

THE BROTHER'S KEEPER - APRIL * MAY 2022
FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN – LIGONIER, PA.

“LOVE ON THE CROSS”

Most of you recognize the above heading as our Lenten Theme. But in reality it is the theme of the Christian faith every day of the year. To me the celebration of Easter reminds me of the unmerited, unconditional, and indescribable love of our Lord and Savior. Much like when we get a little tired and weary or our car battery becomes sluggish at best, Easter is that jump-start we need to face whatever life throws at us as we continue our journey. The love Jesus showed and shows us, each and every day, is our best medicine and pick-me-up.



I have come to the conclusion that it is next to impossible to figure out why He loves us so much. If I look at my own life over the past seven decades, there have been many times that I not only disappointed God, but maybe even angered Him. I have committed sins of omission and commission. I haven't stepped up and did the things that would necessarily please God. Maybe I have been just a little lazy, thinking that someone else will pick up the slack. Did I always speak up for Christ and the Church when the opportunities were right in front of me? Probably/definitely not!! And to make matters worse, I am not the only one that has been less than we are called to be. Scripture tells us that we all fall short of God's glory ... but He loves us any way! That is what I mean when I say His love for us is next to impossible to figure out!

But the Good News is we don't have to figure it out. We need to accept it with open arms and know, without question, that Jesus is both our Lord and our Savior. Easter is both humbling and a celebration. While that may sound like a contradiction, it is not. Remember, Jesus didn't always do things the way we expected, but what is certain, He did them the perfect way. Thanks be to God!

What's so good about Good Friday? Not much on its own but when we add to it Easter Sunday's Resurrection Glory, everything is GOOD! That's why we can say "Love on the Cross".

Pastor John

“He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.” (From Hymn No. 220 – “He Lives”)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM – CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

THERE ARE TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN – The **PRE-SCHOOL** class (led by Sheri Wedge and Susan Shaffer meets in the Nursery. The **ELEMENTARY CLASS** (led by Stacey Knupp, Darlene Rummel, Lori Crawford, and special helper Billy Crawford) meets downstairs in the room outside the Fellowship Hall. **A NEW CLASS JUST STARTED FOR CHILDREN IN 4TH GRADE AND OLDER ...** Led by Kara Boyd, this class is meeting upstairs from the Sanctuary. Curriculum has been purchased and the children had their first Sunday School session. Please keep Kara and the children in prayer. **IT’S ALSO A JOY** that several of our children have participated in the Worship Service by reading the morning Scripture Lesson. Quinn played the piano for Worship. What a joy!



“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.” (Hymn #335)

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS led by Ed Wedge, meet in the Fellowship Room. Currently they are studying: **A Guide for Biblical Studies – “Life In Christ”** Make attending Sunday School and Worship a priority for you and your family. You will be blessed. Hope to see you Sunday at 9:30am!



... **AND THERE’S MORE** - Join our mid-week adult Bible Study led by Pastor John. All participate by reading Scripture and sharing their thoughts and ideas on the Scripture. This adult group meets in the Fellowship Room on Wednesday from **6:30pm – 7:30pm**. So far, we’ve studied the Book of Revelation, James, Isaiah and now our study is on the Book of Acts. It’s a very informal group of adults who enjoy getting together to study and learn more about God’s Word. Please join us!

NEW MESSAGES ON OUR CHURCH SIGN

“Tomorrow wouldn’t be the same without you.”

“The Grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly.” I Timothy 1:14

***** CHURCH FAMILY NEWS *****



LITTLE KHLOE JAMES RHODES was dedicated to the Lord during the morning Worship Service on Sunday, March 6, The proud parents are Amanda (Knupp) and Kenneth Rhodes. The proud Grandparents are Stacey and Paul Knupp and Gary and Carlene Rhodes. And Little Khloe’s Great Grandma Sherry Boyd and Great Great Aunt Cass Shadron were there too! Other family members attending to show their support were Stacey’s sisters and spouses and families ... and the congregation. Please keep this beautiful family in your prayers.

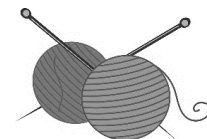
“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

PLEASE REMEMBER CASEY ZELENAK AND DOUG KWAK in prayer as they became Mr. & Mrs. Doug Kwak on Saturday, March 19, at the Ligonier First Church of the Brethren. What a joy that day was for them, their families, friends, the Church family and all who attended. Our sanctuary was packed!



“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him ... Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.’” Genesis 2:18 & 24

RITA’S CLOSET MINISTRY is open at the Church in the Fellowship Room on Monday from 10:00am – 6:00pm. In addition to clothing for adults and children, there are some household items, books, toys, and puzzles for adults and children. Those who visit Rita’s Closet has been growing. People not only go away with items they can use, but they leave feeling loved. Please keep this growing ministry in your prayers. Do you have clothing or other items you would like to donate? Please see Darlene or one of the volunteers.



SONSHINE STITCHERS continue to meet on Thursday at 9:00am in the Fellowship Room making prayer shawls, prayer caps, blankets, dish cloths and more. We’ll be helping with a new project for the Laurel Area Faith in Action organization – Neck pillow-wraps and crocheted/knit hanging t-towels. Be watching for more info.

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PASTOR JOHN IS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE on Thursday morning also from 9:00am – noon. Stop in and visit with Pastor John (he loves visitors!), then come to the Fellowship

Room to visit with the stitchers (they love visitors also!). Make a morning of it! Both “visiting areas” have coffee, but the Stitchers have refreshments! (We do share them with Pastor John and visitors!) The snacks are delicious (but not always healthy!!) Stop in!

JUST A REMINDER: LENT BEGAN ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, AND THE LENTEN FOOD OFFERING FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY BEGAN AS WELL.

A special thank you to the Witness Commission for organizing and sponsoring the food drive again this year. Pick up the special bags (green and purple) in the Narthex to be used for this Lenten Food Project. Fill the bags with the items suggested on the papers attached to the bags and return them to the Church by Easter Sunday, April 17. The food bags will be distributed wither through our local school district or local food bank. **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE DEBBIE MCINCHOK or any member of the Witness Commission.** Thank you all for your generous heart and thanks to the Witness Commission.



LOOK WHAT'S COOKING! HAM LOAF

The Men's Breakfast Group and Women's Fellowship are teaming up to make Ham Loaf. Through very questionable means (Shh!), the recipe has been obtained (thanks to Paul Shumaker). On **Saturday, April 9**, immediately following the Men's Breakfast, sleeves will be rolled up and this favorite main course will be prepared for your enjoyment when and where you choose. An order form is available in the narthex so we can get an estimate of our supply needs. Men and Women: Meet at the church at about 10:00am Men: If you're coming to the Men's breakfast meet at the Church at 9:00am and join in the fun (and work) and fellowship. Many hands make light work.

(JUST A NOTE): We found in the March, April, May 2012 Brother's Keeper an article about the Men's Fellowship Ham Loaf Sale: It read: “Famous two-pound ham loaf for \$9.00. Pick up was March 24, 2012! “Proceeds fund various ministries the group undertakes during the year within and beyond the church.”



EASTER FLOWERS FOR SALE – ORDERS DUE MARCH 28TH!

Michelle Black has the order forms listing the flowers that are available (and the price) for Easter. She would be happy to receive your order by March 28th, pick them up at Ray's Nursery, and arrange them in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday morning. Following the Easter Sunday Service, you may pick up the flowers you ordered and take them home. **Thank you, Michelle for taking care of the orders for us –**

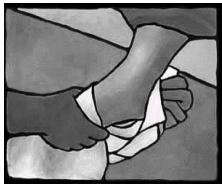


and thank you to those who will be purchasing the flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter.

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CAMP HARMONY NUT & APRICOT ROLL FUNDRAISER. See the order forms in the Narthex or see Elaine Boyd. The cost is \$12 each or 2 for \$20. The deadline for the order is APRIL 4th. Rolls will be ready in time for Easter! Please give your orders to Elaine Boyd.

PALM SUNDAY IS APRIL 10. Please join us as we celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. A special blessing for Palm Sunday will be the performance by the new Children’s Choir. It was suggested that a children’s song that was shared years ago be taught to the children. Come and celebrate Palm Sunday with us and hear the sweet singing voices of our children. A special thanks to Pam, who will be playing the piano and Stacey who been teaching the song practicing with the children. (NOTE: Pam told Stacey at the first practice that when Stacey was little she and the children sang this song in Church!)



LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION – MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14 at 6:00pm. “The evening meal was being served when Jesus got up from the meal, took off His outer garment, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.” John 13:17

The Deacons are extending the invitation for all to come to the Lord’s Table. Please join us.

The Love Feast lesson is remembered and renewed, and we are extending the invitation for all to come to the Lord’s table.

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“We indeed have neither a new church or any new laws. We only want to remain in simplicity and true faith in the original Church which Jesus founded through His blood. We wish to obey the commandment which was in the beginning.” - Alexander Mack.



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GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 15

“When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died. My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.”

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EASTER SUNDAY “SONRISE” SERVICE - Join us at **6:30am** in the Sanctuary to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Following the service, plan to join us in the Fellowship Room for an early morning breakfast prepared by Sheri Boyd. Plan to stay for Sunday School at 9:30am and the Resurrection Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am. “What a day of rejoicing it will be.” We hope to see you!

HALLALUIAH! CHRIST IS RISEN!

“He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart. HAVE A BLESSED EASTER SUNDAY.

ADOPT A MAILBOX! Did you ever pick up your mail at the Church and discover a mailbox that was bursting at the seams with mail? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! If you know the person is in Church that Sunday, you can do one of two things: Remind them that there is a lot of mail in their Church mailbox, or you can grab all of that mail and take it to them! (Note Postal Regulations do not apply! This is NOT tampering with the mails!) NOW THIS IS your even bigger moment to shine! If the folks are not in Church, grab one of the bigger envelopes on the top of the mailboxes, stuff their mail therein, address it – and don’t forget the stamp! Since, in most cases, it will take more than one first class stamp, there are stamps to cover the **additional** postage – also on top of the mailboxes. (You will still need to use your own first-class stamp – the stamps provided are for the additional ounce of postage.) Now if everyone in attendance adopted just one mailbox, everyone will be kept informed of the goings-on in the Church in a very timely manner. Be creative and write them a note while you are at it. Or maybe hand deliver the envelope instead of mailing it! Remember, at most it will cost you one first-class stamp and you just might put a big smile on someone’s face!



SOMETHING NEW FOR THE CHILDREN:



Thank you to Michelle for taking on another new project for the children... Clipboards! She creates a word search using the Scripture

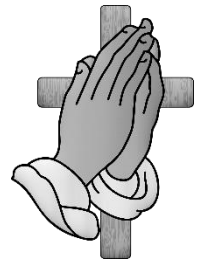


Lesson Pastor John is using on Sunday morning, puts them on a clipboard and distributes them to the children before Church to occupy them - and maybe learn a new Bible Verse. Also, she’s putting together little tote bags filled with markers, crayons, and more to keep the little ones busy during Worship. Thank you Michelle.

IN OUR FEBRUARY 27 CHURCH BULLETIN Elaine included this Responsive Invocational Prayer: Prayer is needed as the world goes through difficult unrest. Please be in prayer - “Dear God. Please help us as we pray over and intercede for the people of both Ukraine and Russia: We pray for the leaders of both countries to know Your truth and peace and be transformed by Your Holy Spirit, and that they would seek to lead their countries in the way of peace and not war. We ask You God to intervene. We pray for wisdom as world leaders maneuver, strategize, and speak out. We pray that you would move in their hearts and guide their steps and plans. We pray for peace, comfort, and protection to cover the people of Russia and Ukraine. We ask to see Your glory amid this great struggle. We pray that you would be glorified through the people of Russia and Ukraine who are following you. We ask for open doors of opportunities for the Gospel to be shared and received. We pray that you would make Your name known across Ukraine and Russia as the result of any conflict. We pray that the people of Ukraine and Russia will still have access to Your Word. Amen.”

JUST AN FYI FROM OUR BULLETIN INSERT: The Association of Churches will be meeting at our Church on Monday, May 2nd. See Elaine for details.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER will be Thursday, May 5th. Beginning at 7:30am there will be a Prayer Breakfast Buffet will be at 7:30am at the Barn. Carol and Dave’s in Ligonier will be preparing the meal. The cost of the breakfast is being underwritten by “a friend of the Association of Churches.” Please see Elaine for your tickets as RSVPs must be made ahead of time. The deadline for getting your ticket is Monday April 25. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Guest speakers are being lined up. See Elaine if you have any questions.



MOTHER’S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 8.

“God made a wonderful Mother, a Mother who never grows old. He made her smile of the sunshine, and He molded her heart of pure gold.

In her eyes he places bright shining stars. In her cheeks fair roses,
You see, God made a wonderful Mother, and He gave that dear Mother to me.”

“A Mother is a gardener planting the seeds of faith, truth, and love
that develop into the fairest flowers of character, virtue,
and happiness in the lives of her children.”

BEGINNING THE MIDDLE OF MAY we'll be working on the **June-July Church Newsletter**. Between now and then, if you come across anything you would like included, an article about an upcoming event, a poem, a favorite Scripture lesson - please put it in Pastor John's mailbox, hand it to us at Church, or send it by email. Thank you.

WE HAVE SOME GREAT TECHNICIANS IN OUR CHURCH.

The men (and women) who work our sound system are truly gifted – and they're so faithful each and every Sunday – and when we have a service during the week. When we've had funerals there are some who leave work, take care of the sound system for the service, then return to turn it off. That's amazing! God has blessed our congregation abundantly with faithful people who share many, many gifts. They've even worked on getting earphones for those who have difficulty hearing the service. God Bless them all – and thank you. (We aren't mentioning names because they would be embarrassed!)



******* LOOKING INTO JUNE *******

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CHARLES AND FAY HARR will be held at the Church on Saturday, June 11 at 2:00pm with a luncheon planned afterward. Mark your calendar and be watching for more information. Charles and Fay were a dear, active couple and many in our congregation have wonderful memories of them. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and support the family.

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
405 ROUTE 271
LIGONIER, PA. 15658-9245**

EMAIL: lcob1888@gmail.com

CHURCH WEB SITE: Ligonierfirstcob.org



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17

SONRISE SERVICE – 6:30 A.M. * SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!



**LIGONIER FIRST
CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN** is a community
of believers who seek to walk
passionately with Christ -
reaching out in His name –
preaching and sharing His
Gospel and teaching all to
love Him.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ...
SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM
(CLASSES FOR ALL AGES –
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH
ADULT STUDY CLASSES

WORSHIP - 10:30AM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!