



*He Is Risen!*

# Whisperings



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## ■ ■ ■ A Word from Pastor Scott No Greater Love

Greetings Friends!

As I walked into the sanctuary this morning, I was drawn to the three words printed on the two purple banners displayed on each side of the cross. They were purchased for the Lenten Season, and these words should compel us to pause and truly soak in their significance and meaning. "No Greater Love." After Jesus explained how we as the branches are called to abide on the vine, He said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love." (Jn. 15:9) He gave us this life altering command: "Love each other as I have loved you." (Jn. 15:12)

I am reminded of my childhood when I was enthralled with the 1961 movie "King of Kings" with Jeffrey Hunter as Jesus. I so desperately wanted to be one of Jesus's disciples, especially Peter who walked on the water. When the music swelled to a triumphant praise after Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven, I got down on my hands and knees and gave my life over to Jesus. I wanted to be where Jesus was. It hurt me so much to see Jesus dying on the cross for my sins. It was one of the most defining moments of my life!

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn. 15:13) Why would someone lay down his life for measly old me? Because Jesus was thinking of the "joy set before him as he endured the cross and scorned its shame." (Heb. 12:2) He was thinking of the joy

■ ■ ■ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

### HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 738-3774

[www.hopeumcephrata.org](http://www.hopeumcephrata.org) ■ [hopeumc@ptd.net](mailto:hopeumc@ptd.net)

[www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata](https://www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata)

Join us Sundays for 10 a.m. worship ■ 11:15 a.m. Sunday school

## A Word from Pastor Scott ■ ■ ■

we would experience after we accepted Jesus into our heart and became a sold-out follower of the Master. He was thinking of all the times we would begin to fall into temptation and condemn ourselves when we failed, but we would eventually cry out to Jesus for forgiveness. He was pondering those times when we would no longer be a slave to sin, but “slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.” (Rm. 6:19)

No greater love! We are free to live for Christ with all our imperfections. We are free to serve and love the “Lord our God with all of our heart, with all of our soul and with all of our mind.” (Matt. 22:37) We are free to enter “the secret place of the most high and abide under the shadow of the almighty.” (Ps. 91:1)

My friends, Jesus held nothing back! He sacrificed His own life so that we can be free of “the sin that so easily entangles us.” (Heb. 12:1) We are free to walk on the water like Peter, even for just a few steps, knowing that our Lord holds us in the palm of His hand and will pull us out of the water when we cry out to Jesus. We don’t have to condemn ourselves when we “fall short of the glory of God.” (Rm. 3:23) There is no reason for us to feel like we are dog paddling to the boat and drowning in despair. Jesus will reach out His hand and will walk with us until we are safely on the boat. There is no fear of death because Christ conquered the grave once and for all.

Jesus died so that we wouldn’t have to. He died to set us free to love Him and worship Him as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is no greater love than the one who bled for our sins; no greater love for all those times we missed the mark and couldn’t obey the law perfectly; no greater love than the one who sacrificed His body in the most gruesome and gut-wrenching way ever known to mankind; no greater love than the one who loves us so much to send His one and only Son Jesus to die in our place; no greater love than the one who died and rose again on the third day and made us right with God again; no greater love than the one who shed tears of joy for the time when we will walk with God in the cool of the day like Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden.

My friends, the King of Kings desires to have an intimate relationship with His children. Jesus took the nails and allowed His tormentors to pluck out His beard and scrunch a crown of thorns on His head. He died because He loves us that much. How much does He truly love us? As Christ stretched out His arms in full surrender to the Father, He gave up His spirit and was resurrected on the third day so that we would rise out of the ashes and live again! Praise God for the one who set us free. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. As the song by Bill and Gloria Gaither says, “Because He lives, I can Face Tomorrow.” Until we reach those pearly gates into eternity with the King of Kings, we will “run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

From my family to yours, Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Pastor Scott



## ***TO BETTER PLAN OUR CALENDAR***

*Please* fill out the yellow forms on the Administrative Assistant's desk to schedule any upcoming meetings and events. Thank you!

## ***ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS***

Sponsor altar flowers or bulletins to commemorate a special occasion or heartfelt remembrance. Flowers are \$35 and bulletins are \$20. The signup posters are on a lobby bulletin board and plenty of dates are available. *Please contact Sandy Muckle if you sign up less than a week in advance.*

## ***DEADLINES***

Please submit all items for the next edition of the *Whisperings* by the **15th of every month.**

## ***HOW CAN WE HELP?***

Do you or someone you know have a need for some financial assistance during this time? We can help! Please notify the church office or Jerry Gerhart at (717) 733-2331.

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## ■ ■ ■ ***Lenten Sermon Series***

**“HOLD NOTHING BACK” is the new  
8-part series for April.**

**Apr. 3** - All Life Is Worthless Without Christ (Philippians 3:4-14)

*Guest speaker: Rev. Robert Scott*

**Apr. 10** - Just Worship The King (Luke 19:28-40)

**Apr. 17** - Who Are We Looking For? (John 20:1-18)

Worship services are broadcast live on our website and on our YouTube channel: [www.tinyurl.com/Hope-YouTube](http://www.tinyurl.com/Hope-YouTube).

Past services are also archived on our YouTube channel.

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**Rev. Robert Scott**

*(Some information on our guest speaker coming on April 3)*

Robert is the 15<sup>th</sup> child in a family of 16, coming up in the church and trying to live a life of faith. By the age of 16, he started boxing and worked his way up to the AAU Championship. After quitting, Robert found himself in a different fight in the entertainment industry and all the ills that come with it. He had an unusual encounter with our Lord, Jesus Christ, in 1986 and was called into the ministry. After studying at Harty Bible School in Pittsburgh and Christian and Missionary Alliance, he studied with William T. Greir for four years. Robert is currently the Pastor of Joint-Heir Ministries, working with Lifeline Ministries as a musician, and fellowshiping with Cornerstone Fellowship in Coatesville.

## **HOPE UMC STAFF & OFFICE HOURS**

**Pastor:** Rev. Scott Dorn • **Administrative Assistant:** Diane Lamborn

**Director of Music:** Lisa Helock • **Organist:** Dave Luck • **Sexton:** Doreen Deamer

**Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

## ■ ■ ■ Out and About

Pastor Scott believes, "Opportunity is everywhere for true mission and evangelism." His faith and spirit guides him to get 'out and about' in the community. Each month we highlight some of his most recent or upcoming ministries.

If you would like to suggest a future 'Out and About' segment for the Whisperings, contact Pastor Scott at (267) 467-4027 or email [hopeumcpastorscott@gmail.com](mailto:hopeumcpastorscott@gmail.com).

*Here are some pics from us serving 182 lunches on Saturday March 15! We were truly sharing God's love with our neighbor. Thanks to everyone who made, prepared and serviced the lunches.*



## ■ ■ ■ GARDEN PLOTS

Have a green thumb but no backyard? Spring is on its way! Our garden plots behind the church will be ready for planting soon. A signup sheet is in the lobby. Sign up NOW to get your plot. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Dave Schmid at (717) 733-3073 or dsschmid@ptd.net.



## CITY GATE & GOOD SAMARITAN

# A CLARION CALL FOR PRAYER

*CLARION CALL FOR PRAYER:  
"A STRONGLY EXPRESSED DEMAND OR REQUEST  
FOR ACTION."*

Each City Gate Location is believing for people of prayer who will stand at the gate and lift up the Name of Jesus, declaring to the homeless, hurting and hopeless the love of God and His Kingdom Come.

# CITYGATE

LANCASTER • EPHRATA • COLUMBIA • LITITZ

Contact us at:

[INFO@CITYGATELANCASTER.COM](mailto:INFO@CITYGATELANCASTER.COM)



**CITY GATE** is in need of the following: bottled water, paper towels, Mr. Clean liquid, toilet cleaner, snack sized chips/ snacks, individual snacks like Little Debbie's, granola bars and frozen breakfast sandwiches. THANK YOU to everyone who has already donated! Your donations are very much appreciated!



## APRIL

Palm Sunday  
Sunday Apr. 10

Easter Egg Celebration  
Saturday, Apr. 9

Easter Sunday  
Sunday, Apr. 17

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## Monthly Events

Communion  
April 3

First Sunday Giving  
*for Assistance Fund*  
April 3

Newsletter Deadline  
Friday, Apr. 15

Fellowship Sunday  
Cancelled

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## Weekly Events

Bells of Hope  
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Choir Practice  
Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Prayer Time  
Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Women's Book & Bible  
Study  
Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Men of Hope  
Men's Study Group  
Fridays at 7:30 a.m.

## MISSING UPDATES

Please inform the church office whenever you set your next meeting date or select your next book or topic for your Sunday school or study. Thank you!

## NEW ORGAN TOTAL

As of Mar. 27, Hope Church has received \$38,030.50 for the new organ. Thank you!

## ONE GREAT YEAR OF SHARING — WATER STREET MISSION

The donation jar is in the Sanctuary. Our Mar. 27 total was \$1,411.70. Thank you!

## 2022 DIRECTORY

Please notify the office of any changes in your contact info.



## Easter Season

■ **March 2 - April 14**  
Lent

■ **April 9**  
Easter Egg Celebration

■ **April 10**  
Palm Sunday

■ **April 17**  
Easter

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## Wanted!

- **Nursery Coordinator**
- **Fellowship Chair**
- **Education Chair**
- **SPRC member**
- **Nominations member**

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## Found!

New Treasurer  
Donna Fetzer

New Finance Chair  
Mark Kamide

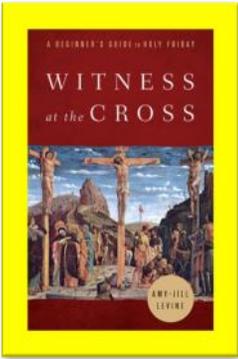
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## Church Administration Meetings

(All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless specified)

- **Trustees Meeting** - Monday, Apr. 4
- **WPCM Meeting** - Monday, Apr. 11
- **Finance Meeting** - Tuesday, Apr. 12
- **SPRC Meeting** - Tuesday, Apr. 19

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ■ 11:15 AM



## SEEKERS

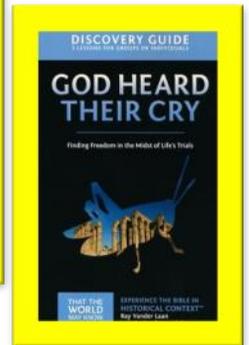
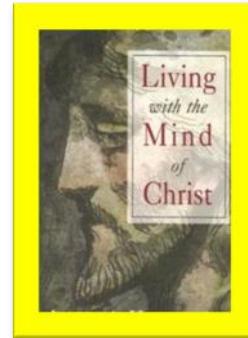
Fellowship Hall ■ Bruce Tucker

*Witness at the Cross -A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday*

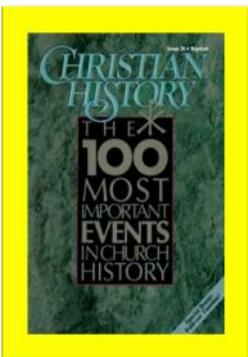
by Amy-Jill Levine

## WIDE AWAKE

Room 221 ■ Ron Lindberg



*Living with the Mind of Christ* by James A. Harnish  
followed by *God Heard Their Cry* by Ray Vander Laan



## ELECTIVE

Sanctuary (left front by the organ) ■ Rev. Kevin Readman

*100 Most Important Events in Church History* Jan. 9 thru Apr. 10

by Christian History Magazine

## DEEP DIVE BIBLE STUDY ■ 9:00 - 9:30 AM

Parlor ■ Pastor Scott

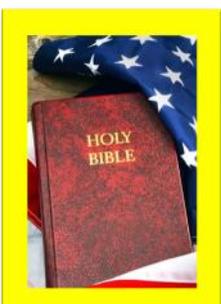
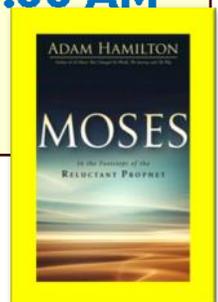
Are you interested in going deeper into God's word? If so, join us before Worship!



## WOMEN'S BOOK & BIBLE STUDY ■ Thursdays - 10:00 AM

Conference Room ■ Sandy Schmid

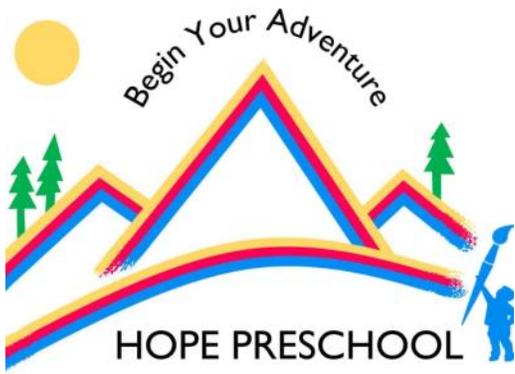
*Moses* by Adam Hamilton.



## MEN OF HOPE BIBLE STUDY ■ Fridays - 7:30 AM

Fellowship Hall

*Character Matters: Using Steve Morton Information*



# HOPE PRESCHOOL

## Hope Preschool Prattle

**Where We've Been:** March kicked off with our Open House and Art Show. It was the most successful Open House we have had in a long while, and it was followed up with record breaking enrollment. Our enrollment is so large this year that we are expanding our offerings and opening new classes. Big Kids will now be offered 4 days a week and Little Tykes will be offered 3 days. We will

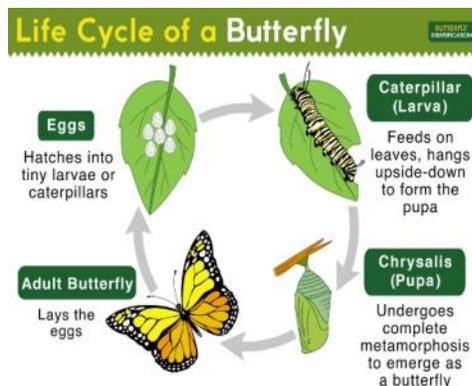
continue to offer 4 days of Preschool and 3 different Pre-Kindergarten classes. If you are interested in enrolling your child do so today, because classes are filling quickly! While we prepared for next year, our kids were firmly focused on this year and learning all about transportation and spring. They had a great time heading outside to play on the playground, and see what changes were happening to our environment as the seasons change. We also spent March honoring the men in our life with our Donuts with Dad event. We had a large attendance, and the kids started their school day feeling good from time with dad and on a sugar high!

**Where We're Heading:** We can't believe it is already April and we only have 2 months left of school. We had to reschedule our field trip to Tiny Town due to weather, so our kids are super excited to FINALLY go! This month we will be studying insects, farms and learning all about Easter and the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. Each classroom will also watch as caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies that they free for flight when the butterflies are ready. A sub sale is also on the agenda this month, with orders due to the preschool by April 8<sup>th</sup>. Sub pick up is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ways to Follow Along:** We are encouraging our parents, and you as members of Hope, to follow us along on our journey by looking at these resources!

Easter Chick-a-Boom - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOVFn2oZXWE>

Barnyard Dance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jcbcgg1pQjY>





# LENT & EASTER

## ■ ■ ■ *Lent*

The season of Lent (from an Old English word meaning "lengthen") lasts for forty days from Ash Wednesday until Easter Eve, not including Sundays. Lent commemorates the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the Christian, Lent is a somber season and a time of self-reflection, penance, and self-denial. It is a time for people to more intentionally connect their relationship with God. It's a time when people take time from their normal, daily activities and ask themselves, "What do I need to do to be in a better, healthier relationship with God?" Now this is where the giving something up comes into play. Often, without even realizing it, people develop bad habits that cause a distance between them and God.



## ■ ■ ■ *Easter Egg Celebration April 9!*

Volunteers plus donations of candy and money are needed for our community children's event at 9 a.m. on Saturday, **April 9**. Please check the table in the lobby for a signup sheet and more. Further details will be available as the planning progresses. Please contact Rev. Kevin Readman or Pastor Scott if you are willing to help or for info.





# Rail Trail church

*WONDERING & WALKING TOGETHER*

**1st and 3rd Sundays at 5 p.m.**

– meet at the pavilion located behind –

**Hope Church**

**3474 Rothsville Road . Ephrata**

– across from Hope Meadow on the Warwick to Ephrata Rail Trail –

- 5 p.m. - Gather at the pavilion at the meadow's edge for about 10 minutes.
- Spend 20-30 minutes walking, jogging, or biking the trail.
- Once each month there will be an optional special focused hands-on activity during the walk time.
- Regather at the pavilion for 10-15 minutes to share insights, listen, pray, and bless each other before departing around 6 p.m.

A Rail Trail Church is a fresh expression of faith and community for all ages.

It's a church on a journey – walking and wondering together, aware of the gifts that surround us in community and in nature.

This is church for people who experience and value connection with God in all creation.

**This is an invitation for you!**

[www.facebook.com/HopeMeadowEphrata](http://www.facebook.com/HopeMeadowEphrata)

### CONNECTING # COMMUNITY # CONNECTING # CREATION # CONNECTING # CREATOR ###

## ■ ■ ■ Clyde McMillan-Gamber



Coltsfoot and lesser celandine are wild plants in Lancaster County, and the northeastern United States, that have beautiful and cheering yellow flowers during April. Those blossoms help lift peoples' spirits.

Coltsfoot and lesser celandine have other characteristics in common. They both are common, obvious flowering plants, if one knows where to look for them. They are signs of spring that people enjoy. They are adaptable perennials originally from Europe, escapees from gardens in the United States and thrive in open woods.

Both species grow leaves and lovely, golden blooms during April when woodland floors are the warmest they will be all year.

Trees didn't develop leaves yet, so sunlight reaches to the dead-leaf carpets and soil of woods floors, warming the plants, too, and promoting their rapid growth.

Loose groupings of coltsfoot mostly colonize disturbed soils, particularly along roadsides in woods where they are easily seen. Each plant develops a few pretty blossoms, each about an inch across, on stalks up to eighteen inches tall. Those flower stalks stand alone because the plants don't produce leaves until the blooms go to seed.

The attractive coltsfoot flowers are pollinated by insects and go to seed. Each seed has white fluff, like dandelion, that carries its seed away on the wind. Some of those seeds take root and start new colonies of colt's foot.

As their seeds sail away on the wind, coltsfoot plants grow rounded leaves close to the ground. The shape of those leaves gives the plant its common name.

I see coltsfoot along Pumping Station Road, off Route 322, near the turnpike. And I see them along Gault Road in the Welsh Mountains. But they bloom in other places, locally, as well.

Members of the buttercup family, lesser celandines spread rapidly and densely on moist soil on partly-shaded, wooded floodplains along creeks. This species forms large, lovely carpets of itself that eventually completely covers the damp ground, and often crowds other kinds of flowering plants. But their "wall to wall" patches are a joy to see on warm, sunny days. Each plant grows low to the ground, has glossy, dark-green leaves that are heart-shaped, and at least a few golden flowers at once. I see big patches of lesser celandines here and there along the Conestoga River, such as at the Pinetown covered bridge, and along Muddy Creek at Frysville, east of Ephrata. But this plant grows on other wooded bottomlands as well.



**Check out Clyde's nature blog: [NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com](http://NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com).  
Each short story is like taking a walk with your very own park naturalist!**

**Gretna Glen Camp  
Spring Volunteer Work Day  
Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center  
87 Old Mine Rd, Lebanon, PA 17042



Spring Work Day is a great opportunity for families, youth groups, or individuals to work together on service projects. Opportunities include clean up, landscaping, and other projects around camp. Lunch and dinner are provided for our volunteers. Please contact our camp office, (717) 273-6525, if you are planning on attending.

**SAVE YOUR TREASURES!**

Rummage sale and much more on October 15. Information will be in each newsletter. If you have any questions, see Ron Lindberg or Sandy Schmid.



**WILDERNESS ENCOUNTERS**

Exploring some wilderness encounters between God and people in Genesis.

Please see Kevin Readman to get the hand-out for the classes. There will be 5 weeks: April 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Everyone and anyone is invited and welcome to join in this time.

**City Gate**

The Good Samaritan Winter Shelter will be closing on Thursday, March 31. We may see some of our friends without a place to stay. We **cannot** give cash, gift cards, motel rooms, etc. to anyone. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Warner at 717-344-2307 or [kimwarner26@gmail.com](mailto:kimwarner26@gmail.com).

She is in touch with Ephrata Area Social Services and Good Samaritan Shelter. The first question to ask when someone tells you their needs is - Have you been to Ephrata Area Social Services? They know all the programs and help that is out there. They are the ones who are best able to help those in need.

- We need sturdy, adult backpacks. Let Kim know if you can help. We are completely out.
- We are in need of a commercial sized refrigerator.

**Mark your calendar!** Plan to join us for City Gate's Evening of Praise in the Park on Sunday, July 24, 4:00 - 8:00 pm. We have reserved the band shell and pavilion at Grater Memorial Park. We are looking for a few praise bands to lead worship. We are also looking for those who could donate hotdogs, individual snacks and bottled water. The evening will consist of praise, prayer and testimonies. Contact Kim Warner at 717-344-2307 [kimwarner26@gmail.com](mailto:kimwarner26@gmail.com) or Kevin Hewitt at 717-575-8193 [rfyep@aol.com](mailto:rfyep@aol.com) for more information or if you can help