



# March 2015 Chimes

Christ Presbyterian Church

At this point in winter, I am completely enamored of the sun. Come sweltering late July my infatuation with sun will have waned significantly—the mild weather of San Diego, my hometown, apparently doesn't come easily out of the boy—but here in late winter I am smitten: even on frigid negative-digit mornings, I want to turn toward the sun and bask. With the sun on my skin, something in my soul just rises up.

The season of Lent is a time of turning toward the light. The days lengthen and Northeast Ohio's grey ceiling starts to crack and show blue. So also our Lenten turning toward the light of the world, Jesus Christ, may crack hardness of heart and expose us to God's brilliant love. The days warm—we know they will!—and we shed layers of clothes. So also, during Lent, we may slough off “the sin that clings so close” (Heb 12:1) to live less encumbered and walk more freely in Christ.

Gospel writer Luke compared Christ to the sun, calling him the “rising sun...come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death” (1:78-79). Then, as Jesus died on the cross, Luke tells us, “the sun stopped shining” (23:45). For the moment, darkness had won; the brilliance of God's Son was thoroughly extinguished...before being raised, as one liturgy says it, “like the sun at full strength.”

The calendar days when Lent turns toward Easter are meant to be days when our hearts turn toward the Light who, for us, became dark as a tomb. These poignant days remind us that, as the earth revolves around the sun,, so do our lives and even the whole world revolve around Christ. Lent's turning toward Eater reminds us that, in Christ, we people soaking in the sun of God's stronger-than-love death.

This issue of Chimes describes a number of ways Christ Church will experience life as being in Jesus' light: a Praying in Color workshop, Sunday and Holy Week worship, a Good Friday prayer vigil, shared food and fellowship of Lenten Midweek Meals, and avenues of service that reflect Jesus' light to others. Therefore, a question each of us may ask is: How am I stepping into the sun this Lent? How am I turning to bask in the light of Christ?

For the Son who went dark for us is ever shining for us. He is always invites us to live within his warmth—in the light of his love that just causes something in the soul to rise up. May this be so for us all this Lent.

**Mid-Week Lenten Dinner**  
**Every Wednesday during Lent**  
**6:00 pm – 7:00pm**

Childcare will be provided upon registration.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING...

## LITURGIST TRAINING

Have you felt the tug to become more active in the CPC worship service?

The word liturgy comes from the Greek word meaning “work of the people”. Working together with the Pastor, the Liturgist leads the congregation in worship. In a typical Sunday morning worship service, the Liturgist may be responsible for leading:

- The Prayer for Illumination
- Scripture
- Invitation to the Offering
- The Prayer of Dedication

Each of these readings will be prepared for you in advance.

Please consider coming to Liturgist Training:

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Following worship**  
**11:45am – 12:30pm**

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email The Worship Elder, Lindsay Russell at: [lrussell8709@gmail.com](mailto:lrussell8709@gmail.com).

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**LENT STUDY FEB 22 – MARCH 29: FAITH AND CREEDS** What do Christians believe? Why do we believe this? And what difference does it make? In *The Heart of Christian Faith* series by Alister McGrath, he explores the “big picture” of the Christian faith. Using the first study guide in the series, called *Faith and Creeds* we’ll examine the significance and meaning of The Apostles’ Creed and The Nicene Creed as public visions of faith. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall by February 15<sup>th</sup> so we can order enough study guides. Led by Cory Keller.

## **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m.**

With palm branch processional and children’s singing, we will remember Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem to crowds shouting hosanna and blessing. Then we will enter Scripture’s story of Jesus’ last week, when he gave us a Holy Meal and opened himself to betrayal, denial, and crucifixion for our salvation.

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.**

On the night before his arrest, Jesus took Passover bread and wine and made them signs of the life he would give for us. In this intimate service, we continue the drama of Holy Week by sharing the Lord’s Supper in the presence of Jesus, the Lover who commands us to love.

## **Good Friday Prayer Vigil, April 3, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

During the hours of Jesus’ crucifixion in which darkness fell over the land, a candlelit sanctuary will be open for prayer, meditation, and keeping vigil. Whether with provided Scripture passages and prayer texts or with individual prayers offered, sit and pray in the presence of the Lord whose cross reveals God’s presence with us.

## **Good Friday Service, April 3, 7:00 p.m.**

The Friday Christians strangely call “good” is at the heart of our faith: dying our death, Jesus gives us life. This service of prayerful reflection on Jesus’ death brings us into the depths of our rebellion against God, but also the infinitely deeper love and grace God shows in Jesus’ cross.

## **Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.**

Christ is risen, and risen indeed! With special music, the Lord’s Supper, and the church’s hallelujahs we will celebrate God’s victory and resurrection life.

## MIRACLES

We recently had somewhat of a Sunday school eclipse. All the classes aligned one Sunday to study the same story: the miracle of Jesus calming the sea. In Sunday school, we define miracles as amazing events that point to the presence of God. They reach beyond natural or human laws into the realm of the divine. Inevitably, in the course of telling a miracle story, one of the children will ask, "Did that really happen?"

It's a logical question from one with comparatively little life experience. In this instance, time makes us believers. I want to answer that child, "Sweetie, one day you'll know that you were always on a boat with Jesus."

A few years ago, on a trip to Philadelphia to move our daughter Samantha from one apartment to another, Mark became severely ill and was hospitalized. As each day his condition worsened, I was left to handle the details of his care and also the care of our children. This included making arrangements for hotels and meals, re-scheduling commitments from back home, communicating with family, friends, and the doctors on Mark's declining condition, and a very stressful moving day. As you can imagine, I was quite overwhelmed with the tasks before me.

On one of those evenings, I was sitting in the hospital waiting room typing multiple emails on my phone. At one point, I looked at the screen and saw something that I did not type: the letters YHWH in all caps. Yahweh was the name for God that at that particular point in time was very familiar to me. As I looked at those letters, a wave of certainty came over me that I was not really alone in that strange city; I was being cared for and watched over. From that moment on, I felt a presence next to me helping me do what I needed to do, and I became strong. It was a calming of the sea.

I know that I share those types of experiences with many. In fact, I have a friend who started a journal to record all of her "God sightings." I have never been in a group where that subject has come up and someone didn't have a story to share. We should do more of that.

If you have a story, tell it. Help us believe. Tell your children so that they will know. Point out the storms and the boats in **their** lives, the sleeping man, and the defining moment when the storm became calm. Do miracles really happen? All the time.

God Bless.

*Elizabeth*



**FEBRUARY BAPTISMS** Shelley Brown's Granddaughters, Piper Knight, Daughter of Ron & Susannah Knight, and Campbell Miner, daughter of Nathan and Marah Miner were both baptized on February 15, 2015.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### CLASSIFIEDS



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Strengths: faith, love for children, love of learning

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE MEMBER

Strengths: faith, perspective, enthusiasm, vision

#### SUPPLIES MANAGER

Strengths: organizational skills, attention to detail

#### CHILDREN AND WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM CARETAKER

Strengths: interest in Children and Worship program, organizational skills, industriousness

#### MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Strengths: generosity, compassion

### Miscellaneous Tasks:

#### Create signs, posters, bulletin boards, Sunday school crafts

Strengths: creativity, crafter

#### Shop for supplies

Strengths: diligence, market place familiarity

#### Administrative Assistance

Strengths: computer skills

#### Assistance for Special Programs (Advent, Lent, Family, VBS)

Strengths: flexibility, teamwork

Coming soon...

## Praying in color Workshop

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

*Praying in Color* is an active, visual, and meditative way to pray conceived by Sybil MacBeth, author of *Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God*

### Open to children and adults

Child care available for ages 4 and under

Led by Elizabeth Goodin

Register in Fellowship Hall, online at [www.christpcusa.org](http://www.christpcusa.org), or call the church office (440) 729-1688

### SAVE THE DATE!

An Everest themed Vacation Bible School is coming June 15-19.

We will be *Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power!*

There will be opportunity for the whole church to be involved—donating materials, giving time during VBS week, and praying for the event.

For those who wish to help with VBS please contact Heather Reeves.

Phone: 440-313-7617

Email: [hatreeves@gmail.com](mailto:hatreeves@gmail.com)



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

Amber Balista  
Youth Director  
330.719.3688  
amber@christpcusa.org

In my experience, a lot of young Christians have a hard time with what to do after being confirmed in their faith. If they go through class when they are young or a little older, with a whole lot of classes or a two day retreat it seems too often that youth don't know what the next important step might be. Of course there is not a real answer for that question even for adult Christians, what should I do in my life next as a follower of Christ is not exactly an uncommon question for any of us, I would imagine.

But because adult Christians in the church are the only example for young Christians to follow and because our area is the youth ministry, the youth ministry committee has been working towards what CPC youth ministry looks like this year after confirmation class concludes. We have been looking for God's guidance in long term strategies and statements of purpose. That pretty much boils down to five main areas of focus: involvement, engagement, fellowship, growth, and service. Each area is both applicable to youth focused as well as intergenerational activities.

These strategies are important because they lay a framework for specific experiences. Involvement is encouraging youth to sign up, show up, and participate in youth, family and intergenerational programs, through planning, communication and relevancy. Engagement is taking ownership and innovative of their programs, actively participating or taking on roles in the worship service and/or other long-standing programs of the church. Fellowship includes building relationships with adult Christian mentors and the church and being good role models to children and other youth in the church. Service includes both serving the community in obvious ways (i.e. outreach, community service, missions) as well as following Jesus in everyday life. Growth is continuing to read God's word, experience Jesus and be open to the Spirit both personally and in the faith community. Possibly even more important than the framework of these strategies are the specific experiences created out of them.

There will be three major experiences to consider, following the conclusion of Confirmation (which will be in April). Input from youth and their parents is encouraged.

1. Confirmation Celebration: a retreat for "new" Christians- A 2 day, 1 night retreat on how to live out your faith in specific areas of life following confirmation. It will include talks given by adult members of the church, experience focused games, and fellowship. Dates to consider for this event are: May 15-16 or May 22-23.

2. Church- Wide Mission Trip – McDowell County West Virginia, plans are already underway for this experience! We will be holding a few sessions prior to embarking on our journey as preparation for the mission experience. Mission trip dates June 28-July 2.

3. Bonfire Talks- The purpose and focus for these talks is to create safe spaces and talks on purity, sexuality and technology as related to such. Some talks will include the whole group while others will be split by gender and/or age. The idea is to meet at homes or around the bonfire near the end of summer.



**YOUTH GROUP:**  
**Saturday, March 14**  
**6:00pm-7:30pm**  
**The Youth Room**  
**40 Days in the Desert scavenger hunt**

**\*Don't forget to come to the Midweek Lenten Meals, every Wednesday night at 6:00pm!**

# March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <b>*Sunday morning schedule</b>	2 7:00pm Deacons 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	3 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Cub Scouts	5 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	6	7 8:00am Men's Tres Dias -CPC 1:00pm Praying in Color Workshop
8 <b>*Sunday morning schedule</b> 11:45am Mission Committee Meeting <i>Daylight Savings Spring Forward!</i>	9 9:30am Children's Ministries Meeting 7:00pm Adult Ministries Meeting 7:00pm Youth Ministries Meeting 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	10 9:30am Prayer Group 10:00am Evangelism Meeting 10:00am Evangelism Meeting 6:30pm Bootcamp	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study 10:30pm Staff 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm Girl Scouts	12 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	13	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study - CPC 6:00pm Youth Group
15 <b>*Sunday morning schedule</b> 11:45am Liturgist Training	16 7:00pm Property & Maintenance Meeting 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	17 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp 7:00 Session	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study 11:00am Chapel Circle 6:00pm Lenten Dinner	19 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	20	21 8:00am Men's Tres Dias -CPC
22 <b>*Sunday morning schedule</b>	23 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	24 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp	25 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Lenten Dinner	26 Beachland Dinner 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	27	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study - CPC
29 <b>*Sunday morning schedule</b> 10:30am Palm SundayWorship	30 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	31 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp				

**\*SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:**

- ▶ 9:30am Sunday School for Adults and Youth
- ▶ 9:30am Discovery Time for K-5th grade
- ▶ 9:30am Confirmation Class
- ▶ 10:00am Joyful Noise Choir
- ▶ 10:30am Worship
- ▶ 10:30am Sunday School for 3 years-5th Grade

# DEACONS

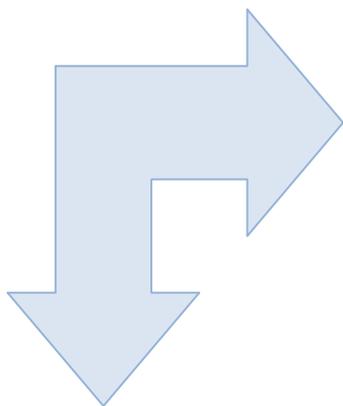
## DEACON'S EASTER FLOWERS

This Easter, you'll once again have an opportunity to honor a loved one. These flowers will be available for pick up after worship on Easter Sunday. The following flowers are available: Daffodils, Hyacinths and Tulips in a 6 inch pot for \$6.25. Lilies will be available in a 6 inch pot for \$6.25 and a double lily for \$15. Flowers must be pre-ordered and paid for by Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Deliver payment to Sue Stamey. Please make checks payable to "CPC Deacons". There will be order forms available in Fellowship Hall or you can reach Sue at 440-840-3495.



# MISSIONS

**YOUR PENNIES CAN HELP PREVENT BLINDNESS** During Lent, the Missions Committee asks for donations of spare pennies to help prevent blindness in children in developing countries. These gifts to Christian Blind Mission International will be used to distribute Vitamin A to these children. Just 60 pennies are enough for a yearly dose to prevent blindness. Bring your pennies in rolled penny wrappers or in empty prescription bottles provided in Fellowship Hall. As little as \$60 in pennies will change the lives of 100 children. This idea was brought to us by Ruth Scharlotte. For more information contact Jim Kule at 440-729-2992.



**DID YOU EVER WONDER WHERE TO DONATE YOUR OLD AND USED EYEGASSES AND CASES?**



**Your donations will be accepted at the  
Geauga West Library  
440-729-4250**

## SEEKING A "Card Delivery" VOLUNTEER!

**Cards for the  
Residents of  
Breckenridge**

In order to continue collecting "recycled" greeting cards, CPC is looking for a volunteer to deliver the donated cards once a month, to Breckenridge Village. Contact the church office at: 440-729-1688 if you are interested in being the volunteer for this ministry beginning in April.

*Every used greeting card donated to CPC, goes to a group of residents at Breckenridge - Continuing Care Retirement Community in Willoughby, OH. The residents there create brand new cards out of the "old". These cards are sold at craft fairs and boutiques to raise money for other residents who may have difficulty making ends meet.*

# March

## BIRTHDAYS

Jay Fairfield	03/01
Chuck Smith	03/02
Spencer Brown	03/03
Bill Larrick	03/03
William Lyman	03/03
Bill Mann	03/06
Mickey Gedeon	03/07
Walter Davis	03/08
Brittain Elswick	03/08
Dan Dawson	03/09
Daniel Russell	03/10
Russ Wenger	03/13
Cory Keller	03/14
Amy Rau	03/14
Kendall Lyman	03/16
Chuck Stamey	03/18
Monica Goodin	03/19
Doris Wenger	03/20
Brenda Levine	03/21
Victor Bello	03/22
Richard Keiter	03/22
Jim Kule	03/22
Mitchel Tropf	03/22
Michael Maguire	03/23
Ruth Scharlotte	03/23
Jared Moritz	03/25
Dee Eichele	03/26
Elizabeth Marino	03/26
Brad Schaeffer	03/29

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Pat Garee	03/05
Dan & Sally Wajahn	03/06
Logan & Lindsey Moritz	03/07
Bill & Dee Eichele	03/14



**Breckenridge Card Delivery Volunteer**  
**Children's Ministries Help (\*see page 4)**  
**Communion Servers** (on a rotation basis)  
**Food Pantry Stock / Mobile Transportation**  
**Liturgists for Sunday worship** (on a rotation basis)  
**Sunday Greeters** (on a rotation basis)  
*Contact CPC Office at: 440-729-1688*

## SAVE THE DATE!

CPC annual spring clean-up  
Saturday, May 16th  
8:00am - Noon



*Think spring!* It will be a time for sprucing up our grounds after this long, snowy winter!

**Jane Lyon,**  
Property & Maintenance

**Church office hours:**  
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday

**Contact Information**  
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