



THE MUSTARD SEED



The point isn't that you believe in the resurrection. Any fool can believe in a resurrection from the dead. The point is that you trust in the resurrection. And that's much, much harder to do."

Diana Butler Bass

Do we trust in the resurrection? Diana Butler Bass' perhaps provocative statement challenges us to live our lives not only believing in the resurrection of Jesus but also trusting in and expecting resurrection to still happen in our midst.

Looking for resurrection in the world around us takes practice. The good news is that we are given the time we need to practice trusting in and looking for resurrection. In the life of the church, we make Easter not just one day, but a way of life. Liturgically, we celebrate fifty days of Easter between Resurrection Sunday and the Day of Pentecost. Theologically, Christians over the centuries have testified to the idea that every Sunday is a "little Easter"; every Sunday is an opportunity for us as "practice" our faith as Christians; every time we gather as a community of faith we are called to remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Every time we connect with God in worship, song, and prayer there is an opportunity for us to be transformed and experience new life in ourselves and in the world. Resurrection changes us. Scripture describes a resurrected Jesus that was not always easily recognized by those who knew him best, the disciples. The resurrected Jesus has changed, and so will we in our own resurrections.

From the moment of that first Easter Sunday, Jesus' first disciples were changed. After the resurrection, they lived in radical new ways. They were blessed by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, went to the ends of the earth preaching, and stood boldly before those who wanted to silence them. They did these things to build the Church; they did these things to bring about God's upside-down kingdom that blesses the poor and the outcast; they did these things because they could not remain silent about what they had experienced. The New Testament is filled with stories of faithful men and women who not only believed in the resurrection of Jesus but trusted it enough to live their lives differently because of it. Post Resurrection they knew their lives belonged to Jesus and no one else; the followers of Jesus committed themselves wholeheartedly to the Resurrected One, Jesus the Christ, and held nothing back.

They committed themselves; they held nothing back after not only believing in Resurrection but trusting in it for themselves and their lives. May we put our trust in resurrection as well.

Peace,
Pastor Matt



Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 1

It is the day we all dream about (and remember fondly) – Graduation! We are very proud of 2025 graduate and during worship on June 1, we will honor Talie Kaag who will be graduating from Hershey High School. Following the service, there will be a reception in the choir room as we celebrate Talie and her accomplishments and hard work. Please join use as we congratulate Talie and wish her well on her future endeavors.



Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday – June 8

On June 8, we will celebrate the "Birthday of the Christian church – Pentecost. Within the worship service, we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for Grace Frew and Norah Monahan. This is a marker along the road of their faith journey We will also partake of the Sacrament of Communion during this time. Following the service, there will be a reception in the choir room. This is a wonderful time to congratulate Grace and Norah and to show them our love and support as we welcome them into the Salem family.



Do you have a favorite hymn you like to sing?

Is there a favorite Bible Passage/ story you've always wanted to hear a sermon on?

Is there a theological belief you'd like to hear more about?

Is there a particular popular song, novel, TV show, or movie you find relevant to following Jesus?

Coming to this summer to Salem UCC is our "Summer by Request"! Use this form to nominate your favorite hymns, Bible stories, theological wonderings, pieces of pop-culture and media, or anything else you want to hear this summer. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Matt.

Hymns you want to sing (and if there is a particular tune you like)

Sermon Ideas and topics (if it's a piece of media let us know if there a particular scene, episode, song, chapter or shorter piece of the media you would recommend to view/hear/read)

Pastor Matt would like to follow up with you about your nomination, especially if he's not familiar with what you've nominated. Please share your name:

Earth Day Update from Salem's Creation Care Team



Happy Spring! In honor of Earth Day, the Creation Care team would like to invite you to the following activity: 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.



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

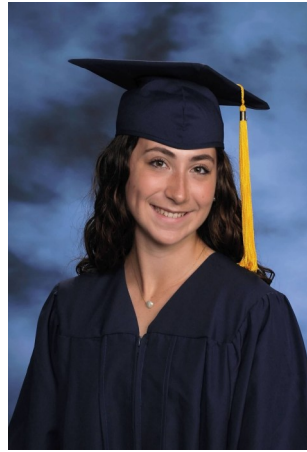
May 4, 2025, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Rd, Lancaster; and **May 18, 2025**, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Ave, Lancaster. All concerts are at 4 p.m. A free will offering will be taken. See Louise Adams with any questions.

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 Lancaster Seminary thanks you for your gift of \$60 to support their students in their journeys of faith and ministry.

The United Church of Christ Homes thanks you for your recent gift of \$210 & \$270 which was placed in their Benevolent Fund. Your generosity will touch the lives of real people and enhance our mission to provide compassionate care and services.



Talie Kaag is a lifelong member of Salem UCC! She was baptized and confirmed here and has been a member of the Joyful Noisemakers and the Chimes of Salem. She has served as an Acolyte since 2016. Talie served as Youth Representative for Council from 2021 - 2024.

Talie will be graduating from Hershey High School, where she achieved Distinguished Honor Roll every semester. She earned the Honors Literature Award and was Student of the Month in March 2025. She is a member of French Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and National Honor Society and served as President of National Honor Society for 2024-2025. Perhaps her proudest accomplishment was founding the Social Emotional Learning Ambassadorship program at HHS. This program is a peer-led program identifying mental health needs amongst the students, creating programs to assist with those needs, and creating opportunities for connection among peers.

Talie was a four-year varsity softball player, and was a two-year captain. She played field hockey all four years, and was a varsity starter for two. In addition to school sports, she also played on Capital Crush, her travel softball team, and PA United, her club field hockey team. Outside of school and sports, Talie enjoys playing the harp, painting, reading, and crocheting on the couch while cuddling with her dogs.

Next year, Talie will attend Haverford College to play field hockey and study English and Political Science. She hopes her parents will keep Salem posted on the schedule so that you all can attend a game.



The Book Club will meet Monday, May 19th at 7 p.m. to discuss “West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rutledge . The June book is “How to Age Disgracefully” by Clare Pooley and they will meet Monday, June 16th. If you have any questions, please contact Carin Kaag. Her e-mail is



Join us for Take Steps in 2025! Take Steps is the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation’s largest, most impactful fundraising event. With events happening across the country, our walks honor the unique journeys of those living with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis — and those closest to them.

While we lace up our sneakers, we invite you to support our family. As you all know, both Ashleigh and Mike continue to live with Crohn’s disease. What we have learned first hand, “*in remission*” *doesn’t mean “cured”* — and that is why we have to keep taking steps to raise money for research and get us closer to a cure!

We would appreciate it if you would once again support our family as we Take Steps for Crohn’s Disease & Ulcerative Colitis. *Please mail any donations to Ashleigh Aungst, 13951 Cinnabar Place, Huntersville, NC 28078 by May 31, 2025.*

—Ashleigh, Mike and Susan Aungst



Sunday	May 4	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Monday	May 5	Council 7 p.m. Hybrid
Sunday	May 11	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Mother's Day
Tuesday	May 13	Profile Committee 6 p.m.
Wednesday	May 14	Chime Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Sunday	May 18	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	May 23	Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m.
Sunday	May 25	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.

All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube.



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Published By:

Salem United Church of Christ
2761 Horseshoe Pike
P.O. Box 7
Campbelltown, PA 17010-0007
Reverend Matt Hoover, Interim Pastor
Pat Young, *Administrative Assistant*
Phone: 717-838-4236
Web Site:
www.salemucccampbelltown.org

He ascended into heaven..."

During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now.

"Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms

UCC Salem Council Meeting Minutes/Hybrid

Date: March 10, 2025

Present:

Council Members: Michelle Alger, Andrea Cooper, Jared Cooper, Jim Flanagan, Matt Hoover, Gretchen Monahan, Tom Peiffer, Cindy Umberger, Missy Weidler

Via Zoom: Joan Campbell, Faith Bicksler, Barb Kaufman, Bill McNamara

Absent: Matt Kaag

Meeting Call to Order: 7:00 PM by VP Flanagan

Opening Devotions: Jim led an opening prayer

Approval of Agenda for tonight's meeting with addition of sound system discussion - approved by Unanimous Consent

Secretary's Report: February 10, 2025 council minutes approved by Unanimous Consent

Secretary's report and approval of old minutes

Treasurer's Report (Tom Peiffer):

Tom provided a written report

General fund giving was down more than 20% from 2024 for this same period (January and February) period.

However, looking at the last 5 years, we are collecting about the average for these two months.

Reviewing General Fund receipts versus expenditures, we had a deficit of \$8,500 for the two months.

Tom reviewed the Benevolences paid. We are holding off in paying any Phoenix Youth Center budgeted benevolences for now. Waiting on Missions Committee to recommend the appropriate action going forward.

There were no large unexpected bills / repairs needed

Funds will be transferred from the United Church Funds to make the Cemetery Fund cash positive

The Penn Central Conference renewed our PA Sales Tax Exemption until 2/28/2030

Pastor's Report

Paster Hoover provided a written report.

Revelation bible study is finished

Confirmation class is going well – it's a condensed session causing the class to have more reading and work each week

Discussion question – We hosted Ash Wednesday with the Methodist church and collected \$217 as offering.

Decided to split offering with the Methodist church, motion by unanimous consent.

Old Business:

Update on negotiation with Londonderry Inn for use of parking lot (Tom in place of Matt)

- Parking lot between the Methodist church and the Inn is owned by Salem, but rarely used
- Londonderry often uses the lot for large events
- In the past they've offered donations to Salem, but over the recent years that has stopped. They did indicate they were paying for snow removal in recent years, but that has yet to be confirmed. Don Umberger has been talking with them: They are not interested in paying the suggested \$100 per month rent, initially proposed. They did, however, provide a recent \$250 donation in February to Salem, in response to Don's discussion with them.
- They offered to buy the lot for \$60k. Private realtor appraised for \$89k. This value may go up if Campbelltown development goes through.

Discussion on gathering more facts – such as what we are paying in property tax, mowing, and additional insurance

Tom will research property tax

Building and Grounds will take the topic offline and come back to council with proposal(s) for the lot prior to any further discussions with Londonderry.

Profile Committee:

Meeting was February 11, next meeting March 11

Choosing questions from the profile that we can answer right now. Each member of the committee is taking questions and answering on our own then we come together and review the answers together to make sure we are answering in one voice. Last meeting we realized that we have character limits so we learned we cannot be as descriptive as we started to be.

Discussion about Trinity UCC and joint pastor search

Trinity reaffirmed their interest in discussing some sort of joint pastor search

They offered dates to meet that coincide with Holy week or with Florence's memorial.....we counter offered. Waiting to hear. Potentially 4/23.

New Business:

Tom Peiffer discussed the lawn mowing contract. The company proposed this year to be up 5-6%. We countered and they countered. They are proposing a fixed amount for the year.

Anthony does an excellent job and it is not easy to mow around gravestones.

Tom made a motion to retain Loffreda Lawncare: \$12,750 fixed amount (retainer) for the season, including monthly billings \$110 weekly (church grounds and exterior of cemetery), \$650 for the cemetery interior including string trimming the headstones up to biweekly, and \$50 for the swale as needed. Loffreda will track the mowing services during the mowing season and we will pay for the surplus over the retainer amount. The retainer will be paid in monthly.

Second by Jared Cooper, motion passed by vote.

Committee Reports:

Building, Grounds, Cemetery (Jared) – Mowing discussion. Furnace room has been cleaned out again. Discussion of crackly sound system and gentleman that Darrel Woomer knows (helped us set up the iPhone for Facebook previously) and if he can help us with this sound problem.

Setting up a meeting for early April

Christian Education (Jim) – no meeting, March 25 is next meeting

Fellowship (Michelle) – no update

Finance Stewardship (Tom) – Discussion with cemetery fund

Membership (Bill)

Meeting for the year on March 23, 2025

Missions (provided via email Kristen Vines)

Met 3/4/2025, planned events for the year including such highlights as the hygiene kits, Lebanon Rescue Mission meal, OGHS, UCC Helping Hands auction, Blanket Drive, and others.

Creation Care (Jim)

3/6 Meeting Highlights

10 in attendance

Draft Covenant development underway by the committee for our Creation Justice Church application

Implementation of our grant is ongoing:

LED lighting changes complete

Planting of 9 native trees along Hinkle Rd; 1 tree near pollinator garden in honor of Dave Bushnell planned for 4/12

Bat box purchase and placement pending

Investigation underway into use of sustainable paper & cleaning products for the church

Important dates:

3/30 Seed bomb-making at church; all ages; light lunch

4/12 9am Tree planting (9) along Hinkle Rd and 1 tree near pollinator garden

4/26 Campbelltown Community Clean Up & Adopt-a-Highway 9am

4/27 Mission Moment – Pam McNamara will update congregation on CCT grant activities with youth participation in related jokes to fit with Holy Humor Sunday

5/3 Earth Day Walk hosted by CCT at 11:30 Mount Gretna then lunch at Porch & Pantry

7/22 Next CCT meeting planned around Doug Tallamy presentation (Home Grown National Parks) in Mount Gretna

Moyer Fund (Barb) Met February 11th and also delivered the mission moment in church last week. In the meeting, planned monies for some grants that might be coming up with Women's fellowship and Confirmation Class. Barb Kauffman announced that she is stepping down from the Moyer Fund as soon as a replacement is found, but definitely by the end of the year. May 8th next meeting

PACC and Interfaith Manor (Tom) Phoenix youth center will change after this school year. Attendance has been low. Will only be a summer tutoring program.

Women's Fellowship (Joan) – no update

Pastoral Relations (Missy) – no update

Music and Worship (Faith) – no update

Youth Fellowship (Andrea):

134 lbs donated to Caring Cupboard for SouperBowl Sunday, youth Feb 23

March 2, passed out flashlights, youth baked for Lebanon rescue mission and creating cranes and flowers for Florence's service

Open Comment

Meeting adjournment by unanimous consent

Closing: Mitzpah Benediction @8:30 PM

Next Meeting: 4/14/25



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

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

June 1, 2025

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16: 16-34

Psalm 97

Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 15, 2025

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

June 22, 2025

Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7)

Psalm 42 & Psalm 43

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-29

June 29, 2025

Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1,2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1,13-25

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else.

Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on.

There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



- 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

- 25 Madison Flory
- 6 Katelyn Gingrich
- 9 Ruth Gerhart
- 13 Crystal Aungst
- 13 Jacqueline Boyer
- 13 Richard Patrick
- 14 Sydney Weidler
- 16 Madeline Gingrich
- 18 Charles Doll
- 20 Nathan Longenecker
- 21 Kyle Uhler
- 24 Ruth Anna Basehore
- 24 Caden Weldon
- 26 Brian Weidler
- 30 Christina Cooper



Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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!



Loving my “enemies”

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies? I prefer the word *opponents*, but our Lord's instructions still stand.

In the Bible, “love” doesn't mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: “Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst,” Jesus says about one's enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as *The Message* puts it, I “grab the initiative and do it for *them*.”

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, “Respond with the supple moves of prayer.” It's human nature to pray that God change our enemies' or opponents' minds. But it's more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever *God* desires for them, not what *I* want. Can I do this? With God's help,