

Burn extra calories by chugging an extra glass or two of cool water. The body uses energy to warm up the H₂O to body temperature, researchers say.

Eat your sunshine

DON'T WANT to risk getting a sunburn? Fill up on these vitamin D-rich foods. Aim for 600 IU daily.



Sockeye salmon, baked or broiled
3 ounces: 570 IU



Ready-to-eat fortified cereal
1 cup: 40 IU



Yolk of 1 large egg:
40 IU



Swiss cheese
1 ounce: 6 IU



Mushrooms (white) 1 cup of pieces: 5 IU



Cod-liver oil (if you can stomach it!)
1 tablespoon: 1,360 IU

YOUR CALMNESS

In this world filled with stress, trials, and uncertainties, a calm spirit is often unknown, Lord. In spite of this, I realize peace does not come from circumstances. Instead, it's a condition of the heart.

Though pressure flurries surround me, I thank You for Your abiding presence, the source of calm, deep within my soul. When conflicts arise, I must remember to pray. Your steady, calm voice unwinds my emotions.

I have learned only the humble and patient inherit the earth and enjoy this wonderful freedom from stress. I won't let unkind words or anyone's thoughtless actions get under my skin. With Your help, I'll quietly keep my thoughts fixed on You, the Source of peace. When snap decisions must be made, I feel You slow my racing thoughts so I can reason things out logically and handle them in a harmonious manner.

When pressures come, I cry for Your help, and You answer. You grant strength and bless me with peace of heart and mind. Help me each time, Lord, to turn from the easy reaction of handling things impatiently to pursuing Your right way. Through it all, I feel You give me a calm, cool head once again.

When I need an escape, thank You for providing refuge where I can get away for a short while, even if it's only a walk around the block. Thank You for how You protect my emotions and my inner being. You fill me with songs of joy and peace.

This calmness that comes only from Your touch, Lord, goes beyond any understanding. It keeps my heart and soul close to You for You are the foundation and the source of any real peace.

Thank You, Lord, for how You give the peace during the busiest moments of my life. Not a peace as the world gives, but one that comes from Your Holy Spirit.

Please, keep helping me not to be troubled or afraid. I believe in you, for You are my God, my source of calmness.

“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

THE FORUM

“LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE”

“You can’t handle the truth!” as the saying goes. It was spoken by actor Jack Nicholson, at a trial of a US Marine shortly after the Vietnam War. In modern day theatrics we now have President of the United States (POTUS), Donald J. Trump under the same circumstances. --- Can he handle the truth? We have a President who peddles falsehoods and dabbles in conspiracy, yet confronts the challenge to governing in reality. One of his personal aims is to destroy the legacy of the past President, Barack Obama. It is not only his aim but also the aim of many of the right-wing nuts of the Republican Party. We as African-Americans cannot and shall not allow this to happen. We have many Congressmen/women who fight every day on this legacy subject. The POTUS, nonstop, wages baseless attacks to undermine Obama and his efforts are getting old. He just doesn’t get it that the former POTUS is a revered figure here in the United States and abroad. In a recent survey, a telemarketing firm critiqued a speech given by President Trump and found 70% of statements made were falsehoods. This is his pathetic attempt to impersonate a President. Some stuff huh! More on this subject of the Truth in an upcoming Forum.

Switching gears from politics to church -- as the writer, I find it interesting being an observer at Session meetings. This note is a call for more members of Washington Presbyterian Church (WPC) to attend meetings, held the third Monday of each month from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. As an observer “guest” you have no vote in the proceedings, nor voice in the discussions unless recognized by the chair on request from a member of Session. It may heighten your interest in church “goings-on.” In the past Session meeting the subject of STEWARDSHIP arose as a topic and how to find ways to give to the church to make it viable and stay ahead of the so-called “bill collector curve.” As I attended Presbytery meetings throughout the years many Presbyterians are amazed at how WPC stays afloat. That has a lot to do with giving your fair share or tithe to the church. A few years ago, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America held a conference on Stewardship in Fleetwood, PA. The keynote speaker made a point that some pastors may say it is not their “thing” to ask members to increase their giving. The speaker suggested “make it your thing” as faithful giving is one of the ingredients of building mature disciples of Jesus Christ. He also suggested an annual stewardship campaign as an effective way to increase giving and encourage the commitment to give a percentage of personal income. It does not always have to be 10% as the Bible states; it could be maybe 1%, 2% up to 5% or more. They found this method increased the income more than decisions based on a dollar amount. I think this should be given some consideration in meeting the obligations of WPC. But we must have an effective Stewardship Committee.

As stated in the first few Forums issued, it is the intent to use this chronicle as a “marketplace of ideas.” As much as the writer loves politics and all its nuances/nuisances, I will try to keep you well-informed on various subjects. The next Forum will note immigration and its effects.

That’s all folks! ----- Happy Easter to all!

Do not forget the “Pancake Bash” on April 22, 2017 from 8:00 AM ‘til Noon.

If you see something suspicious – say something. Call 911.

Credits: Reading Eagle, Time, New York Times

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

Verse of the Month

Jesus said, "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (John 13:15)

Scriptures are in red letters, footnotes are in black letters

RULES FOR HOLY LIVING Colossians 3:12-17

3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

3:12-17 Paul offers a strategy to help us live for God day by day: (1) imitate Christ's compassionate, forgiving attitude (3:12,13) 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (2) let love guard your life (3:14); 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (3) let the peace of Christ rule in your heart (3:15); (4) always be thankful (3:15) 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (5) keep God's word in you at all times (3:16); 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (6) live as Jesus Christ's representative (3:17) 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. NIVLASB NIV Life Application Study Bible

13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

3:15 The key to forgiving others is remembering how much God has forgiven you. Is it difficult for you to forgive someone who has wronged you a little when God has forgiven you so much? Realizing God's infinite love and forgiveness can help you love and forgive others. NIVLASB

3:14,15 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

3:14 As we clothe ourselves with these virtues, the last garment we are to put on is love, which holds all of the others in place. To practice any list of virtues without practicing love will lead to distortion, fragmentation and stagnation. (1 Corinthians 13:3). 15 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

3:14,15 Christians should live in peace. To live in peace does not mean that suddenly all differences in opinion are eliminated, but it does require that loving Christians work together despite their differences. Do problems in your relationships with other Christians cause open conflicts or mutual silence? Consider what you can do to heal those relationships with love. NIVLASB

3:15 Our hearts are the center of conflict because there our feelings and desires clash—our fears and hopes, distrust and trust, jealousy and love. Paul explains that we must decide between conflicting elements by using the rule of peace—which choice will promote peace in our souls and in our churches. See Phil. 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. NIVLASB

3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

3:16 Although the Christians had access to the Old Testament and freely used it, they did not yet have the New Testament or any other Christian books to study. Their stories and teachings about Christ were memorized and passed on from person to person. Sometimes the teachings were set to music, and so music became an important part of Christian worship and education. NIVLASB

3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

3:17 Doing "all in the name of the Lord Jesus" means bringing honor to Christ in every aspect and activity of daily living. As a Christian, you represent Christ at all times—wherever you go and whatever you say. NIVLASB

For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."
Ephesians 5:14

GOD ENJOYED

**THOU INCOMPREHENSIBLE BUT PRAYER-HEARING GOD,
Known, but beyond knowledge,
revealed, but unrevealed,**

**my wants and welfare draw me to thee,
for thou hast never said, 'Seek ye me in vain'.
To thee I come in my difficulties, necessities, distresses;
possess me with thyself,
with a spirit of grace and supplication,
with a prayerful attitude of mind,
with access into warmth of fellowship,
so that in the ordinary concerns of life
my thoughts and desires may rise to thee,
and in habitual devotion I may find a resource that will
soothe my sorrows, sanctify my successes,
and qualify me in all ways for dealings with my fellow men.**

**I bless thee that thou hast made me capable
of knowing thee, the author of all being,
of resembling thee, the perfection of all excellency,
of enjoying thee, the source of all happiness.**

**O God, attend me in every part of my arduous and trying pilgrimage;
I need the same counsel, defence, comfort I found at my beginning.
Let my religion be more obvious to my conscience,
more perceptible to those around..**

**While Jesus is representing me in heaven, may I reflect him on earth,
While he pleads my cause, may I show forth his praise.**

**Continue the gentleness of thy goodness towards me,
And whether I wake or sleep, let thy presence go with me,
thy blessing attend me.**

**Thou hast led me on and I have found thy promises true,
I have been sorrowful, but thou hast been my help,
fearful, but thou hast delivered me,
despairing, but thou hast lifted me up,**

**Thy vows are ever upon me,
And I praise thee, O God. Amen.**