

# West Swamp News

Volume 11, Issue 3

April/May 2022

## Care & Share—A model of stewardship

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### FYI

- Mother's Day is May 8. Celebrate all the women who have nurtured and encouraged you.
- Be ready for a different kind of service on our second Fifth Sunday of the year—May 29.

I recently engaged Don Rosenberger to ask about Care & Share's involvement with the refugee crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Don was able to provide me with a broad update, not only about their efforts in Ukraine but also the local community.

Currently patrons of the Thrift Shoppes can contribute directly to MCC's relief efforts in Ukraine by donating at the register, and from there MCC uses their long-standing relation-

ships with partners in Ukraine and Eastern Europe to aid the people suffering there.

Locally Care & Share has assisted three Afghan refugee families that have been resettled in our area.

Care & Share also works through local organizations such as the Keystone Opportunity Council, Penn Foundation, and local churches to meet the needs of the folks they serve. One highly successful program is the giving of gift cards to people who

can then shop for what they need most.

Care & Share has also been

supportive of local events such as Shop With a Cop, in appreciation for the year round support they receive from the first responder community.

Don and Care & Share are very appreciative of their volunteer base, including the West Swamp gang. Total volunteer hours counted at the Thrift Shoppes are still well behind the pre pandemic levels so anyone with a heart for service is welcome.

We should all continue to pray for the important services that Care & Share and MCC provides.

*~ Randy Rush  
Moderator Deacon*



West Swampers work with other volunteers to price clothing and games at Care & Share in February. More pictures on page 5.



## Pastor's Corner: The journey inward and the journey outward

Spring is coming and we are on the journey of Lent together. At the culmination of Lent comes the celebration of Easter. In our culture, Easter is celebrated as a spring holiday. It is all about bunnies and eggs and candy and new clothes.

But for us, Easter is something completely different. Each week we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by worshipping together on Sunday, but on Easter we particularly celebrate the resurrection.

Why is the resurrection of Jesus important? Paul says that if Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then we are of all people the most to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15:19).

The resurrection is important because it is the demonstration of God's power over evil and sin. The religious and political lead-

ers conspired together to have Jesus executed, and in his death, it seemed that evil was triumphant. But in the resurrection of Jesus we see God's power victorious over the worst that humanity can do, over the worst evil in the universe. The resurrection gives us hope that in our world, where evil seems so often to win, that in fact, the power of God's love is greater and will eventually be victorious.

The resurrection is important because it means that we too can experience new life in Jesus. Paul says that we are buried with Jesus through baptism into death, and raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). Because of the resurrection, we have the continual presence of Jesus with us through the Holy Spirit living in our lives. Resurrection life is not just something we possess after we die, but

something we experience here and now, as Jesus lives out his life in and through us.

The resurrection of Jesus is important because it is a preview and promise of our own resurrection. Paul writes that Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:23). Because Jesus has been raised from the dead, we know that we will be also. Your destiny is to dwell in the new heaven and new earth that God is going to recreate, where there is no mourning or crying or death or pain (Revelation 21:4).

We have so much to celebrate in the resurrection of Jesus. It is the cornerstone of our faith, the validation of God's love for all of God's creation.

Peace,

~ *Pastor Michael*

## Worship: Holy Week worship opportunities

As we follow Jesus on the road to the cross and to God's ultimate act of salvation, we encourage you to take part in these worship opportunities:

**Palm Sunday, Apr. 10:** Christ's entry into Jerusalem is often called "Triumphant." Through worldly eyes, it surely looked like success, but we know that the real success came when Christ triumphed over death and sin by dying on the cross.

**Maundy Thursday, Apr. 14:** Come for a simple meal of homemade soup and bread at 6:30 pm, followed by a service at 7 pm—or just come for the service.

**Easter Dawn, Apr. 17:** After a two year hiatus, we are excited to be able to once again have a joint 7 am Easter service with Swamp Mennonite. Picking up where we left off, the service is at Swamp this year. It's followed by a light breakfast.

**Easter Worship, Apr. 17:** Whether you take part in the early service or not, please join us at 10:30 am as we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord. Alleluia! He is risen!



## DISCO: Spring happenings

Discipling Commission is putting together a few fun things this spring!

Join us Apr. 10 at 6:30 pm for spring crafts. Choose from a few options to get crafty like painting small flower pots or making sock bunnies. We will have light refreshments and worship music to get our creative juices flowing.



On May 15 from 5:30-7:30 DISCO will be hosting a spaghetti dinner with silent auction as an alternative to the youth auction. Tickets will be sold in advance for \$5 each (children age

5 and under free) and available at the door for \$6 each. Dinner will include pasta and sauce options, garden salad, and bread. Silent auction items will include theme baskets and hosted meals. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing, please keep an eye on church communication for sign up opportunities.

The sermon discussion small group continues to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evenings of the month. The invitation to join remains open! Just contact Katie Mood for information.

The Jude book study small group dives deeper and deeper into this compelling letter

to God's beloved people. Our conversation is honest, fosters self-reflection, and provides opportunities to view our brothers and sisters with new perspectives.

The Bible Project forges on in the New Testament as they meet during Sunday School hour each week, both in person and virtually. Please contact Lynne if you would like to join the group.

Children's Church will continue each Sunday through April 10, Palm Sunday. We have been enjoying puppet skits, crafts, and play time!

The commission members greatly appreciate your support and participation as we offer opportunities for study and growth outside of Sunday mornings. Let's take the next step together and invite someone to come along with us!

~ *Katie Mood*



Above: Paint your own flower pot is one of the options at the Second Sunday craft night.

Right: Oliver shows off a butterfly he made with Case during Lent Children's Church. Other work is displayed on the bulletin board.



## Community: Easter flower sale

Community Commission is raising money for a new bench in the Prayer Garden. Support this project—and enhance your own garden or home—by ordering daffodils and lilies for Easter.

dnjacobs@comcast.net.

Flower orders can be picked up on Palm Sunday, Apr. 10.

~ Nancy Jacobs

Flower options are

- Mini Daffodils in 4-inch pots for \$4,
- Daffodils in 6-inch pots (3 bulbs) for \$6, and
- Lilies (5-6 blooms per plant) for \$9.

Place your order on the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall on Apr. 3, or by email to



## Community: Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your children or grandchildren or neighbors' children to our Community Egg Hunt on Saturday, Apr. 9 at 10 am. The event will be held rain or shine (and we're hoping for shine!) and is for toddlers up to 11-year-olds. We'll have prizes and snacks and plenty of eggs to find.

How can YOU help? There are several ways:

- Donate individually wrapped candies that will fit in a plastic egg. Bring the candy to church on Apr. 3.
- Help fill eggs after church on Apr. 3.
- Help hide eggs on Apr. 9.

- Give general help on Apr. 9.
- Bring egg hunters to the event!

~ Nancy Jacobs

**Bonus fun:** Can you guess the year of these past Easter Egg Hunt photos? Answers on pg. 7.



# Serving with thrift and serving hot pizza

Enjoy these pictures of the Feb. 23 Care & Share Service Evening and the Free Pizza give-away on Mar. 20. We thank Matt Mood and Casey Kilgos for their generosity and are impressed with the mobile brick pizza oven they built. The pizza was amazing!

**Right: Deb Stevenback, Glenn High and Lori Farrell enjoy the Care & Share break room.**



**Below: Lynne Rush and Pastor Michael package crayons, while Edna Rosenberger works in the clothing department.**



**Free Pizza: The Mood and Kilgos families have this down to a science. They've invested a lot of time finding the best crust recipe, the tastiest sauce, and the perfect baking technique—and we definitely benefitted by the results of all their research (i.e. pizza weekends). Both Casey (left) and Matt (below left) manned the oven, while their crew (below) made sure passers-by knew the offer was for them. We even had someone from New Jersey stop by!**



## Spring Workday at Men-O-Lan

Men-O-Lan needs help to get camp ready for their summer season and invites any helpers (age 12 and up) to join them at their Spring Workday on Saturday, April 23.

Meet at the Dining Hall at 8:30 to get your work assignment. Wear work clothes and bring gloves.

They'll provide coffee in the morning and lunch for all the volunteers.

Planned jobs (though subject to change) include putting docks and paddleboats in the lake; spring trail maintenance; lots of woodcutting, felling and splitting; and more.

Contact facilities manager Steve Panning if you plan to attend so that he can plan the day: [steve@menolan.org](mailto:steve@menolan.org) or 215-679-5144 ext 326.

The workday will continue 'til at least 3 pm; come for all or part.

## MCC partners in Ukraine work to meet physical and spiritual needs

~ *By Jason Dueck*

In the silence that lived between the deadly warnings of air raid sirens, the sound of a small choir, singing a song of praise, echoed out of a church sanctuary in western Ukraine. Just the night before, Anna\*, administrative coordinator for MCC Ukraine, had absent-mindedly hummed a few bars of the song during an evening tea break at the church.

Uplifted by that quiet moment of inspiration, the church's pastor suggested some of the young people in the church record a performance of the song as an act of worship. He hoped the lyrics speaking of God's power and protection might offer spiritual comfort in a dangerous time.

But this hymn about God's love and power isn't the only thing the church is offering to their neighbors. Anna and her family fled Zaporizhzhia, their home in southeastern Ukraine, as the conflict edged dangerously close. They were taken in by the church's pas-

tor and his family near Lviv. Anna and her family immediately joined the efforts of the church to house, feed and care for as many of the masses of refugees moving to or through western Ukraine as they could manage.

They've filled the upper level of the church with foam mattresses and blankets to offer rest to the weary. They're finding temporary homes for as many refugees as they can, often dozens of people each day. They pray with and for those who are without hope. And they prepare hot meals and clean water for the hungry and thirsty.

All the work Anna is doing with the church and alongside other local organizations is supported by generous donations to MCC's Ukraine emergency response.

In addition to Anna's efforts near Lviv, MCC continues to respond to immediate needs in Ukraine through its local partners. In

Uman and in the Cherkasy region, an MCC partner is providing lodging, meals, basic medications and food items for displaced people, as well as fuel for people who are evacuating. In Zaporizhzhia, an MCC partner is delivering food



baskets to the homes of individuals with disabilities. And in Avdiivka, an MCC partner is providing families that are staying in the city with food and enough funds to cover basic needs for two weeks.

*Read the complete article and watch the song recording at <https://mcc.org>.*

*\*Last name withheld for security reasons*

## Resurrection Word Search

N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E	M	O	L	A	S	C	E	N	D	E	D
E	D	E	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	I
S	D	A	R	K	R	S	F	N	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	O	E	S
T	I	E	W	V	E	T	R	E	M	B	L	I	N	G	L	E	H	C
O	A	P	M	N	H	O	I	Y	A	B	E	W	R	E	C	F	T	I
L	R	G	E	R	C	R	G	S	N	O	O	L	H	H	I	S	O	P
E	F	N	L	T	A	Y	H	T	G	N	A	T	I	R	S	P	N	L
N	A	I	J	O	E	L	T	O	K	I	N	E	S	E	L	I	S	E
E	E	N	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	F	T	T	A	V	C	I	S
L	B	T	S	O	I	N	S	E	E	P	S	O	N	O	F	E	E	E
A	D	H	U	D	D	N	L	S	R	K	A	N	G	E	L	S	H	K
D	R	G	S	T	G	J	E	I	G	U	A	R	D	S	L	G	I	A
G	O	I	E	G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R	T	O	M	B	N	R	U
A	L	L	W	Y	A	S	P	E	J	E	F	Y	L	K	C	I	U	Q
M	L	S	H	H	T	W	D	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	E	Y	N	H
Y	E	I	I	S	O	R	Y	A	W	A	D	E	L	L	O	R	N	T
R	D	M	T	M	A	Y	A	D	E	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	I	R
A	U	O	E	G	D	E	R	A	P	E	R	P	W	E	E	K	N	A
M	P	N	B	E	W	I	L	D	E	R	E	D	R	I	H	T	G	E

- |               |                      |                |           |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| ALARMED       | ENTRANCE             | MARY MAGDALENE | SON OF    |
| ANGELS        | FIRST                | MONEY          | MAN       |
| ASCENDED      | FRIGHT               | MORNING        | SPICES    |
| ASLEEP        | GALILEE              | NONSENSE       | STOLE     |
| BELIEVE       | GARDEN               | PLAN           | STONE     |
| BEWILDERED    | GO AND TELL          | PREPARED       | STORY     |
| BODY          | GOVERNOR             | QUICKLY        | TAKEN     |
| CHIEF PRIESTS | GUARDS               | RABBONI        | TEACHER   |
| CRUCIFIED     | HE IS NOT HERE       | REMEMBER       | THIRD     |
| CRYING        | I HAVE SEEN THE LORD | RISEN          | TOMB      |
| DARK          | JESUS                | ROLLED AWAY    | TREMBLING |
| DAWN          | JOANNA               | ROLLED UP      | WEEK      |
| DAY           | JOY                  | RUNNING        | WHITE     |
| DISCIPLES     | KNOW                 | SALOME         | WOMEN     |
| DO NOT        | LIGHTNING            | SIMON          | WORSHIPED |
| BE AFRAID     | LINEN                | PETER          |           |
| EARTHQUAKE    | LORD                 |                |           |

The remaining letters spell out something we receive when we follow Jesus.

Photo years answers: A, 2014; B, 2015; C, 2017; D, 2011; E, 2013

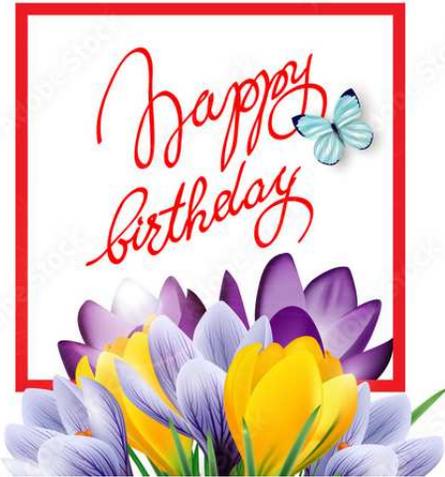
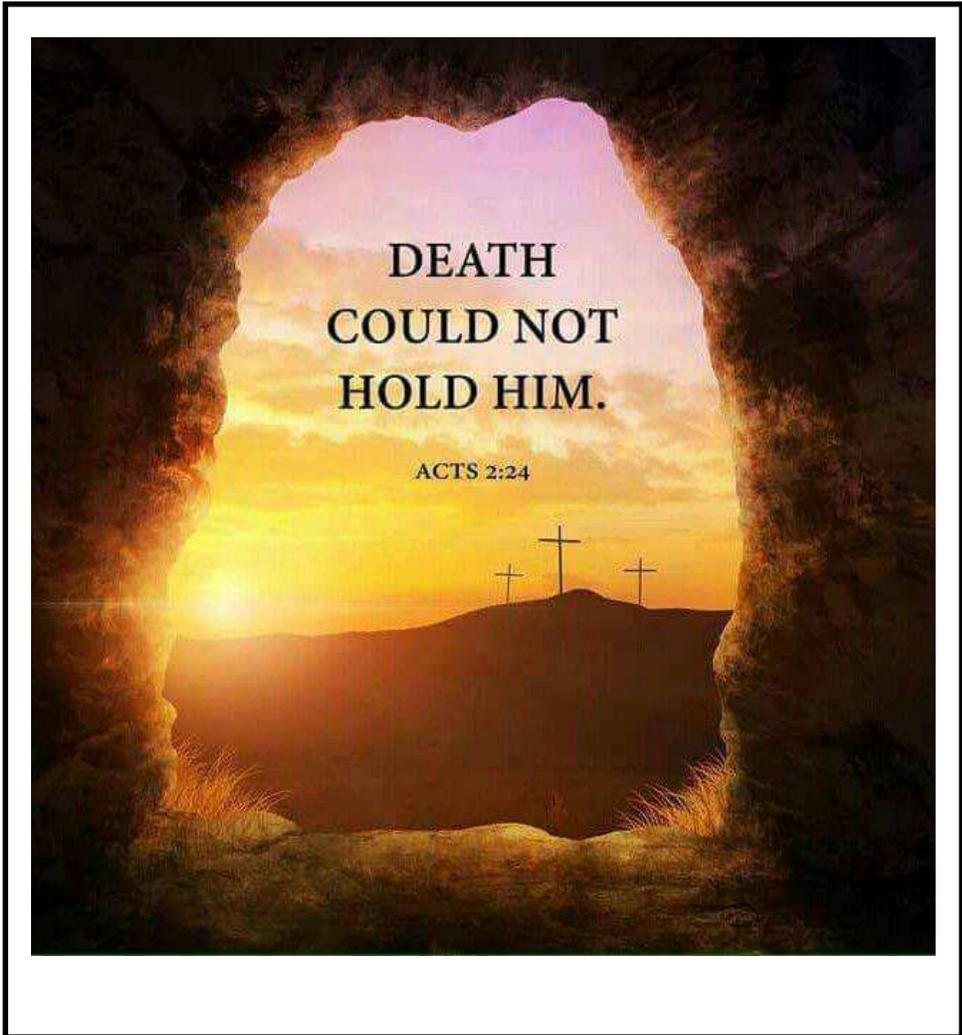
*He is risen! He is risen indeed!*



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Reflecting God in our  
living, loving and serving



**April**

- 4/4 Bev Mellan  
Kimberlee Opdyke
- 4/13 Karen Butenuth  
Cara Riley
- 4/15 Carl Kiesel  
Kyleigh Opdyke  
Edna Rosenberger
- 4/25 Emma Richards

**May**

- 5/5 Griffin Bear  
Gretchen Isaak  
Tim Scheetz
- 5/6 Stephen Shelly
- 5/11 Jane Burkett
- 5/15 Lee Hallman
- 5/20 Judy High
- 5/22 Matt Mood
- 5/23 Tim Butenuth
- 5/26 May Keiser
- 5/29 Don Jacobs
- 5/30 Charlene Smoll