

The Link

Unionville Presbyterian Church

**MARCH/APRIL
2020**

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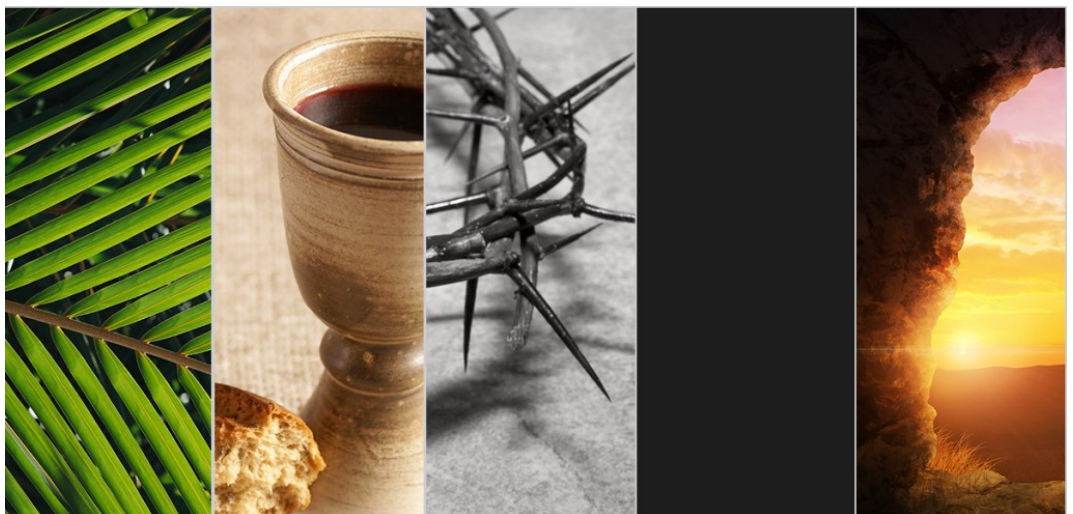
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A Brief History of Lent and Holy Week

This article focuses on the conclusion of Lent at Holy Week. How did the traditions of Holy Week emerge in the early church? How did they first fall out of favor and then resurface among Reformed/Presbyterian churches? And how might they best be put into practice today?

The roots of the Christian year can be traced to the first and second centuries when an annual commemoration of Christ's dying and rising emerged around the time of the Jewish Passover. Early Christians debated whether this event ought to take place on the day of Passover or on the following Sunday (and liturgical historians continue to argue about which tradition came first). Ultimately, in 325 the Council of Nicaea fixed the date of Easter on a Sunday to be determined by an obscure set of calculations based on the date of the spring equinox and the cycles of the moon. (Eastern and Western churches arrive at different dates due to their use of different calendar systems.)

The earliest annual celebrations of Christ's resurrection seem to have been preceded by a day of fasting and a night of readings and prayers — the origin of our Easter Vigil. Over the first few centuries of the church's



April 5

HOLY WEEK

April 12

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history, however, this simple day of fasting grew — first to two days, then a whole week. The days leading up to Easter came to be connected with particular events in the Gospels — Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, his Passover meal with the disciples and his death on the cross — particularly as pilgrims to the Holy Land sought to walk in Christ’s footsteps. In fact, the best account of Holy Week during this time comes from a Spanish woman (possibly a nun) named Egeria, who took a pilgrimage to Jerusalem around the year 385.

Churches throughout the Christian world continued to expand on these traditions in the centuries that followed. Many of the rites and practices that emerged were connected with the reconciliation of penitent persons at the Maundy Thursday service and with preparations to baptize new believers (catechumens) at the Easter Vigil. Thus, Lent came to be understood as a time for the exercise of spiritual discipline — especially for those joining or returning to the church — with Holy Week as the culmination of the season.

The Sunday before Easter (Palm/Passion Sunday) offers a synopsis of the week to come and captures the poignant paradox of the gospel. From the exuberant procession with palms the church quickly turns to the events of Jesus’ betrayal, arrest, denial, trial and crucifixion.

The fifth day of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday) celebrates Jesus’ example of humble service and extravagant love with the washing of feet and sharing of communion. “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment); at

this service, we remember Jesus’ new commandment to love one another as He has loved us.

The sixth day (Good Friday) proclaims Christ’s death on the cross for the life of the world, calling us to join Jesus’ intercession for the world that God so loves.

Early leaders in the Reformation didn’t necessarily object to the biblically-inspired, Christ-centered celebrations of the liturgical calendar. For instance, the 1566 Second Helvetic Confes-

sion states, “if in Christian liberty the churches religiously celebrate the memory of the Lord’s nativity, circumcision, passion, resurrection, and of his ascension into heaven, and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, we approve of it highly” (Book of Confessions, 5.226).

Presbyterian service-books from the early 20th century demonstrate the slow and steady rediscovery of the liturgical calendar. The 1906 “Book of Common Worship” provided a small assortment of

prayers for the Christian year, including Advent, Christmas Day, Good Friday and Easter Day. A 1932 revision expanded on that collection, adding resources for Lent, Palm Sunday, Pentecost and All Saints. The 1946 iteration of the “Book of Common Worship” added the “Thursday before Easter” to the materials for Holy Week. It also included a two-year lectionary borrowed from the “Book of Common Order” of the Church of Scotland.

With the 1983 reunion that formed the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) came a new version of the Directory for Worship. In its listing of the



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days and seasons of the church year, the denomination's current Book of Order includes these entries: "Lent, a season of spiritual discipline and preparation, beginning with Ash Wednesday, anticipating the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ" and "Holy Week, a time of remembrance and proclamation of the atoning suffering and death of Jesus Christ" (W-3.2002).

The past century has brought a remarkable range of new (or rather ancient) possibilities for Presbyterian worship. Some of these gifts have already been widely welcomed and explored; others remain largely untried. How might we continue to renew the church's worship at Holy Week?

Through 500 years of Reformed worship we have witnessed the fall and rise of Holy Week.

The real "fall and rise" of Holy Week, however, is the great mystery of faith the church proclaims in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The point of all of our liturgical traditions — however popular (or not) they may be — is pointing to this holy mystery and drawing others into the height and depth of Christ's saving, life-giving love.

I invite you to join in the observance of Lent and Holy Week at Unionville Presbyterian Church by participating in any or all of our worship celebrations: Maundy Thursday service with communion (April 9 at 7:00PM), Good Friday Prayer Vigil (April 10 from noon until 3:00), Easter Sunrise Service with communion (April 12, 6:15AM), and Easter Sunday Worship featuring the Easter Choir Cantata (April 12, 9:00AM).

Blessings, Rev. Annalie

Why Lent Is Better Than A New Year's Resolution

With Christmas cookies eaten, egg nog and cocoa drunk, and exercise forgotten, it is time to make our New Year's resolutions. If you are like me, you have the best of intentions — but keeping them is tough! I'll keep it real: I don't. My resolutions are always something I genuinely wanted to commit to badly, but between work and, you know, life, it just didn't happen.

Luckily, there's a chance for redemption in the near future! That chance is Ash

Wednesday, February 26, this year. It marks the start of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter Sunday. During these 40 days, people often give up a certain habit as part of religious tradition,

even though Lent is not mentioned in the Bible.

Let me tell you, Lent is a good deal. Why? Because observing Lent is a MUCH better way to make a resolution than the New Year.

Here are the reasons why:

1. It's realistic. When you make a resolution at the beginning of the year, you're assuming a lot about yourself for a long period of time. You're assuming you'll be physically and mentally up for certain tasks, during

a period of time that spans multiple seasons. With Lent, on the other hand, you're making a commitment for just a month and some change. It's a period of time when the light at the end of

Lent..
Life's mulligan for
Your New Year's
Resolutions.



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the tunnel doesn't seem too far away. Accomplishing a successful Lent is much more within reach.

2. You get to make up for lost time. With Lent, you get a second chance at the resolution you should've been keeping. The best part about it? There's no shame in starting over... because you have good reason. It's Lent! It's a tradition!

3. You have extra motivation. No matter whether you're a super religious person or just not-so-religious, the idea of tying your ambition (the resolution) to a commitment to a higher power (which observing Lent means) is an awfully good motivator. It's one thing when you give up on yourself, but it's a whole other ball game when you feel like giving up is borderline sacrilegious. That feeling could be the difference between you going back to the gym the next day

or staying at home.

4. You can trick yourself. The beauty about Lent is when you combine the three elements mentioned above, you can sort of trick yourself into accomplishing a lofty goal you really wanted to achieve in the first place. Things you give up for Lent are often things you might think to do as New Year's resolutions, but you never actually tried to do them for 12 months because it was hard. With Lent, you just might be in the 40-day period, thinking to yourself, "I can actually do this." Like I said, it's tricking yourself for a good cause.

Lent is amazing. When you combine the timing of it, the length and the opportunity to redeem yourself, it's clear observing Lent is like practicing a way better version of a New Year's resolution. Join us for this blessed season!

On The Pastor's Night Stand - Luna



This month I am so happy to recommend a charming book of poetry written by UPC's

own Clare Flanigan! She is the daughter of Karin and Kevin Flanigan and the granddaughter of Glen and Pat Bates. It is truly a family affair: her sister, Grace, designed the cover art, her mom took the photos in the collection, and her dad

modeled for some of the photos. "The book is pondering and reflections of space and life told through poetry". The book is available on Amazon.com and I am sure Clare would happily sign it for you!



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com

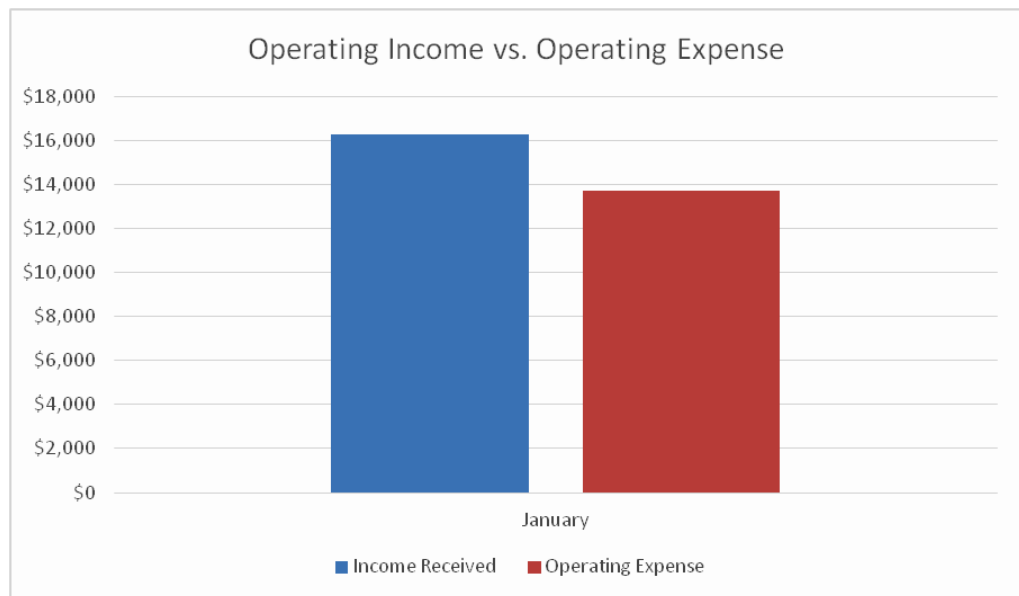




LOVING OURSELVES

Finance Ministry Team Update

As of January 31, income received (\$16,259) was greater than operating expenses incurred (\$13,731). Our expenses through January month-end are below budget (\$13,731 vs \$21,048). We transferred \$10,000 from the UPC Fund in January to cover capital expenses. This money covered a new Hot Water Heater, Oil Burner, and Chimney Liner at the Manse.



The Finance Ministry Team will continue to monitor and report income and expenses on a monthly basis and look for ways to control expenses. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments for the FMT, please feel free to contact its chair, Fred Hoge. You can do so in person, by phone (610-357-8464) or email (hogekf@verizon.net). You may also contact the church treasurer, Mary Hewes, by phone (610-347-2327) or email (hewesmb@aol.com).

Fellowship Time

Our next Fellowship Coffee Hour will be held on Sunday, March 15, following Worship. Mark your calendars for this time of catching up with your fellow

UPC'ers and enjoying a hot beverage and goodies!





2020 EASTER LILIES/TULIPS DEDICATIONS

**Return by April 5 *Payment is due with order*

Unionville Presbyterian Church, 812 Wollaston Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Your Name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Lilies \$8.00 each/Tulips \$8.00 each)

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ In Memory of _____

2020 BULLETIN DEDICATIONS

**payment is due with order*

Sunday Morning Service on _____ (date)

Your Name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (\$15/service)

In Honor/Memory of _____

2020 FLOWER DEDICATIONS

**payment is due with order*

Sunday Morning Service on _____ (date)

Your Name _____

Occasion of _____

Flowers: \$45 Mixed Bouquet _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

Please donate to a shut-in (check here) _____





PCUSA CORNER

Survey: in most areas, smaller congregations...

every bit as vital as larger ones *by Mike Ferguson, Presbyterian News Service*

In general, smaller- and medium-sized congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), together with their counterparts in the Episcopal Church, assigned themselves higher scores as part of a vital congregations survey than larger congregations.

Dr. Angie Andriot, a research analyst with Research Services, shares a laugh during her brown bag presentation Monday on the results of the U.S. Congregational Vitality Study.

During a brown bag lunch at the Presbyterian Center, Dr. Angie Andriot, a research analyst with the PC(USA)'s Research Services, shared results from the U.S. Congregational Vitality Study. The focus was on how the size of the congregation correlates with its performance in the Seven Marks of Congregational Vitality: lifelong discipleship; intentional, authentic evangelism; outward incarnational focus; servant leadership; Spirit-inspired worship; caring relationships; and ecclesial health.

The survey in-

cluded 156 churches — 78 from each denomination. Nearly 9,000 members participated, as well as pastors and priests. Those surveyed assigned themselves an overall vitality score of 76, which would equate to a grade of C+.

Of the seven marks, caring relationships ("This church loves and cares for all its members") scored the highest, 81 percent — a grade of B or B-. The next highest were worship ("This church leads inspiring worship") and ecclesial health ("This church stays healthy and strong" and "This church fulfills its mission"), both at 79.

They were followed by servant leadership ("This church helps members find the best way they can contribute to the life of the church") at 78 percent, discipleship ("This church prioritizes faith formation and disciple-making") and outward focus ("This church responds to the needs of people outside the church"), both at 74 percent.

Participating churches scored themselves lowest on evangelism ("This church engages in evangelism"), with a score of 69. That score enters the D+ range.

Andriot said there wasn't much difference between answers supplied by Presbyterian and



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Episcopal respondents, save for two.

“We think we are better at outward focus,” she said. “They think they are better at worship.”

The median church in the PC(USA) — meaning half are above, and half are below — has 72 members and 48 in attendance. The average church has 148 members and 79 in attendance.

Congregations in those smaller- and medium-sized church categories who participated in the survey rated themselves higher in most of the seven marks than members and clergy in larger participating churches. In evangelism, for example, average-sized congregations reported the highest score. In discipleship, the median-sized churches scored the highest. The very best churches for loving and caring for all their members were the very smallest — those with 1-25 members.

In the servant leadership category, the top scorers were churches with between 251-500 members. And for ecclesial health, churches with 500 members or more were among the top performers.

For each of the seven marks, respondents were asked questions specific to measuring how effectively their congregation was meeting the mark. Andriot’s presentation scored responses to each mark.

In discipleship, for example, the top scorers were “challenges me to become more Christ-like” and “helps me apply my faith to everyday life.” The lowest was “I know the Bible well.”

For evangelism, “I try to ensure that visitors to my church feel welcome” finished at the top. The lowest was “I invite people who do not attend church to come visit mine.”

For outward focus, the top two responses were “responds to the needs of the people in the local community and beyond” and “fosters environments of diversity.” “Provides a moral voice for our community” finished last of 11 responses.

For the servant leadership mark, “provides me with opportunities to get involved” was the top finisher. In last place was “I am heavily involved in this church beyond attending worship.”

In the worship category, respondents placed “helps me understand Scripture” and “leads in inspiring worship” at the top. “Challenges my assumptions and convictions”

and “connectedness” were at the bottom of the list.

Not surprisingly, “love and care for all its members” topped the caring relationships mark. At the bottom of the list was this response: “I have at least one close friend in this congregation.”

Finally, for the ecclesial health mark, “there is no tension between leadership and members” and “has a healthy sense of mission or purpose” received top marks. At the bottom of the list of nine responses: “Our congregation manages conflict well.”

This study represents “the first deep analysis” of congregational vitality data, Andriot said. She said she plans to next delve into giving and how it correlates with vital congregations.





LOVING GOD

Spring 2020 Special Events:

Easter Egg Hunt: 2pm Saturday April 4

Gather your friends, neighbors and grandchildren to our annual Easter egg hunt! This is a favorite activity in our community and we'd love for you to



come. Bring children or just come to welcome the visitors

from the community. We look forward to seeing you.

Park in the Church parking lot, then come to the Manse.

Please join us after the egg hunt for snacks in the backyard of the Manse.

Before the egg hunt:

Plastic eggs will be available in the Narthex. Please consider taking eggs and filling them with individually wrapped candy. Filled eggs can be returned to UPC by Sunday March 28.

1pm Saturday April 4.

Before the Easter egg hunt, volunteers are needed to help set up. We'll move table and benches and then hide all the eggs! We have so many eggs so we'll need lots of helpers.

Then we'll need a few people to stay for the hunt, help serve

From the Desk of the DCM

snacks, clean up and put the eggs away for next year. Thank you! Sign up in the Narthex

Serving Sundays:

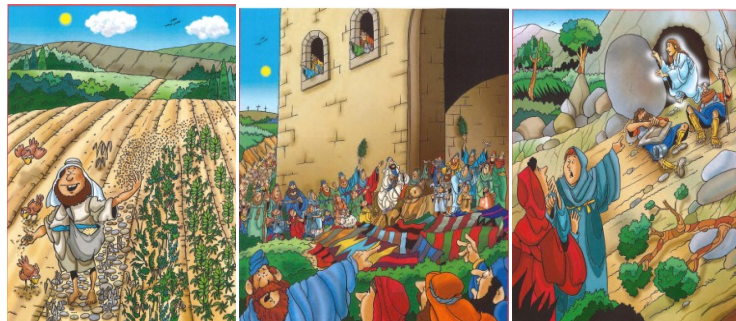
Serving Sundays are a great way for children of all ages to become familiar with the worship service by participating in the service with jobs, including greeting and passing out bulletins, tolling the church bell and receiving the noisy offering. Sometimes the children enjoy trying new jobs and everyone enjoys participating in the noisy offering!



The dates for Spring Serving Sunday are: March 22 and April 26.

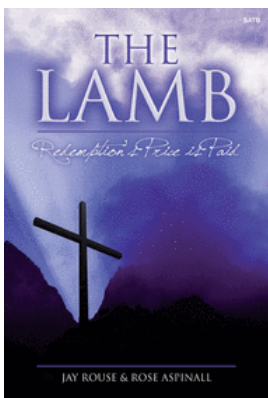
Sunday School Growing in Grace & Gratitude Lessons for March through April:

March 1	Teach Us to Pray
March 8	Sow a Seed
March 15	You Are the Messiah!
March 22	Jesus Calls Us to Forgive
March 29	When Did We See You, Lord?
April 5	A Palm Sunday Parade
April 12	Easter/He Is Risen!
April 19	Jesus Will Always Be With Us
April 26	Speak Only the Word



UPC Easter Cantata

THE LAMB...Redemption's Price is Paid, arranged by Jay Rouse, will be presented by our UPC choir, directed by Director of Music, Bill Johnson, on Easter Sunday morning during our 9:00 a.m. worship service.



Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed! The living God has poured out precious blood to reclaim us, His people. This blueprint is the heart of the gospel, and Jay

Rouse and Rose Aspinall have made that incredible gift central to the creation of this musical. Beginning with Jay's modern setting of the beloved hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

to the triumphant, gospel-infused finale, "He's Risen, Hallelujah!," the work of the cross is celebrated and revered with emotion, warmth, sorrow, and rejoicing. The anchor song, "It Took a Lamb," is a classic from Geron Davis, while "This is How We Know What Love Is" provides an original offering that tells the story and excitement of running to the tomb and finding the stone rolled away.

Participants include: Mardette Alexander, Carol Buckley, Fran Rush, Betty Hughes, Lillian Ryan, Mary Lou Johnson, Karen Statz, Donald Lester, Curt McCray, Rob MacPherson, and Sue Minarchi.

Come and let the story of Easter come alive in your heart as you learn of His great love and power over the grave.



LOVING NEIGHBORS

The Mission Team has scheduled a number of events to help support several local charities. Please mark your calendars for the following:

Bake Sales will be held on the first Sundays in March and April at 10:00 a.m. Proceeds will benefit this year's Rise Against Hunger event.



The Rice and Bean Sale is coming once again on March 15th and 22nd. We've already done



the shopping for you. Just buy the packages of rice and/or pinto beans from the display in the Narthex that you want to donate, drop them in the basket and help feed your neighbors a healthy meal in their time of need. And always, watch for those UPC Specials!

The next Outgrown Sale will be held April 24 and 25. More information will be in the bulletin as the time gets closer. Please check your closets for outgrown children's clothes to donate.



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UPC is once again joining forces with Bethany and Doe Run Presbyterian Churches for a Rise Against Hunger food packaging event on May 17 at Unionville



Presbyterian Church from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This is a fun event for all ages and abilities. More details will be coming in future church bulletins.



UPC Spring Events 2019

Chamber Honors Korengel As Outstanding Citizen At Gala

Guests at the 53rd annual Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Gala rose to their feet to applaud Annalie Korengel, the 2019 Outstanding Citizen Award recipient.

The gala, held on Feb. 22 at Longwood Gardens, honors a local resident who, in the opinion of the selection committee, unselfishly contributes to the community's quality of life. The tradition began in 1968.

Korengel, 51, is the pastor of the Unionville Presbyterian Church, which is known widely as "The Small Church with the Big Heart." Korengel is credited with being a driving force for the church and for providing emotional support to local police departments as well as families who have lost loved ones to accidents or overdoses.



Leadership of Unionville Presbyterian Church

ELDERS

Moderator: Rev. Annalie Korengel
Clerk of Session: Sue Minarchi

DEACONS

Moderators: Judy Jackson and Edie Marson

Class of 2020

Carol Buckley
Michael King
Curt McCray

Class of 2021

Fred Hoge
J R Nelson
Brooke Wren

Class of 2020

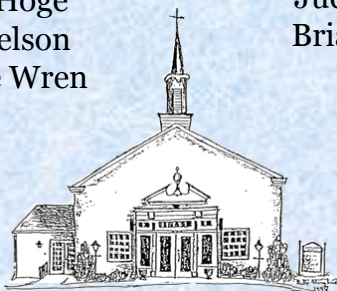
Judy Jackson
Brian Roberts

Class of 2021

JoAnn Fisher
Marlel Holloway
Pam Woodford

Class of 2022

Joan Deming-Murphy
Greg Permar
Barbara Roberts



Class of 2022

Edie Marson
Lillian Ryan
Karen Statz
Patty Tuel

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Annalie Korengel
Director of Children's Ministry: Lizabeth G. Conners
Secretary: Judy Krug

Financial Secretary/ Treasurer: Mary Hewes
Director of Music Ministry: Bill Johnson
Nursery Attendant: Olivia Finkey



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1. COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	2	3	4	5	6	7
F A M I L Y P	Choir 7:00	Bible Study 9:30	LIFE 9:30	Bible Study 7:00	AA 7:00	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	Finance 10:00	Choir 7:00	Bible Study 9:30	LIFE 9:30	AA 7:00	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Rice/Bean Sale Coffee 10:00		Choir 7:00	Bible Study 9:30	LIFE 9:30	AA 7:00	
22 SERVING SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Rice/Bean Sale	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Session 7:00	Choir 7:00	Bible Study 9:30 Prayer/Praise 3:30	Bible Study 7:00	AA 7:00	
29	30	31				
Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00		Choir 7:00				

April 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 9:30	2 LIFE 9:30	3 AA 7:00	4 Easter Egg Hunt 2:00
5 COMMUNION/ Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 PALM SUNDAY	6	7 Choir 7:00	8 Bible Study 9:30	9 LIFE 9:30 Maundy Thursday SERVICE 7:00	10 Good Friday Prayer Vigil 12-3 AA 7:00	11
12 EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service 6:15 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 He is RISEN	13 Finance 10:00	14 Choir 7:00	15	16 LIFE 9:30	17 AA 7:00	18 Outgrown Sale Set up
19 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	20	21 Choir 7:00	22	23 LIFE 9:30	24 Outgrown Sale 5:00-7:00 AA 7:00	25 Outgrown Sale 8:00-10:00
26 SERVING SUN- DAY Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	27 Session 7:00	28 Choir 7:00	29 Prayer/Praise 3:30	30 LIFE 9:30		

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Phone: 610-347-2327

E-mail: unionvillepc@gmail.com

Website: www.unionvillepresbyterianchurch.org

Loving God and our neighbors as ourselves

