



Covenant Presbyterian Church
18630 SE Division Street
Gresham, OR 97030-5141

APRIL 2019

REACHING OUT

a monthly publication of

Covenant Presbyterian Church

18630 SE Division Street, Gresham, OR 97030-5141

503.665.5775

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Website: www.covpresbypdx.org

Please join us on Sunday for

Adult Church School at 9:15 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

We're happy to send "Reaching Out" to all who wish to receive it by:

- a) a printed copy via U.S. Mail – send a note to the office; or
- b) an E-Mail edition – send your current e-mail address to covpresby@frontier.com

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Lenten Study – 12:00 - 2:00 <i>"Hard Words from Jesus"</i>	3	4 "	5 * * *	6 Book Club – 10:00 a.m. 
7 Communion	8	9 Lenten Study – 12:00 - 2:00 <i>"Hard Words from Jesus"</i>	10	11 "	12 Birthday Club – 11:30 a.m.  * * *	13 Choir Practice – 10:00 -11:30 a.m.
14 Palm Sunday Deacons – 9:00 a.m. Session – 12:00 p.m.	15 <i>"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's". Matthew 22:21</i>	16	17	18 Maundy Thursday Covenant – 6:00 Soup Supper, – 7:00 Service	19 Good Friday – 7:00 P.M., Savage Memorial * * *	20 Men's Breakfast – 8:30 a.m. 
21 <i>Easter</i> Alleluia! Sunrise service at Menucha (see below), Covenant 10:30	22	23	24	25 Handmade with Love – 10 am	26 * * *	27 Choir Practice – 10:00 -11:30 a.m.
28	29	30				

* * * = The church office will be closed

Scripture for Sunday Worship and Adult Bible Class

April 7

Isaiah 43:16-21
John 12:1-8

April 14

Palm Sunday

Leviticus 16:20-22, 30
Mark 11:1-11
Mark 12:41-44

April 21

Easter

Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 24:1-12

April 28

Revelation
1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Dear Friends,

The PCUSA has stepped out on a new venture. It’s called the Vital Congregations Initiative. They’ve chosen fourteen Presbyteries across the country to start creating vital congregations. I just looked up the definition of “vital.” Something is vital when it is absolutely important and necessary or essential.

Cascades Presbytery is one of the fourteen presbyteries chosen to participate in this program over the next 3-5 years. I have been asked to serve as one of four facilitators for the program in Cascades. Covenant’s session agreed in March to participate in the program as it gets up and running and Linda Ford has been recruited to take the first national training with me in early May in Denver, CO.

So, I’ve been wondering about vital congregations . . . What would it be like for a congregation to be necessary and important? . . . Necessary and important to who? Their own members or their community? What makes a congregation important or necessary? I’m guessing it has something to do with people whose lives are made better because of the congregation.

Maybe lives are made better because people are fed and clothed and they feel welcomed and important in the life of the congregation. Maybe lives are made better because people feel they in turn can help others. Maybe lives are made better as people experience joy and growth and peace. If that’s the case, Covenant already knows what it takes and there’s already evidence of vitality within this faithful bunch of folks. Covenant gives much of itself to mission work and to providing vital worship and fellowship.

It’s also true that there are people outside the walls of Covenant whose lives could be better. I’m very excited to find out how Covenant and other churches can become more vital in and for their communities. I have a feeling it requires taking the hospitality, welcome, and trust we find within the Body of Christ out into the world. After all, that’s what Jesus said the Kingdom would be like.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has finished our Mission Information Form (MIF). (Thank you! Well done good and faithful servants!) Our Presbytery Committee on Ministry has approved the MIF and it will now be active on the PCUSA’s “dating” website for those minister candidates searching for a new congregation. Our MIF states clearly that one of our future goals is to become more active and vital by partnering with other non-profits in our community in works of compassion and justice. I couldn’t be more proud of Covenant.

Love and Blessings,
Pastor Barbara



Servers

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Liturgist	Kathy Dunford	Steve Zapp		
Usher(s)			.	
Fellowship Host(s)	First Sunday Fellowship Time Hosts	Second Sunday Fellowship Time Hosts	Third Sunday Fellowship Time Hosts	Fourth Sunday Fellowship Time Hosts
Flower Provider(s)			.Congregation	

Special Maundy Thursday Service – Barbara Campbell

On Thursday night, April 18th, Smith Memorial, Savage Memorial and Cherry Park will join us here at Covenant to celebrate the Foot Washing, Last Supper and New Commandment from Jesus to "love one another, just as he has loved his disciples." "Maundy" comes from Old French (*mandé*), spoken from 1000–1300 C.E. and from the Latin *mandatum novum* (a new commandment).

We will begin with a shared a soup supper together at 6:00 pm. *We need volunteers from Covenant to help provide soup and bread and a few people to help with set up and serving.* (See note from Congregational Life)

At 7:00 pm we will begin worship with a time of quiet reflection and music as Maundy Thursday symbols are carried into the sanctuary and placed on the communion table. Those who choose will then participate in a "hand washing" remembrance. We will welcome our special guest Bruce (Baruck) Morris, Cantor from P'nai Or Jewish Renewal Congregation in Portland who will provide special music. Baruck will also recite the Passover prayers in Hebrew during communion and lead us in a Jewish Passover song on his guitar. Scripture readings and hymns from Holy Week texts will also guide us throughout the evening which leads up to Good Friday.

Good Friday Service Update – Barbara Campbell

The joint Good Friday service this year has been changed to Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church at 7 pm. Address is 1740 SE 139th Avenue, Portland, OR 97233-2311. All the Presbyterian Churches of East County will be worshipping together for the first time in a long time.

Easter Sunrise Service

As the women came to the tomb early in the morning, you are invited to join people from several churches for a sunrise service at Camp Menucha (38711 Historic Columbia River Hwy, Corbett). The service begins at the main lodge near the fireplace, and if the weather is good, we will go outside for the closing hymn of celebration. Afterwards, there will be some coffee and pastries available.

Serving Others



Please take a moment to stop by the bulletin board in the hallway and volunteer for one of the many opportunities to serve our congregation. Pages for 2019 are posted but empty at this time. If you have questions about a specific job, please see the Committee Chair responsible for each task. You may also contact the church office.

Prayer Chain



We have a Prayer Chain at Covenant! The guidelines for our prayer chain are based on the word RESPECT: R – responsibility for our own words, E – empathetic listening, S – sensitivity to another's feelings, P – ponder our own words before speaking, E – examine our own assumptions before speaking, C – confidentiality, and T – trust. If you would like to be a link in this chain or if you have a prayer chain request, please contact Ann Richardson or the church office. As always, your requests are confidential.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – Dave Dunford

Did you know the church has an AED? Do you know where it is? Do you know how to use it? Many of us can probably answer yes to the first two questions, but no to the third one. Would you like to be certified in the use of the AED should the need arise for its use for one of our Covenant family or friends? Dave Dunford is looking into certification courses through the Red Cross and American Heart Association. Both organizations offer frequent combined online and classroom courses. If you are interested in certification or have any questions about AED training please contact Dave.

Lenten Bible Study "Soup and Subversive Stories"

Tues, March 26, April 2 and 9, 12-2 pm – Soup Lunch provided.

Please Note: the dates have changed from the March newsletter!

Pastor Barbara will lead a three-week series based on three chapters from a book she has recently completed reading called, "Walking With Rabbi Jesus: In Ten Not-So-Easy Lessons." The three stories we will study are lessons from Jesus that include some of his most confusing and dangerous words to his disciples. These lessons reflect the "foolish grace" that the Apostle Paul speaks about that stands in opposition to "worldly wisdom." These lessons were actually somewhat "subversive" and exactly what caused some of the Jewish and Roman authorities to arrest him and put him to death. This weekly lessons will be as follows:

Mar 26: Mark 7:9-15 Culture or Commandments

Apr 2: Mark 9:49-50 Passion with Compassion

Apr 9: Mark 10:17-27 Piety or Charity

Please join us for lunch and reflection on one or all of these difficult and dangerous texts both in terms of interpretation and practice.



Trivia Questions – Dave Dunford (Answers on page 7)

Bible Trivia

Which is NOT one of the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the ____ for they will ____"

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A) Meek, inherit the the earth | B) blind, see |
| C) Merciful, receive mercy | D) peacemakers, called children of God |
| E) who mourn, be comforted | F) pure in heart, see God |

Secular Trivia

From "Final Jeopardy". Prior to 2016, the last year a president was elected who had not held an elected office?

1791 B) 1800 C) 1888 D) 1920 E) 1952 F) 1976

Monday Musical Club Concert

Monday Musical Club of Portland

Music for Duo Pianos

April 1 ♦ 1:00 P.M.

Reedwood Friends Church

2901 SE Steele Street

(near Reed College)

For more information, talk with Judy Babcock - who will be performing! - or visit the website, www.pdxmmc.org. The concert is free, and all are encouraged to make a donation to benefit the Monday Musical Club Scholarship Fund, which awards 14 scholarships every year to high school and college musicians.



Book Club – Kathy Dunford

As I sit here having just experienced yet another "snow event," it seems difficult to believe that we're already contemplating the end of our book club year. It seems that we should be reading books set in cold climates while we sip hot chocolate. But in any event, we are moving along and are thinking about our reads for the next three months.

April 6th: The Rent Collector by Camron Wright. Treats provided by Leslie.

May 4th: The Alice Network by Kate Quinn.

And for our last meeting before our summer hiatus, on June 1st: Chocolat by Joanna Harris. This meeting will be held at Jan's and will include watching a movie. We will be carpooling from the church. Please bring your own lunch.

We always welcome new members who like to read and would enjoy book discussion and a light snack.

Monthly Riddle (Answer on page 7)

Why can't a man who's living in Edinburgh, Scotland be buried on the Isle of Wight?

Handmade with Love



Handmade with Love will meet on the Fourth Thursday, April 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please join us as we knit, croquet and sew clothing and blankets for the Clothing Closet at SnowCap. Individual projects and new ideas, at any skill level, are welcome! Call Verneta Price for more information.

Men's Breakfast



Join us on Saturday, April 20, at 8:30 a.m., at McCrae's Country Café, 401 W. Powell, in Gresham. Everyone is welcome to attend. We hope you will come.

Christian Education Committee



Our Monthly Bible study class will not meet on this month, but will resume in May. Instead, please join us for Lenten study on March 28, April 4 and 11. Details are in this newsletter on page 4.

Happy Birthday!



Ken Rolph 4/5, Dick Brooks 4/9, Alexandra Adams 4/15, Berniece Browning 4/26

Birthday Club for April will be gathering on Friday, April 12 at 11:30, at Nicholas Restaurant in downtown/old town Gresham, at 323 North Main Street, Gresham. The restaurant does not have a parking lot – use the municipal lot (where the farmers' market is held) or on street parking. Julie Hankins will be our hostess. Please let her know if you plan to attend.

Happy Anniversary!



Greg and Rita Painter 4/17

Congregational Life Committee – Carol Broyles



Last year, for the first time in a number of years, Covenant did not hold a Community Easter Egg Hunt. This year, your ever creative committee has come up with a different plan. On the two Sundays before Palm Sunday, you will find an Easter basket on the table at Fellowship Time. We will use whatever donations we receive to buy little treats for the kids in the Head Start program housed here at Covenant. On Palm Sunday we will be putting the bags together and will be writing little cards for the kids and their families letting them know that we care about them and wish them well as they continue their classes here at Covenant.

On April 18 Covenant will be hosting the co-operative Maundy Thursday service for Smith Memorial, Cherry Park, Savage Memorial and our congregation. Before that service there will be a soup and bread supper. If you are willing to help by providing soup, bread or a desert, please contact Carol Broyles. Even if you can't help, though, we hope that you will attend the service and enjoy a meal with us.

Sunday Adult Classes

If you have not or have not recently attended the Adult Sunday Classes at Covenant, now would be a good time to join us! The class meets at 9:15 and is over by 10:00 so that those who go to choir can be at their rehearsal on time. We read and discuss the scriptures that are part of the service that week. As we discuss what the scriptures are saying to us, we are also preparing ourselves for worship. We would love to have YOU join us in our studies.

Answers!



Bible Trivia Answer: Blind, see. Matthew 5: 1-12

Secular Trivia Answer: E) 1952.

Dwight David Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson. The retired general had never held an elected office.

Monthly riddle answer: Because he is alive.

Mission Committee – Lily Young

Around the world millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. Each gift of One Great Hour of Sharing helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. Your gift may be small but together make a big impact as we work toward a better world. Thank you for your generous gift.

Peace and Love be with you

SnowCap



Look at Facebook, SnowCAP earned \$152,000 at this year's auction! What good news for our neighbors in need! Thanks to all of you from Covenant that helped make that happen.



Requested items for the month of April:

New Socks and Underwear – M, F, all sizes

Baby wipes

Formula

Peanut butter

Tuna fish

Can openers

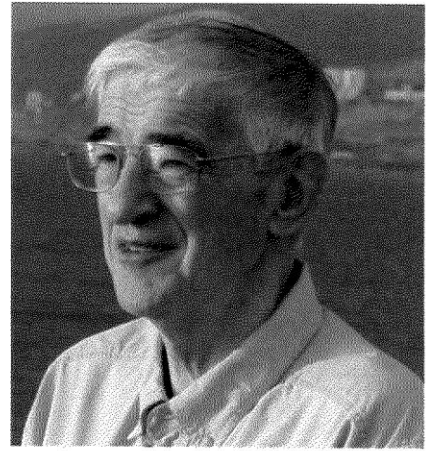
Thank you!

Pastor Nominating Committee – Kathy Dunford

Session has approved our Mission Information Form and by the time you read this newsletter, our form will be live for potential pastoral candidates to see. If a person decides to apply for our opening, they will, most likely, do so online and we will sift through these "resumes" to see where we might find a good match. As we wait for these candidates to make themselves known, your PNC is preparing questions to ask during the interview process. While we move into this phase, again, we ask for your prayers for discernment during this exciting time.

Southminster

Presbyterian Church



Presenting: Scholar/Author/Lecturer

Dr. John Dominic Crossan

April 5-6, 2019

The Contemporary Challenge of Easter

Session #1, Friday 7:30 – 9:00pm

Lecture: *Jesus' Execution in the Gospel of Mark*

Session #2, Saturday 9:00 – 10:30am

Lecture: *Six Questions on Jesus' Resurrection*

Session #3, Saturday 11:00am – 12:30pm

Panel Discussion: *Putting Easter into Action* –Dr. Crossan will be joined by:

Rev. Barbara Nixon, First United Methodist Church, Corvallis

Rev. Aric Clark, Presbyterian pastor/writer/activist

Rev. Mark Bocker, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton

Session #4, Saturday 2:00 – 3:30pm

Lecture: *The Evolutionary Challenge of Jesus' Universal Resurrection*



Event Information

Address: Southminster Presbyterian Church
12250 SW Denney Rd
Beaverton, OR 97008

Web Site: www.southmin.org

Email Address: staff@southmin.org

Ticket Prices: Full two-day series: \$50
Single session: \$20

Tickets Available:
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3740109>