



THE MUSTARD SEED



Resurrection and Transformation...

One of the ongoing tensions in the life of faith is balancing our traditions and religious foundations with the need for transformation as we live fully into our callings as disciples. As we honor our history and traditions both individually and corporately, we are sometimes too bound by them. We forget that our Christian faith is founded on the hope and promise of resurrection. All of this brings to the forefront one of the fundamental questions of our faith life: what is it that needs to be diminished for something else to be resurrected? This question lifts up the reality that there are times we must leave something behind so that we can continue growing and deepening our relationship with God.

Yet even as we leave behind something, we know that what came before is often a foundation for what is to come. Too often we believe that new ideas and concepts are foreign to what has come before it. Rarely is this the case. Rather, resurrection is rooted in what has come before. In the Gospel of John, the resurrected Jesus even though he is transformed is recognized by his disciples in the way he speaks to them. Likewise in the Gospel of Luke, the resurrected Jesus, is recognized by the disciples on the Emmaus Road in the familiar acts of breaking bread and fellowship. In both cases, even though Jesus has been transformed and made new in resurrection, something familiar remained of who Jesus had always been.

As we seek to live into God's call for the future, we will be who we have always been. One of the things I appreciate about the UCC faith tradition is that we are anchored in the traditions of our predecessors. The vision for unity was born out our core theology, even as we transformed and listened to God's call, we were rooted in our core theology and faith. As we live the life of discipleship, whatever new thing we might discover in the future, have faith that it will be rooted in the great work that has come before.

This to me is the promise of our faith, the promise of resurrection. As we lament that things are not the way they used to be, let us also hold onto hope. Hope that when something beloved goes away, God may resurrect something even better. Something that will allow us to proclaim the Gospel to a new generation and in a new way; hope that God's Kingdom is always being built with each act of faithful witness.

Peace,
Pastor Matt



Sharing Easter Blessings – Volunteers are needed to deliver Easter flowers to Salem's elderly friends. When receiving these flowers along with Easter blessings, our special friends are always so delighted and love knowing that we are thinking of them. There is a sign-up sheet (listing the names and addresses for the deliveries) on the bell tower bulletin board. Flowers may be picked up at church on Friday, April 11th from 10:30 AM until 12:00 PM or after church on Sunday, April 13th. Deliveries may be made at your convenience. For more information, please see Tom or Jan Peiffer. Thank you for your time and helping to share Easter blessings and happiness with our church friends.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Sunday April 13th, 10:30 AM: Palm Sunday Service

Join us as we begin Holy Week with Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. As we hold celebratory palms, we will prepare our hearts and minds in worship to follow Jesus all the way to the cross and into the tomb.

Thursday April 17th, 6:30 PM: Maundy Thursday

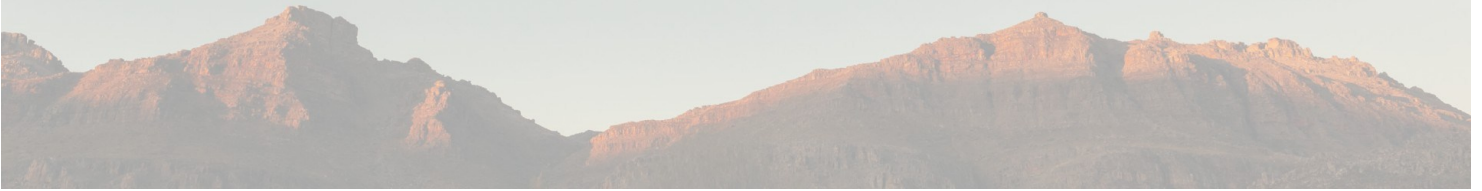
We worship together as disciples and friends. Gathered in the church basement for a simple meal of soup and bread, we sing, pray, and celebrate Communion and center ourselves in Jesus' commandment to "love one another."

Friday April 18th, 7:00 PM: Good Friday

During this quiet and meditative service in our Sanctuary, we journey with Jesus towards the cross. This service will end in silence and darkness as we dwell in the shadows of our faith.

Sunday April 20th, 10:30 AM: Easter Sunday

Proclaim the Good News that Christ is Risen!! Join us Easter Morning surrounded by flowers and signs of new life to celebrate the Resurrection with worship, song, and prayer. We will also break bread together during Holy Communion.



CWS hygiene kit collection is starting and will end on April 27th!

Some of the items needed have changed so updated lists will be available by the collection bin in the West narthex and listed below.

Washcloth, Fingernail or toenail clipper, Toothbrush (in original package,) Travel size **stick** deodorant (3.4 oz. or less); Travel size **fragrance free** lotion (3.4 oz or less), Travel size shampoo (3.4 oz or less), Travel size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, exp. Date at least May 2026.).

There will be a collection tub in the West Narthex to drop off your donations. Thank you for your help with providing comfort and dignity to those in need!



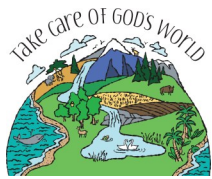
Adopt a Highway Pickup - Saturday, April 26, 9 am

We again will holding our pickup event at the same time as the Campbelltown Community Alliance has their pickup. We will meet at the South Londonderry Township Building, 27 W. Market St in Campbelltown. We will be picking up our normal route unless we have numerous volunteers, upon which we may pick up other Campbelltown "trashy" areas. We always appreciate a couple of volunteers to pick up old flower arrangements and trash in our cemetery. The sign up list will be available in the east foyer/ bell tower.

Adopt-a Highway Salem's Adopt a Highway history:

We performed our first clean up in 2003; thus we are in the midst of our 22nd year of service to the community. Generally speaking, trash volume has decreased over the years but it is still essential to address Route 117, Forge Rd. at least twice a year. With our 57 pickups thus far we have removed nearly 500 bags of trash and over 100 bags of recyclables. Over 80 different volunteers have helped with our cleanups. Hopefully, our efforts show our community and neighbors how much we care for them and the earth. (Note: Registration begins at 8:30 am. Light refreshments will be served.)

Earth Day Update from Salem's Creation Care Team



Happy Spring!

In honor of Earth Day, the Creation Care team would like to update you on a few of our activities and invite you to a few Earth-themed events.

On **Saturday 5/3 at 11:30am**, meet at the Porch and Pantry for an **Earth Day Walk and Lunch in Mt Gretna**. It will be a casual hour-long walk in nature, open to walkers of all levels.

On **Saturday 4/12 at 9am**, join us for **Tree-Planting**. Thanks to a generous grant of \$9,880 from the Penn Central Conference, we will be planting White Oak and Eastern Redbud trees and will be installing a Bat Box.* The grant also funded Salem's recent switch from fluorescent to LED lighting** for both internal and external lighting, decreasing our energy use and spending. Check it out!

At **9am on Saturday 4/26**, join us for **Adopt-a-Highway** trash pickup as part of **Campbelltown Community Clean-up Day**.

Stay tuned for a light-hearted update on Creation Care Team happenings as part of Holy Humor Sunday.*We don't want bats in our bell tower, but bat boxes allow our property to still provide a safe home for bats, which benefit the environment through pest control, pollination and biodiversity.**While incandescent bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat and CFLs release 80% of their energy as heat, LEDs emit very little heat. High-quality LED bulbs also can last 3-5 times longer than CFLs and 30 times longer than incandescent bulbs.



The Book Club will meet Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Wedding People" by Alison Espach. If you have any questions, please contact Carin Kaag. Her e-mail is cas207@yahoo.com

The Heritage Chorale will be holding their Spring Concerts "Peace Like a River" on the following dates:

April 27, 2025, New Danville Mennonite Church, 103 Marticville Rd, Lancaster;

May 4, 2025, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Rd, Lancaster; and **May 18, 2025**, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Ave, Lancaster. All concerts are at 4 p.m. A free

will offering will be taken. See Louise Adams with any questions.



SPRING
Concerts

The Lebanon Chorale Society's Spring Concert "All Things Bright and Beautiful" will be on **Sunday, May 18** at 3 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lebanon. See Jane Long with any questions.

The Lebanon Rescue Mission thanks you for your gift of \$140 to support their many ministries

The Caring Cupboard would like to thank you for your gift of \$497. Last year, more than 625 tons of donations from individuals and more than 25 retail partners enabled The Caring Cupboard to provide nutritious food for more than 16,413 family visits by 3843 unique individuals in our community.



CONGREGATIONS'S BUDGET UPDATE:	
	General Fund
January to February 2025	Yr. to Date
Actual Receipts	\$26,594
Actual Expenditures	\$35,071
Pro Rate Budgeted Expenditures	\$36,847

The General Fund provides the basic support of our ministry, benevolences, program staff and building. Giving was down more than 20% from 2024 for this period. The budget anticipated a deficit of \$26,800 for the year. For the two months, the prorata budget deficit would be \$4,467.. Thank you for your prayerful stewardship.

APRIL

Sunday	April 6	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for Youth 6-12 grade after Assurance of Pardon
Monday	April 14	Council 7 p.m.—Hybrid
Sunday	April 13	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Palm Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:30 a.m.
Monday	April 14	Council 7 p.m. = Hybrid
Thursday	April 17	Maundy Thursday Worship in Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m. with a simple meal of soup and Communion.
Friday	April 18	Good Friday Service in Sanctuary 7 p.m.
Sunday	April 20	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Easter Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Saturday	April 26	Campbelltown Community Clean-up and Adopt-a- Highway 9 a.m. (Registration and light refreshments 8:30 a.m.)
Sunday	April 27	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Holy Humor Sunday Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:30 a.m.
Monday	April 28	Book Club 7 p.m.
Tuesday	April 29	PACC Meeting at Salem at 7 p.m.

All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube.



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UCC Salem Council Meeting Minutes/Hybrid

Date: February 10, 2025

Present:

Council Members: Joan Campbell, Michelle Alger, Faith Bicksler, Andrea Cooper, Jared Cooper, Jim Flanagan, Matt Hoover, Matt Kaag, Barb Kauffman, Bill McNamara, Gretchen Monahan, Tom Peiffer, Cindy Umberger, Missy Weidler

Via Zoom: Owen from Vista Autism Services

Meeting Call to Order: 7:00 PM by Pres. Kaag

Opening Devotions: Faith Bixler led devotions and opening prayer

Approval of Agenda for tonight's meeting - approved by Unanimous Consent

Secretary's Report: January 13, 2025 council minutes approved by Unanimous Consent

Janitorial Position: Tom Peiffer explained the logistics of janitorial trial via Vista Autism Services. An individual named Tommy McHale did a trial run about a week ago with a job coach, Tom P, and Ron Kline present, which went well. Tom explained that we would be paying Tommy as an employee through the church. There will always be a job coach present (Luke or Greg). Tommy will work on Thursdays for a 6-hour day (9 AM - 4 PM with an hour lunch break)

Owen of Vista joined us via Zoom to answer questions.

Discussion included:

Contracting versus employee of the church. Contracting would not be feasible at this time.

Tommy does work a couple different jobs already.

We supply the cleaning supplies for him.

Job coach responsible for timesheet. Always a job coach with him.

Job coach would have keys to building

We will be liable for his worker's comp

3-month trial period

Tom made a motion to hire Tommy McHale on a 3-month trial basis working with Vista Autism services. Start date later this month. Joan Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly receipts down 6.8% (January)

General fund – spent more than we took in by \$3,400

End of December negative cash balance (-\$2,800) in the Cemetery fund. Mainly caused by increased cost of cemetery mowing.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Matt reported on his routine activities, including planning worship services at Salem in addition to the Lebanon Valley Home (Jan 15) in January. He participated in several January committee meetings and the Chili making youth event. Confirmation classes are continuing and Pastor Matt assists with the Profile Committee. Pastor Matt continues to lead the Revelation Bible study on Sunday mornings.

Note: Every year UCC churches conference do a yearbook report – average worship, etc. Pat Young now has the ability to complete the report. Usually Jan to March the reporting is open for completion.

Old Business

Jim will expand members for tech services (live virtual options for meetings and worship). Next step is to set a meeting / sign-up.

Profile Committee: Cindy Umberger reported a summary of main items from small group work during the 1/26 congregational meeting:

Lot of hope for an energetic and engaging pastor that can relate to all age groups and one that offers good pastoral care

We'd really like to have growth, especially with younger families at the same time engaging in community outreach.

Every group said that the pastor should know what is happening but does not need to be involved in every aspect of the church. We don't want a micromanager came out pretty clearly

Several groups mentioned the strong caring family feeling in the congregation and how people have stepped up recently

Salem wants to continue to be an active, caring, self-sufficient and vibrant congregation committed to loving and serving others

We want to stay in this building and have worship services every Sunday – keep traditional music/contemporary/progressive thinking

Profile team has begun to assign questions we can answer now and is meeting again on 2/11 to go over our completed answers together and assign some more questions.

New Business

Budget Discussion:

How much would we fall short if we were to hire a FT pastor?

Reviewed projections with different levels of pastors (FT no experience, no dependents; FT new pastor family and 15 years exp, and an average between these)

We want an ordained minister every Sunday

We could "Yoke" with another church

Discussion on what our church demands – such as going being "maintenance ministry" and wanting to grow and develop

Trinity UCC is interested in partnering

Circuit Rider concept

Joint youth group

We have a lot of questions for how this could work with Trinity.

Discussion on what we'd be giving up with shared pastor

Matt Kaag will reach out to Trinity

Propose a group meeting between our churches, including Pastor Matt

Leadership communication request: (Matt) – Committee minutes should come to the pastor and council secretary within a week. Including a focused conclusion for the council report out.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds (Jared): LED lightning not quite done – did sanctuary today and no outdoor lighting yet; thermostat in basement Sunday school room - \$400 repair; We have one month that the church needs people to clean

Christian Education (Jim) : met on January 14th;

Regarding kids' Sunday School:

Lee Ann and Lisa are to collaborate on questions for families as to their schedule and availability.

Discussed that a possible alternative might be to have a Sunday School lesson or set of lessons ready so , that when the kids' families show up on Sunday, a session can be held.

Confirmation and class methods were discussed. The curriculum includes a final project.

Campbelltown United Methodist Church is interested in collaborating with Salem for Vacation Bible School again, and possibly for a joint Lenten service or activity.

Next meeting: March 25, 2025 at 1 pm.

Fellowship (Michelle): Mentioned successful meal at the Congregational Annual Meeting.

Finance Stewardship (Tom): Have not met, no report

Membership (Bill): Planning a meeting for March

Missions (Matt): Nothing to report

Creation Care (Jim): Nothing since last meeting. Next meeting is March 6 at 7 PM.

Moyer Fund (Barb): Nothing new, next meeting 2/11 1 PM

PACC and Interfaith manor (Tom): Phoenix youth center lack of participants (youth), decision made that after this school year the center would change, only would be summer tutoring going forward.

Women's Fellowship (Joan)

Met January 30th and discussed the following possible events for 2025: arts & crafts, self-defense class, Best Kept Secret tour (Sept), Hotel Hershey brunch, will/funeral planning, Hershey Playhouse.

No future meeting date planned.

Pastoral Relations (Missy): no activity

Music and Worship (Faith): We are hosting Ash Wednesday service and combining with other church.

Youth Fellowship (Jared reported for Andrea): Chili making with Pastor Matt; \$410 + \$142 from back sale for the CA wildfires and the can collection for souper bowl. Made cards for shut-ins

Jared will take food to Caring Cupboard

Closing at 8:57 PM with the Mizpah benediction

Next meeting: March 10



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 13, 2025

Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40

April 20, 2025

Easter

Acts:10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-14

1 Corinthians: 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 150

Rev. 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalm 30

Rev. 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Rev. 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Rev. 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-16

Psalm 67

Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14: 23-29



The Blessing of Fellowship

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



- 3 Deedee Peiffer
- 6 Cindy Umberger
- 7 Rachel Flanagan
- 8 Haley Albright
- 9 Claudia Boyer
- 9 John Risser
- 10 Ron Cline
- 11 Ella Longenecker
- 13 Robin Ream
- 17 Ray Latchford
- 21 Blair Thomas
- 23 Patricia Brandt
- 26 Kaylie Brown
- 27 Meah Gravely
- 28 Cole Miller
- 29 Michael Aungst
- 29 Barry Hite
- 30 Kylie Rose Uhler

- 2 Jennifer Grab
- 2 Janelle Waller
- 5 Barb Gainer
- 6 Sheena Kindt
- 8 Mary Daub
- 9 Amber Jefferson
- 12 Dean Alger
- 13 Joan Campbell
- 13 Brianna Cooper
- 16 Emily Uhler
- 17 Pam McNamara
- 17 Norah Monahan
- 20 Trenton Grab
- 23 Sally Cline
- 23 Grayson Meadath
- 24 Clara Kindt
- 24 Amelia Kindt
- 26 Rebecca Risser
- 29 Cody Broaddus
- 31 Shirley Beck



Easter Blessings

Sharing our Easter inheritance

After David Clarke’s mother died in a cycling accident, she left him \$125,000. Inspired by how his mom had lived, he decided to share that inheritance with his community. Clarke chose four organizations that assist people in poverty, those with special needs and others. Liverpool (U.K.) Kids Plant to Plate received one-fourth of the money to teach urban kids about food growth and preparation. Team Oasis, which provides free meals and positive opportunities to disadvantaged families, also received 25% of the funds, as did two other nonprofits.

Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we too have an inheritance (see Colossians 1:12). Because we did nothing to earn this abundant love and life — and because God teaches us to serve and care for others — we look for ways to share it.

Unlike Clarke’s monetary windfall, however, our gifts of salvation, grace, joy, love and blessing never run out. In fact, the more we share Jesus’ love through word and deed, the more we experience it ourselves. As Clarke keeps his mom’s spirit alive by following her example, so we, as Easter people, make the Spirit of God known far and wide.

SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling Old clothing and material that are too worn to use can be recycled. If possible, take to an H&M Store (they give you a coupon for each bag!), otherwise put it in the box in the west narthex and we'll take it for you. Thank you!

Writing Tool Recycling You can recycle old writing tools – crayons, markers, pens, and pencils. Staples Store will recycle these items as well as many other items (check their website!). Feel free to take to a Staples or place in the "Crayola marker" collection tube on the windowsill in the west narthex. Thank you!



Easter insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday.

Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horse-radish and lamb-shaped butter.