

Whisperings



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A Word from Pastor Scott

A Living Hope

Greetings friends!

As I type this article, Easter has come and gone. We heard about the tomb being empty and Jesus asking Mary Magdalene to inform the disciples that Jesus will ascend to his Father and their Father, to his God and their God. She proclaims the greatest news we will ever hear, “I have seen the Lord!” (Jn. 20:18) It wasn’t until Jesus appears to the disciples through locked doors, for fear of what the Jewish authorities will do to them that Jesus shows them his hands and feet that they genuinely believe. He tells them, “Peace be with you” (Jn. 20:19) and they are ecstatic that they finally see the Lord resurrected to new life on the third day.

Sometimes, I wonder if that joy of Jesus’s resurrection dwindles as we begin a new week, and the days and months pass us by. We celebrated with family and friends and even went to a few Easter Egg Hunts and voiced with conviction “He is risen, He is risen indeed” on Sunday. However, Monday is another day, full of trials and tribulations that will test our faith to the limit. I hear you. I’m there with you!

Perhaps the apostle Peter has something to say about the reality of sufferings and trials that plague us on a consistent basis. 1 Peter 1:1-2 begins with this assurance that we are God’s elect, strangers scattered throughout this world, “who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood.” What does it mean that we are God’s elect? Scholars claim that the elect are folks who have “responded in faith to the

— CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Hope United Methodist Church

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

hopeumc@ptd.net www ■ hopeumcephrata.org ■

www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata

Worship 10 a.m. ■ Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

gospel offer and have a special relationship with God.” ¹As disciples of Christ, we have been chosen to live as strangers in a secular, pagan society, who are not in our true home yet. As sojourners on this earth, we have been chosen solely on God’s grace and love to reside in heaven. This election isn’t based on our own merit or good works. To be chosen signifies that God knows us completely, all our quirks and idiosyncrasies, every fiber of our being.

With this election as God’s chosen people, the apostle Peter cites these words of assurance: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” (1 Pet. 1:3-4) Listen to how one scholar explains this living hope: “To live life hopefully is a characteristic of the people of God. Rather than allowing circumstances or conditions to determine our direction, we follow a living hope that transcends the everyday affairs of life and is focused on the eternal. ²Paul said it best in 1 Corinthians 15:19: “If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied.”

The inheritance that God has for his chosen people is our future heavenly reward. It will never fade or pass away. Considering this living hope, we are called to rejoice in the many trials and tests that come our way because our faith will be proven genuine. Like the refining fire that will destroy any impurities in gold, our faith, which is worth far more than gold will be tested through suffering and will emerge pure and genuine. My late Uncle Jim would always say to me, “He can test and try us, but he can’t deny us.”

No one likes to go through diverse trials and testing, but when we hold onto this living hope of better days ahead through the resurrection of Christ from the dead, we can give “praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Pet. 1:7) at the end of days or “the second coming of Christ.” ³Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (Jn. 16:33) Whether it’s a financial crisis, cancer, an undiagnosed illness, marital woes, depression, loss of a loved one, or needing a new dentist, we will go through suffering in this world. But take heart my friends, we have a living hope in this bizarre world we live in that our trials aren’t in vain, but will help us stay so close to Jesus Christ until we receive our eternal reward in our true home in heaven. “The end result of our faith is the salvation of our souls.” (1 Pet. 1:9) Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Blessings,



Pastor Scott



¹David A. Case and David W. Holdren, [1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude: A Commentary for Bible Students](#) (Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2006), 33.

²Ibid.37

³Ibid.40

▶ 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 recent ministries.

Afternoon Devotions at Park Place Automotive

14 Gregory Court

Akron, PA 17501

Every Thursday from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.



Left to Right: Richard, Butch Keppley (owner), Pastor Scott, Len Fake and Bruce Willier



Left to Right: Pastor Bruce Willier and Len Fake



**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31
THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

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

► **SERMON SERIES: “PREPARATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP”**

March 31 Part 9 - Easter Sunday - Despair to Joy! (John 20:1-8)

► **SERMON SERIES: “EASTER SEASON SERMON SERIES**

“STRAIGHT A’S FROM JOHN” is the new 6-part series for April and May.

April 7 Part 1 - Second Sunday of Easter – “At-One With God – Atonement.”
..... 1 John 1:1-2:2

April 14 Part 2 - Third Sunday of Easter – “Going to a Great Home – Adoption.” 1
..... John 3:1-7

April 21 Part 3 - Fourth Sunday of Easter – “Always Active – Action.”
..... 1 John 3:16-24

April 28 Part 4 - Fifth Sunday of Easter – “Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing –
..... Agape.” 1 John 4:7-21

May 5 Part 5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter – “Love is Doing – Accountability.”
..... 1 John 5:1-6

May 12 Part 6 - Seventh Sunday of Easter – “Blessed Assurance – Assurance.”
..... 1 John 5:9-13

Remembered with Love

March 1

Delores Stover - Best friend of Marie Lindberg

March 5

Carlos Luciano - Cousin of Tony and Pastor Luciano

City Gate • Good Samaritan Services • Ephrata Area Social Services

Reminder - donations are always needed for our local charities.

Office Notes

FOR A USEFUL CALENDAR

Please fill out the yellow forms on the Administrative Assistant's desk to schedule meetings.

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!

DEADLINES

Please submit all items for the bulletin by **12 p.m. Thursdays** and by the **15th of the month** for the next Whisperings.

FLOWERS & BULLETINS

Contact Sandy Muckle if you want to sponsor altar flowers less than a week in advance.

You may share an altar flower order with a friend, so that each person keeps one bouquet of flowers after the service and the total price still equals \$50. Two dedications may go in the bulletin.

Sponsor Flowers - \$50.00

Available: April 14, 21 and 28

Sponsor Bulletins - \$10.00

Available: April 7, 14, 21 and 28

CAN WE HELP?

For financial assistance, please contact Don Miller at (610) 858-9958

Updates to the Directory

Esta Allabach (new address)

United Zion Retirement Community

722 Furnace Hills Pike

Lititz, PA 17543

717-626-2071

Vernon Bear (new email address) - vernon.bear@outlook.com

Please notify the office of any changes to your contact information.

Hope UMC Staff and Office Hours

Pastor: Rev. Scott Dorn ■ **Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano**

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

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

hopeumc@ptd.net ■ **www.hopeumcephrata.org** ■ **www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata**

Meetings and News

One Great Year of Sharing – Power Packs

The donation jar is in the Sanctuary. Our March 24 total was **\$239.00**.

Thank you!

Special Easter Fifth Sunday Giving

Beginning **March 24** Hope Church started collecting for the 2023 Hawaii/Maui Disaster. Our extra giving will be **March 24, March 31** (Easter) and **April 7**.

Thank you!

Offering Envelopes

Envelopes will only be available in the basket in the Sanctuary. Please remember to identify your giving by **writing your name on the envelope**. Using envelopes is a big help for our Financial Secretary, Amy Trella. Thank You!

Praise and Prayer Cards

Praise and prayer cards will only be available in the basket in the Sanctuary. Thank you!

April Dates

- 1** Easter Monday
- 7** Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
- 14** Third Sunday of Easter
- 15** Tax Filing Deadline
Newsletter Deadline
- 21** Fourth Sunday of Easter
- 22** Earth Day
- 24** Administrative Professionals' Day
- 28** Fifth Sunday of Easter

Fellowship Sunday

(the 3rd Sunday each month)
The Sunday School classes rotate to provide the snacks:

April - The Way
May - Wide Awake

Weekly Events

Bells of Hope

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Sanctuary

Senior Choir

Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.
Choir Room

Monday Night Bible Study

Mondays at 7 p.m.
Conference Room
(Room 226)

Women's Book & Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 a.m.
Room 221

Men of Hope

Fellowship Hall
(First Friday of each month is at Gus's restaurant.)

1ST QUARTER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements will be available starting on Sunday, April 7 in the lobby. During the week they will be located in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact the church office and leave a message for the Financial Secretary, Amy Trella.

Church Administration Meetings

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

Worship Planning - Monday, April 2 at 4p.m.

WPCM - Monday, April 8

Trustees - Monday, April 15

SPRC - Tuesday, April 16

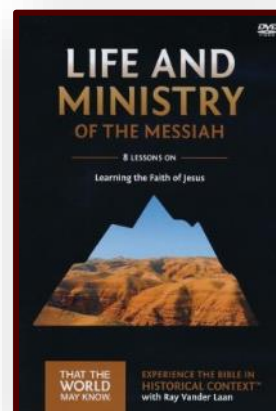
Adult Sunday Schools & Studies

Seekers - Bruce Tucker

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

The Life and Ministry of the Messiah by Ray Vander Laan

In *Life and Ministry of the Messiah*, volume 3 of the "Faith Lessons" series, historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan illustrates how Jesus' call to follow him turned the world upside down. In this eight-session DVD, you'll journey back to the time of Jesus, marvel at the magnificence of Herod's palace, scramble among the ruins of Qumran, and wonder at the simplicity and wisdom of Jesus' parables. Discover how the events of Jesus' day impacted his life and ministry - and how it affects yours today.

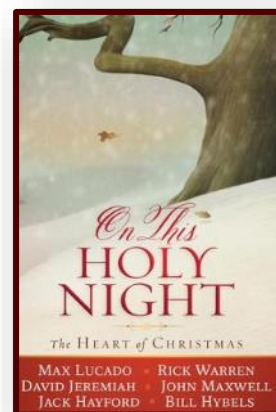


Wide Awake - Ron Lindberg

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Room 221

Death and Resurrection of the Messiah by Ray Vander Laan

In this fourth volume of the "Faith Lessons" series, historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan teaches how confronting evil can be loudly proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need.

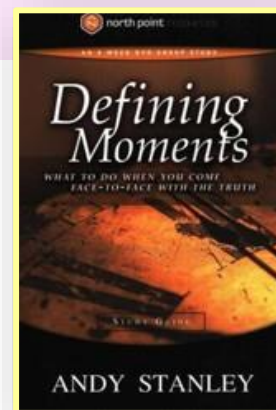


Monday Night Bible Study - Bruce Tucker

Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

Defining Moments by Andy Stanley

It's no secret that what you don't know can hurt you. In *Defining Moments*, Andy Stanley proposes a new mind-set about the way you live your life. Listen in as Jesus clarifies some rather perplexing realities for seven biblical characters who had grown comfortable with their misinformed behavior and belief systems. Discover firsthand how courage to embrace the truth can set you free!



The Way *(a name given to the earliest followers/disciples of Jesus)* - Rev. Kevin Readman

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

April 7 to June 9

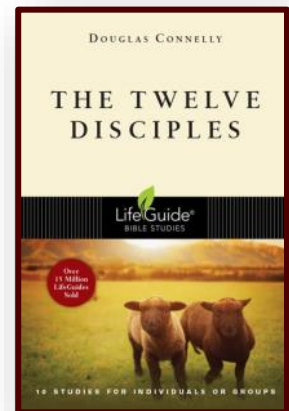
The Twelve Disciples by Douglas Connelly

Jesus had about three years to mold a dozen fearful, faithless men into the pillars of a worldwide movement. Despite this brief window, time in Jesus' presence had a transforming effect on each of them, and they would be changed by Jesus' power. In this ten session LifeGuide® Bible Study of Jesus' first followers will transform you too.

All are invited and welcome to participate in this conversation.

There is a book which is not required to participate.

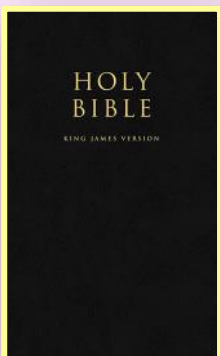
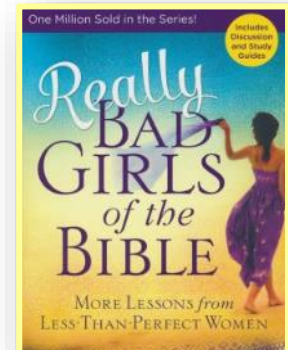
If you would like a copy of the book or to ask questions please speak to Kevin Readman in person, call 717-203-8452 or email kevin_readman@yahoo.com.



Women's Book & Bible Study - Sandy Schmid

Thursdays at 10 a.m. in Room 221

Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs



Men of Hope Book & Bible Study

Fridays at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

(First Friday of each month is at Gus's restaurant)

Soup and Sandwich Sale - March 16

Thank you - the soup and sandwich sale was a real success. We will be presenting \$1,260.00 to the Carol Martin family. Also, thank you to all who purchased and sold the products and to those who volunteered.



EASTER *Hunt* EGG



Enjoy the pictures of our Easter Egg Hunt Celebration!

It was a wonderful success! Despite the rainy weather, we had a huge turn out. A special thank you to all of those who donated and to the volunteers who helped ahead of time and during the event to bring the story of Easter to so many children and their families.



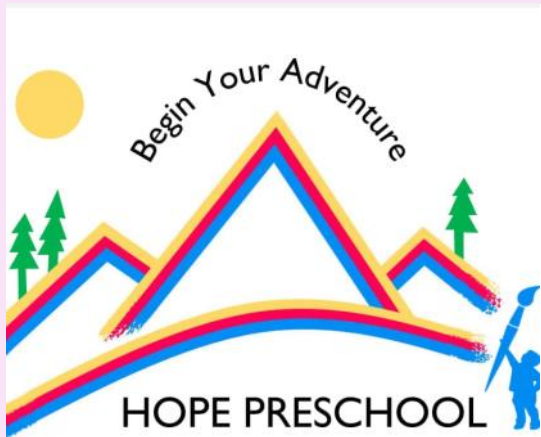












► Hope Preschool Prattle

Happy Spring!

It is such a beautiful time of year and the children are enjoying time outside and so many spring themes. St. Patrick's Day and Easter were so close together this year that it seemed like all we did was party and celebrate.

The parents were thrilled to be able to come in and help with our Easter rotations that included Pastor Scott reading a story called "The Easter Egg Hunt for Jesus". There was a craft center where they made Easter Smores kits to take home, an Easter Egg hunt that led them around the church building and told the Easter story with part of the story being in each egg, and they had a fun Easter snack. School will be closed for Easter break March 27 through April 1.

April will be very busy with a Pre-K field trip to a farm, Spring School Pictures, Vision Screenings by KidSight, and Lancaster County Parks will come in to give a presentation on worms for our Living VS. Non-Living science unit.

Our Pre-K classes are working on the songs they will sing for graduation on May 22 and planning has begun for the school-wide Carnival on May 17.



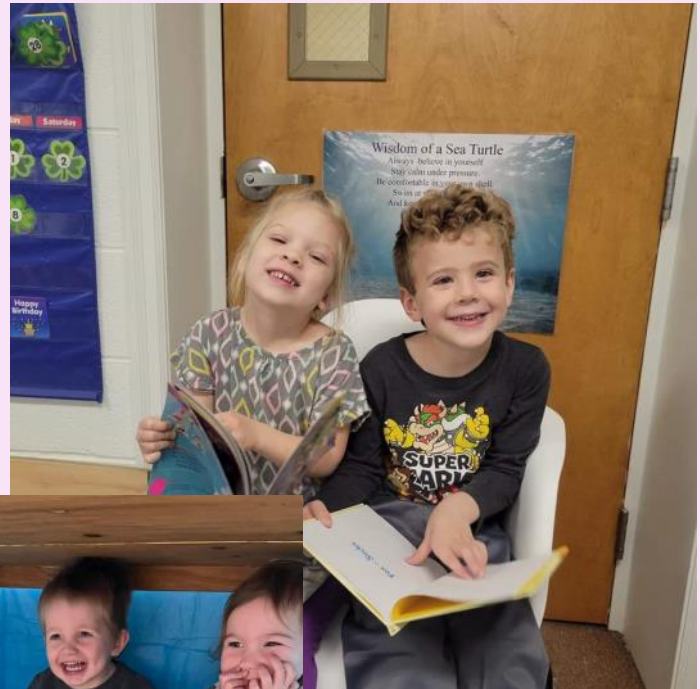
Our Art Show/Open House was very well attended and enjoyed by many preschool families and new families that came to tour the school. I hope you had a chance to come down and view the beautiful displays that the teachers and students worked so hard on.

Registration for the 2024/2025 school year opened and many of our classes are already full. Next year promises to be the biggest year at Hope Preschool yet!

Blessings from the hope staff and students!

Mrs. B

Preschool Pictures





Wild Church

Partnership with Hope Meadow

Wondering and Walking Together

Next Gatherings

April 21- Earth Day weekend

May 19

at 5pm

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
For we are part of all that I within life's river flowing.
With open hands, receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

Wild Church is part of a growing movement in which we seek to recover our natural “roots” and take worship outside into our first and greatest sanctuary: creation itself. Our gatherings are not traditional worship services in an outdoor setting, but rather experiences that recognize the natural environment itself as a participant. We learn to identify God’s presence and activity in all things.

When we gather we are entering into relationship *with* nature.
We are here to *re-member* ourselves back where we belong.
We are here to *restore* a loving and kindred relation with the rest of the natural world, as spiritual practice.

You belong here-
with the trees, and the stones and the birds and the weeds and the grass.

You are a welcome part of the ecosystem.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Easter Egg Celebration on March 23!

HOPE CHURCH GARDENS

Sign Up Now

Will be available behind the church. A signup sheet is in the lobby or you may notify the church office. Give your name and the number of plots you would like, and what size (10' x 20' or 20' x 20', or ?). Questions? See Dave Schmid.

CLEAN UP WORK DAY

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, May 18

7:30 - 8 a.m. - coffee & donuts

Noon - lunch

Look for a signup sheet closer to the time. We look forward to seeing you there!

THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER

Is offering a wide array of free workshops and some are via Zoom. The April offerings include; Supporting Families Through the Critical Years, Improving Access to Wellness, Fundraising Down and Dirty, and De-Escalating Challenging Situations. A copy of the email with their upcoming schedule is on a bulletin board in the lobby.

For information and to register for workshops:

Parish Resource Center

2160 Lincoln Hwy East, #18, Lancaster - (717) 299-1113

info@parishresourcecenter.org - www.connectprc.org

GRETNA GLEN RETREAT

This year Gretna Glen is celebrating 65 years for camping for children of all ages. In 2023 the retreat served more than 1,294 campers and families. They provide overnight camping for ages 4-18 and day camp for kids ages 5-12. A pool, lake, zip lines, science center, campfires and much more are available for all these campers (plus good food). See the brochures on the table in the lobby.

BE ON THE TEAM - Gretna Glen is actively hiring a team of 50 + summer staff, and recruiting 100 volunteers to make summer 2024 amazing! Greatnaglen.org/serve

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH EPHRATA BUS TRIP

You are invited to a bus trip to historic Williamsport, PA on Wednesday, **May 15**. The trip includes Clyde Peelings Reptiland, lunch at Genetti Hotel's newest restaurant Windows on 4th, escorted drive down Millionaire's Row, narrated excursion on the Hiawatha Paddleboat and a wine tasting at Four Friends Vineyard. The price is \$165 per person. Registrations are due **April 13**. For more information, contact Stephanie Frymyer at 717-682-9697.

move FOR life

WALK • RUN • PLUS

**SATURDAY
MAY 11,
2024**



**A fun-filled fundraiser that makes a difference
in the lives of moms, dads, and babies!**

The Junction Center, Manheim

Event Schedule (RAIN OR SHINE)

- 7:30 AM** Onsite Registration Opens for Run/Walk
- 8:00 AM** Fun Zone Opens
- 8:45 AM** Opening Prayer and Welcome Comments
- 9:00 AM** 5K Starts
- 9:30 AM** Walk Opens
- 10:15 AM** Walk/Run Ends
Ministry Highlights and Awards Ceremony
- 10:30 AM** Celebration Party Continues
- 12:00 PM** Fun Zone Closes, Event Concludes

Align Life Ministries
extends life-giving services
to families and cares for
abortion-vulnerable and
abortion-wounded women
and men in our communities.



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Walk • 5K Run • Live Worship
Fun Zone • Food Trucks • Prizes

▶ EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION: AlignLifeMinistries.org

QUESTIONS?

Shannon Martin • 717.274.5128 x 315 • smartin@alignlifeministries.org

Donations & Assistance

► City Gate Needs:

Soft granola/cereal bars, Little Debbie type snacks, packs of crackers or any snack items that are individually wrapped, kitchen size garbage bags, zip lock sandwich bags, paper towels.

► Ephrata Area Social Services Needs:

Size 4, 5, and 6 diapers, laundry soap, pears, carrots, mixed vegetables, pineapples, SPAM, ketchup, mayo, paper towels, toilet paper and oatmeal

► Good Samaritan Services Needs:

Water bottles, soda cans, Powerade/Gatorade, juices, (apple & cranberry) (small individual bottles, not big bottles), coffee (cans of coffee, NOT K-cups), sugar packets, creamer (refrigerated & powdered), individually packaged snacks (single serving: goldfish, pretzels, granola bars, fruit cups, cereal), paper plates, Styrofoam bowls and cups, plastic utensils (spoons, forks, knives), paper napkins, to-go coffee cups with lids, twin sheet sets and comforters, pillows, twin/queen winter blankets, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent and gift cards (\$25 gas, groceries, etc.)

Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS)

Please place your donations under the coat rack in the lobby. Thank you for your continued support of EASS and the work they do for our local community.

Good Samaritan

Please place your donations in the basket underneath the visitor table in the lobby.

Thank you!

April Word Search



April

Birds

Sheep

Spring

Bunnies

Easter

Rain

Sunny

Earth

Flowers

Tricks

Butterflies



Showy Lawn Flowers

by Clyde McMillan-Gamber

Common dandelions, blue violets and white clovers are abundant, perennial, flowering plants on many short-grass lawns in Lancaster County, and through much of the eastern United States. The lovely blooms of these adaptable, wild plants, that many of us enjoy, spread rapidly, and add much beauty and intrigue to those lawns. All these plant species carpet many lawns "wall to wall".

Originally from Eurasia as a species, each dandelion plant, of many, grows at least a few showy clusters of golden blossoms in April, into early May, cheering many a human soul weary of cold weather. And those tiny, up-lifting blooms offer pollen and nectar to a variety of small insects.

Within a few days of being pollinated, each dandelion flower head grows several brown seeds, each of which has a white "parachute" that carries its seed cargo away on the wind. Children have fun blowing the seeds and parachutes off those flower stems.

Northern cardinals and a small variety of finches and sparrows add their beauties to that of dandelions on our lawns when those birds consume dandelion seeds, making the fluffy parachutes float away on the wind without their seed cargoes during the first half of May. Dandelion seeds are important to those seed-eating birds because there are few other kinds of seeds available early in May.

Permanent resident, male cardinals, American goldfinches and house finches, and male, summering indigo buntings add bright colors to our lawns when they are feeding on dandelion seeds. And permanent resident song sparrows and summering chipping sparrows are attractive in camouflaged ways.

Blue violets are native to woods in the eastern United States, but have also adapted to partly-sunny lawns. These abundant lawn plants bloom from mid-April into May. I like the way their lovely purple or blue flowers peek coyly from short grass and their own foliage. The caterpillars of fritillary butterflies feed on the leaves of violets. And a small variety of native bees sip nectar and collect pollen from the pretty violet blossoms.

White clover is also from Eurasia. This plant has small, white blooms in clusters from the middle of May through summer. White clover produces new flowers after every lawn mowing, providing fresh blooms, with abundant nectar and pollen, through summer, into autumn. Female worker honey bees and bumblebees gather nectar and pollen all summer. The stomachs of honey bees turn flower nectar into honey as it is transported to the bees' homes. The honey is stored in wax cells to feed larvae, the queen, and wintering honey bees.

Wood chucks and cottontail rabbits ingest the leaves and blossoms of dandelions, violets and clovers on lawns. It's interesting to see these mammals' mouths "work" leaves and flower stems up, as we do strands of spaghetti.

Some lawns are filled with one or more kinds of these lawn plants with showy blooms in spring and summer. Some people try to eradicate them, but with difficulty. Meanwhile, I think their flowers are attractive on lawns, where they adapted to regular grass mowing. And they feed a variety of adaptable and interesting wildlife.

Dandelions



Blue Violets



White Clovers



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