

NEW HORIZONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



April Newsletter

New Horizons PCUSA
9424 Everman Ave.
Overland, MO 63114

Important Dates for April

Palm Sunday	April 9
Maundy Thursday	April 13
Good Friday	April 14
Easter Sunday	April 16
Earth Day	April 22

Church Office Hours:
Tu, Th, F: 8:30am—2:00pm

Phone: (314) 427-0841

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Website: www.newhorizons-pcusa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsPCUSA



NEW HORIZONS PC(USA)

News 'n Views

Seek ye the Lord, with heart, mind, and soul

Words from Rev. Mark

Dear friends:

As some of you may know, I am a Toastmaster. Twice a month I attend a Toastmasters' Club meeting where members give speeches and presentations. One feature of every meeting is the "Word of the Day" when a fellow toastmaster stands up and defines a vocabulary word and encourages us to use it in the meeting. It's a great way to learn new words.

At one meeting, the word was "nascent." My ears perked up because I am always interested in words that are used in biblical and theological studies. "Nascent" is an adjective which means "beginning to exist or develop." It comes from the Latin word which means to give birth.

What does this have to do with theology or the Bible? Nascent is often used to describe more than an impending physical birth. It is also used to refer to something that is beginning or emerging. For example, one might say: "After the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it was clear the American colonies were a nascent nation."

Likewise, religious scholars speak of a nascent Christianity in the years following Jesus death and resurrection. Or, the kingdom of God which Jesus announces is described as "nascent" because it has come (in Jesus), but is still to come (when Jesus returns.) It's emerging; it's coming, but it's not here yet. The kingdom is something like a baby yet to be born; we are eagerly awaiting its certain arrival, but he or she is not here yet.

As I was thinking about this, I was reminded of that wonderful phrase "the birth pangs of the new creation" which comes from Romans 8:22. In the more Common English Version translation, this verse reads: "We know that all creation is still groaning, and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth." However, Paul goes on to say in verse 23: "The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future...while we wait for God to show that we



Lee Crisler
Faith Gillespie
Elaine & Tom Shanahan
Jeff Johnson
Frazier Family
Debbie Frazier
Lucille Yamnitz
Evelyn Reed
Kathryn Byrd
Edie Roberts
Marion Brewer
Lore Bailey
Laura Ringling
Nancy Yamnitz
Rhonda McClain-Wright
Tom Highfill
Peg Berger
Dorothy Alexander
Carol Schuster
The Family and Friends of Jim Cochran

****The Prayer List is located in the Narthex. Please write in prayer requests throughout the month, and they will be added promptly.**

Office Hours:

Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30am—2pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tues & Thurs 11:00am—1pm

Office phone: (314) 427-0841
Pastor's home phone: (314) 395-8242
Pastor's cell phone: (314) 779-6940
Pastor's email: mark.strothmann@att.net

are his children." (CEV) In the days after Easter celebrations, it will be important to remind ourselves that promise of new life revealed to us in the resurrection of Jesus is an emerging reality; it is nascent. It is new life offered to us now in Jesus, but is also still coming. Meanwhile, we still live with the hurts and distress of life right now.

The Christian life depends on maintaining a balance between a realistic assessment of the human condition and the promise of the new life to come. At the center of our Christian belief is our faith that Jesus has come into our world, as painful as it still is, to give new life. For this reason we worship and adore him. I am reminded of that Christmas carol "Angels, from the Realm of Glory" because it uses the word "natal," another word from the Latin word meaning to give birth. The third verse reminds us that the coming of Jesus into our world is the beginning of a new creation for all nations and peoples.

Sages, leave you contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
guided by Christ's natal star;
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, give thanks and sing."
(The Presbyterian Hymnal, #22)

- Pastor Mark

New Horizons Events

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

- Thursday, April 13th @ **6:30pm**

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE (CALVARY UCC)

- Friday, April 14th @ **2pm**

EASTER BREAKFAST

- Sunday, April 16th @ **8:30am**

Newsletter Deadline

Newsletter articles for the May Issue should be submitted to **the office** by April 25, 2015.

Air Force Band Concert

Sunday, April 30th @ 3 pm

Join First Presbyterian Church, Alton, Illinois in welcoming the Air Force Band in a free concert at the church. The concert will take place in the sanctuary located at:
4th & Alby St, Alton, IL 62002

All are welcome!

Overland Farmers Market

Saturdays from May 13—October 21, 2017

8 am—12:30 pm

The Overland Farmers Market will soon be opening for its 9th season! Opening day is Saturday, May 13th. The market offers Overland area residents a wide variety of locally grown produce, fresh meat, and hand-picked fruits, including in-season fresh blackberries, Calhoun County peaches and local honey! Local artist will also be selling homemade artisan products. The Overland Farmers Market is located on Verona Ave. in Overland, within walking distance of New horizons!

Easter Poem

"Way of the Cross"

Tis important to remember,
the holy Standard that was set for us!
Its purchase was selflessly made
by our beloved Christ Jesus.

Upon Calvary, this single sacrifice
of Jehovah's perfect, atoning Lamb
completely demonstrates the truest form of Love
from our God, the Great I Am.

Lord, we may not entirely comprehend,
how Your ways are superior to our own,
but we need to realize that we're called
to reach towards Your Kingdom throne.

From the cruel spilling of Your Son's royal blood,
the ransom for Humanity was fully paid;
and the foundation of Heaven's eternity
has been utterly sealed and forever laid.

-Joseph James Breunig III

“God’s Grace”

How God’s grace works is always a paradox. It’s a gift freely given that we have to go and get. And it’s a gift that we often have to sit and wait for. We have to passionately strive for it and patiently wait for it at the same time. Wisdom comes in learning how to do both.

Understanding how grace works is one of the biggest dividing points among all Christian denominations. A lot of Christians believe that it just comes to us as a gift. In other words, God is good all the time, and all the time God is good. Others believe that it’s our deeds that gets grace working in our lives—God helps those who help themselves. The dilemma, the conundrum, is that both are completely right and both are completely wrong. Why?

In a lot of ways God’s grace is like a Picasso painting. Put your hand over the right side and the woman is looking to the left. Put it over the left, and she’s looking down to the right. Step back and she’s looking straight at you. She’s really doing all things at once. Grace doesn’t operate in just one way or another. It operates in innumerable ways.

God’s grace is all around us all the time. It’s like a thousand gifts being handed to us, ready to be opened and to surprise us with all sorts of wonders. Some are small, like a tiny superball surprising us with incredible bounces. Some are huge, like a grove of cherry trees in full bloom under a brilliant blue sky. We can’t tell by their wrappings which ones they are. We only discover them as we open them. But will we open them? Will we even notice them? Or will we walk on by, looking at the ground, complaining that God never answers our prayers? The question grace constantly asks us is will we reach out and grab God’s grace all around us.

Acting in faith is our reaching out and taking these gifts of God, and realizing the more we grab the more we discover.

Acting in faith is our reaching out and taking these gifts of God, and realizing the more we grab the more we discover. There are different names for all the grabbing motions—gratitude, wonder, awe, contemplation, prayer, study, singing, swaying, dancing, laughing, crying ...

the motions are too many to list. We’re told that we are justified by grace through faith. Grace is the gift. Faith is the grabbing.

Yet... yet... yet... if we grab too greedily, if we start thinking that all of these gifts are all ours, if we become like babies, whining that we only got a thousand presents, not a thousand-and-one, we lose grace. Or worse, we start manufacturing our own false grace where we think that anything we think or feel is evidence of God’s grace. There are so many times where we have to wait patiently for grace. We want God to act, we want God to do something NOW, and nothing happens. If God’s gifts are all around us, why aren’t we being gifted with what we need to be healed, to resolve this relationship, to get a new job or just a job, to get whatever it is we want?

I’ve always thought of God’s grace working like a train on a train track that intersects whatever path we are on ... eventually. There’s a grace-filled train steaming our way, running almost parallel to our lives, but it’s many valleys away. It’s coming. It’s chugging our way, but because we can’t see it, we think it’s never coming. It will intersect at some point, but because it’s obscured from our view we doubt. And we angst. And we get irritated with God. The only answer is that we have to wait patiently for it to intersect our lives.

At the same time, we also need to be aware that along the way God is still gracing us with all sorts of other grace-filled gifts: people who care about us in our struggles, insights that help us grow through our struggles, small possibilities that lift our spirits even if they don’t pan out, new possibilities that lead us onto a different track that leads us to intersect with the answer to our prayers.

So we end up in a situation where we are both reaching out for grace, while at the same time waiting patiently for it. Wisdom comes in know when and how to grab, and when to sit and wait.

The Rev. N. Graham Standish, Ph.D., M.S.W. is senior pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania. He is the author of seven books on spirituality and church transformation, and is an adjunct faculty member of Pittsburgh Theological and Tyndale Seminaries. He also has a background as a spiritual director, and as an individual and family therapist.

One Great Hour of Sharing

As usual at our church, and across the country, Presbyterians celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent and receive the money at Easter. This offering helps Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People.

The Christian reason of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer. But this isn't the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fasting, not to give up bread, but to *share it*. Isaiah calls us to "loose the bonds of injustice," to "let the oppressed go free," to "share bread with the hungry," and to "invite the homeless poor into our home." One way we can answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please give generously at Easter—Sunday, April 16th.

Breakfast with Easter Bunny

Saturday, April 8th from 9—11am

Calvary UCC is hosting "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" on Saturday, April 8th. Cost is \$3/ person, and includes: pictures, Easter Egg hunt, and crafts! All are welcome and invited!

2501 Hartland Ave. Overland, MO 63114

Moment for Scripture

"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

- (1 Peter 1:3)

Spring Vendor Sale

Saturday, April 8th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The sale will be held at the church, located at 13200 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033. This event is sponsored by Presbyterian Women of John Knox Church, and you can contact the Vendor Coordinator, Gailya Miller by phone at: 314-440-5824 or by email: gmiller615@att.net
Want to be a vendor? \$25 per 8-foot table, \$20 per round table.

Easter Prayer: "Hallelujah"

Halleluia!
Jesus is risen!
He is risen indeed!

May this declaration
resound not only in these walls
but touch the lives
of all we meet
and forever be
the truth of which we speak.
Your love,
once sown within a garden,
tended for your own people,
neglected and rejected,
now spreads its sweet perfume
in this place
and wherever it is shown.

Halleluia!
Jesus is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Amen.



April Birthdays

Wray Darr	04/02
Marguerite Goedde	04/04
Evelyn Reed	04/05
Marion Brewer	04/06
Mary Shehorn	04/10
Judy Doyle	04/11
Harrison Wachira	04/11
Brian Frazier	04/13
Richard Hause	04/17
Jennifer Lohnes	04/20
Chuck Kaiser	04/25

April Anniversaries

Harry & Charity Sherrington 04/04

“Gospel in a Hospital Room”

I probably should not have had that third shot of espresso. My mind was going a million miles an hour.

I paced as I made phone calls to set up visits with folks in the hospital. In the car I flipped through various songs every couple of minutes. My mind was still buzzing when I got to the hospital; I breathed deeply while an elderly volunteer tried multiple times to get the room number to come up on the computer.

As the pastor of an aging congregation in a small town, my days are not often filled with creative programming for children or passionate discussions in vibrant small groups.

They are filled with deeply personal conversations in living rooms and with hospital conversations that require a willingness to be, not just present, but uncomfortable in the moment. Sometimes these visits with medicated patients with hearing loss hardly even qualify as conversations at all. They're just a matter of being there.

For this particular visit, I anticipated a hard conversation. After months in ICU, the patient was now in a specialized care facility. Tubes snaked down her throat and machines whirred around her bed. But she was more than just a physical presence. She was there. Her eyes showed that she was thinking. She communicated her peace or her pain depending on the day. But as her mouth moved no sound came out because of the tracheotomy. The nurses could miraculously read her lips, but I couldn't. She had a clipboard on which she could slowly print out her responses. But it was taxing for her and sometimes difficult for me to read.

For years she had faithfully shown up on Sunday for church, singing, praying, and volunteering.

And now, I showed up by her bedside on Thursday.

And it was not a good Thursday for her. She seemed agitated and perhaps feverish.

I reminded her that she is God's beloved and that God is with her in her suffering. We shared a Psalm and did our best to communicate. As we were wrapping up, I asked her a question.

“We continue to pray for you each week at church. Can you write down the one thing you would most like us to pray for? It can be whatever you want. Healing? Comfort? Release? Peace? Faith?”

I watched her write the letters COM with a shaky hand.

My mind jumped ahead, presumptively completing the word: remember to pray for her comfort on Sunday.

When I looked back she'd added letters.

PA . . . SS . . . ION

Oh, compassion, I thought to myself, coming back into the moment. But she kept writing.

FOR

It was agonizingly slow.

ONE

I took a deep breath.

ANOTHER

And there it was.

The gospel written in the shaky hand of an old woman with no voice.

When asked what she most wanted the church to pray for she said,

COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER.

Those spidery words on the page showed what a lifetime of Sundays in church can do to us. It can prepare us to share the love of Christ on a nondescript Thursday, in a hospital, without the power of speech.

The sermon that Thursday was awesome. I'm so glad I was there.

Sue Washburn is a freelance writer and bivocational pastor at Reunion Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

Celebration of Life & Memory

Our sincerest prayers go out to the family and friends of Jim Cochran who passed away on March 27, 2017.



Moment for Scripture

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

- (Romans 6:4)



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

J O H N 1 1 : 2 5

Easter Prayer

We thank you
that Easter is not about
a people,
but all people,
that your love
and your Salvation
are for all who confess
with voices, hearts and lives
that the tomb is empty
because Jesus is risen,
that we might know
forgiveness,
that lives might be
reborn
and your name
glorified
now and for eternity.
Amen.



Bach Society Concert

Sunday, April 30th @ 4pm

The Bach Society of St. Louis Young Artists with pianist Sandra Geary present a concert on Sunday, April 30 at 4pm at Second Presbyterian Church. This concert is presented jointly with the Bach Society of St. Louis and is part of Bach Festival St. Louis. The concert is FREE and open to the public.

The church is located at:
4501 Westminster Place in the Central West
End, St. Louis, MO 63108.

For more information, call: (314) 367-0367
Or visit: www.secondchurch.net

New Horizons Newsletter

Don't forget that you are welcome and invited to submit items for the Monthly Newsletter here at New Horizons! Simply leave a submission on the office desk, in the After Hours Office Mailbox, or in the "Newsletter" box in the office mailroom!

Poem: "Easter Week"

See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices;
Fields and gardens hail the spring;
Shaugh and woodlands ring with voices,
While the wild birds build and sing.

You, to whom your Maker granted
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,
Use the craft by God implanted;
Use the reason not your own.
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,
Each his Easter tribute bring-
Work of fingers, chant of voices,
Like the birds who build and sing.

- Charles Kingsley

April 2017 - New Horizons' Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	27 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	28 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	29 8:30am Mission Sewing	30 11:30am Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	31 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	1 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
2 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	3 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	4 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	5 8:30am Mission Sewing	6 11:30am Lenten Lunch 5:30pm Worship & Nurture Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	7 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	8 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
9 10:30am Palm Sunday Worship 12:00pm Mission Mitg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	10 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	11 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	12 8:30am Mission Sewing 6:30pm Session Mitg	13 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	14 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH) 2:00pm Community Good Friday Service @ Calvary UCC	15 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
16 8:30am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Easter Worship & Communion 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	17 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	18 10:00am Presby. Women Mitg (JH) 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	19 8:30am Mission Sewing	20 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	21 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	22 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
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