



# NORTH LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER



Webpage: <http://www.northlibertypc.org>  
209 N. Liberty-Plain Grove Rd., Grove City, PA 16127

April 2022

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Brothers & Sisters,

Christ has died. Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed! He Will come again!

We believe these things to be indisputable facts as central to our existence in time and eternity as are eating and breathing. In fact, we will celebrate them in three weeks (April 17<sup>th</sup>) as we hear the Good News presented to us yet again. We will sing about “The Day of Resurrection”; with voices raised in praise and hope as we reminded each other that “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.”

Okay, we believe it.

Now, what does it mean and what effect does this fact have upon our lives? What impact and impression does it leave upon us and those around us? What call does this place upon our hearts, minds and lives? These are essential questions we must ask and answer if we are to be useful and faithful disciples and productive believers in a world that daily seems to be spinning more out of control.

If we do not answer, we will have reduced the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a practical abstraction on the level of knowing how medical monitors work, but not what they mean and what they do.

Please understand me, I’m not saying such equipment isn’t important. It is crucial for many people in real life-and-death situations.

But what we need to know IS THAT they work, not their mechanics. The technician/mechanics assembling and repairing such monitors need to know how they work. The nurse, physician or medical technician do not. They only need to know the displays, their sounds and their meanings.

The actual death and physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, similarly, are facts with which we must contend as central defining events and facts in cosmic history . Upon these revolve our eternal lives and deaths. We do not need to know about their mechanisms. We need to know they occurred and we must recognize their impact and call upon our lives. These are facts we must know, claim and proclaim. Without this resurrection from death to life; without the victory of eternal life over death, of grace and forgiveness over sin and evil, all of us would be eternally lost and hopeless.

St. Paul says this explicitly and emphatically in I Corinthians 15:12-14 when he says “Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.”

Paul is telling us quite clearly that if the resurrection did not occur then we are all doomed to meaningless lives that end in equally meaningless deaths.

In today’s western world this belief is unfortunately all too common. In fact, it is just as pervasive as it was in Paul’s own day when a group of philosophers called the Epicureans suggested that “we should eat, drink and

be merry, for tomorrow we shall die”.

If we are consistent with our stated beliefs about the origin, value and purpose for life, we must see that we either live our lives with purpose toward a fixed meaning, or we are utterly free and unfettered to live a chaotic and pointless existence that ends as traumatically and loudly as it began. Truly, as Shakespeare observed, “it is a tale told by an idiot; full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

In short, either we are created to a fixed function and purpose and then redeemed and restored to life, or we enter the world loudly, live it frenetically and go out in a blaze of glory cursing at the fates as we make our grease spot on a history that’s essentially fruitless and meaningless.

Once we’ve embraced the light, purpose and redemption purchased for us through the Cross and Resurrection of Christ we must allow them to work in us producing the fruits of redemption. We must surrender our large and small rebellions against the Lord Who has made us. This requires us to embrace and live into the meaning that God has indelibly stamped both upon and within us as He makes us His Image Bearers.

Living fully and freely before the God of heaven means we are increasingly willing to recognize that every day we live in the sight of God. We recognize and accept within ourselves and others the absolute, high value of God’s Image because we know that God so loves and values us that the Son willing underwent Crucifixion and Resurrection to restore us and that image.

The power of such newfound freedom is amazing to behold and experience. The chains that bound us in sin and death are struck. No longer are we shackled by the eternal condemnation and death that threatened us previously. We are now free to pursue close fellowship with God and the life of productivity that follows from it.

Such a new and redeemed condition must, by its very nature, produce lives of repentance, gratitude and thanksgiving within us. And if our lives are truly transformed by that redemption applied to us then we will live out our gratitude in tangible ways that brilliantly radiate the light of God’s love, grace and glory.

This means that we willingly and actively share with family, friends, neighbors — and even strangers — the Good News that has transformed and restored us. And we will do so with the firm and abiding prayer that God will touch and heal them as well.

Peter, James, John and the other apostles actively claimed their salvation by this faith in the Resurrection. Their response to that Gospel was a thankful, radical obedience that transformed multitudes and changed the course of human history. Despite fears of rejection, humiliation and persecution, Peter and the others stepped out from the Upper Room at Pentecost and gave bold public testimony to the power of the Gospel.

Acts 1:21-26 records for us how utterly central was the witness to the Resurrection for the apostles’ Ministry of the Word. Before selecting Matthias by lot to replace Judas Iscariot, the other apostles agreed that any apostolic candidate **MUST** be a witness to Jesus’ ministry from His baptism through His resurrection and ascension. **ONLY** such witnesses were even considered.

Acts 2:22-41 then shows Peter boldly proclaiming the importance and power of a genuine and definite Resurrection as he speaks to a crowd of people who could as easily stone him as listen to him:

“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its

power! . . . Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified . . . For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

Peter was willing, ready and able to give such bold testimony because the power of the crucifixion and Resurrection were applied to His heart and mind. He was freed to love and serve those most able to harm or kill him. He was shown with perfect and unconditional certainty the utter necessity of delivering the words of life to the most sinful, least deserving among us.

This truth applies as much to us today as it did to Peter and his companions. If we are unwilling to deliver the message to others in need, then we have denied their reality and power in our own lives. Practically speaking, we’ve said they are a fiction and unworthy of belief.

We must embrace the resurrection power of the Gospel by demonstrating and delivering it in deed and word. We must believe that it has the power to transform even our enemies because it worked first on us. This requires sometimes painful self-awareness — the recognition that WE may just be the chief of all sinners.

Contemporary Christian singer Steve Camp describes this type of cosmic reversal in a song title with the words “Don’t Tell Them Jesus Loves Them, ‘Til You’re Ready to Love Them, too”

This is the essence of resurrection power and life. It’s a difficult Gospel, and yet, it is nothing less than truth that changes everything. Let us cling to the Risen Shepherd who is “The Way, The Truth and The Life. Let us embrace, live and proclaim His completed work and Resurrection with love and genuine fidelity

Grace & Peace in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Pastor Rusty+



### SESSION REPORT:

Regular Meeting of Session

Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM

at N. Liberty Presbyterian Church and Zoom.

Elders Present: John Hemmerlin, Michele Bonnici, Deacon: Allen Fleming, Trustee: Allen Fleming

Moderator Pastor Rusty Stuart, Joyce Youshock-Zoom,

Absent: Sara Coulter, Janice McElhinny-Sick, Gerry Sankey-Work Treasurer: Deb Hartman-Work

Rev. Stuart, Moderator opened the meeting with scripture, and prayer.

COMMUNION: 39 were served communion on Sunday 2/27/22.

Deacon’s Report: Allen advised order forms for Easter flowers in the bulletin until 3/20/22.

Church Treasurer: Contributions for 2022 have been significantly lower than usual. After paying our first quarter payments in January, we have greatly lowered our general fund account. Please prayerfully consider future donations. We appreciate your support.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Passover Seder Meal, THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM  
Reservation Form in the bulletin, deadline Sunday, March 27,2022.

Pastor's Report: Rusty,has made phone calls, texting, emails, visits,  
also is working on Confirmation Class and a Men's group.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 6:00PM  
Joyce Youshock, Recording Clerk

Additional Notes: We need to check the ADE equipment, location and training, also update the First Aid Kit.

Session wishes to thank Elder Abbey Novotny for her hard work on Sesion, especially serving on the Mission Committee.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact any Church Elder.

Financial Update: The Session would like the congregation to know that while North Liberty has weathered the pandemic well financially up to this point, contributions for 2022 have been significantly lower than usual. After paying our first quarter payments in January, we have greatly lowered our general fund account. Please prayerfully consider future donations.

#### DEACONS' REPORT

Please note: Donations for the deacon ministry may be sent anytime to Kathy Schultz, Treasurer, at 272 Oregon Road, Volant, PA 16156. Thank you!

Our March meeting was held on March 14, 2022

If you have a need for Friends of the Carpenter, please contact Allen Fleming, or Bob Carothers. The Deacons have several wheel chairs, lift chairs, walkers, canes, etc. if you are in need. Please contact Allen Fleming.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorry Sankey, Secretary

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

We had NO meeting In March.

Lenten Bible Study: Lent is 3/2-4/6

Pastor Rusty continues a Bible Study on Wednesdays: 3/23, 3/30 at 6:30pm.

Soup And dessert will be provided.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 11, at 10:00 AM at the church.

Joyce Youshock, Chairperson

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

“As long as the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22

Praise God for Spring!

AM and PM Circles met March 3rd and continued their study of “What Our Grandmothers Taught Us.” During Circle times, many shared prayer concerns.

Cards were sent to those who were lifted up in prayer at that time.

Susan Black, Together in Service reported our NLPC contributions for the Dominican Republic Mission Team Project netted: 108 individual bars of soap, 98 tooth brushes, 25 tubes of toothpaste, 382 sanitary pads, 16 washcloths, 16 towels, 10 pair of shorts, 110 pairs of panties, 20 bras, 1 bag of travel soaps and shampoos, and \$135 in cash.

All Good Things Thrift Store which has an affiliation with NLPC and other charities, has had a soft opening the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Stop in and see their new store on Rt. 58 next to the bowling alley in the YMCA's former daycare center.

### March 21, 2022 PW Spring Gathering

Janice McElhinny, Moderator, opened the Gathering of 12 women with devotions. The “Dedication of the Least Coin” was led by Tina Stuart and Linda Beatty. Tina reported that donations collected by our Circles amounted to 1,400 pennies. Tina gave history of how The Least Coin was a global, ecumenical prayer movement that was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India. She believed that women anywhere could have a sense of being part of a worldwide family of faith. Women pray for peace and reconciliation and set aside the least coin of their country as a symbol of that prayer. As coins are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in a common quest for peace, justice and ecumenical

solidarity, awareness-building among women, and relief throughout the world. Presbyterian Women are encouraged to participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Linda Beatty reminded us of all the poverty in America. Food, housing, medical care and other shortages for so many people. Linda closed the devotions with prayer.

Janice McElhinny, Moderator, opened the business meeting. Nancy Baker, Secretary, read the Minutes of the September 20, 2021 Gathering. Minutes were approved and second as read. Dorry Sankey, Treasurer gave the Treasurer's Report of \$400.00 as current balance. Report was approved and seconded as read.

Janice McElhinny, Susan Black, and Joyce Youshock proposed revisions to the "By-Laws for Presbyterian Women in the Congregation of NLPC" with Article IV, Section 4. wording to read Purpose and Principles.

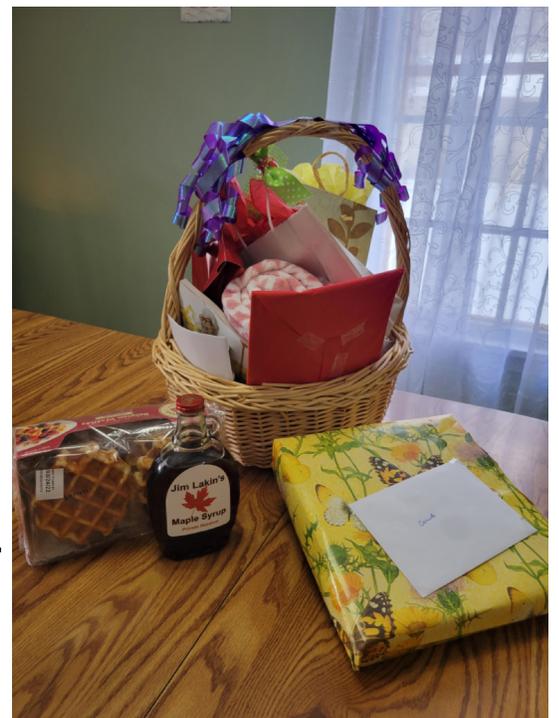
Funeral Committee wording shall be changed to "families and community."  
Motion for changes was approved and second as read.

Susan Black, "Together in Service," announced that we are just short 595 pairs of shoes to reach out goal of 2500. One mat is almost completed and another has been started. Another work day will be scheduled after Easter. Susan also stated that the Valentine bags for the college students were distributed and "thank you" cards were received. Plans are being made for Easter-break bags.

Linda Beatty, "Fellowship," reported that Carol Augostine and Cathy Hemmerlin were grateful for the Friendship Baskets and thank you notes were received. Plans are being made to send out Easter cards next month from each Circle. Nina Cooper made a request that table formation be changed for better conversation at future meetings.

#### Business Meet Adjourned

Tina Stuart introduced the evening speaker, Teresa Betz who spoke to us on Genealogy, "Artful Ancestry Tree." With humor, photographs, and guidelines to follow, she outlined how to safely research our family trees. Several of her finished books were shown to display examples of the work she does for her family and others. Questions were accepted and answered following her presentation.





Joyce Youshock, Tina Stuart & speaker, Teresa Betz at NLPC Spring Gathering on Mon., 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The Evening Circle prepared and closed our Gathering by serving desserts of cake, nuts, mints and beverages. Susan Black said the blessing

#### PW Dates to Remember:

April 1 7<sup>th</sup>: Morning Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. Afternoon Circle will meet at a new time 1:00 p.m. Joyce Youshock, Spiritual Life and Janice McElhinny, Moderator, have prepared and distributed the Circle monthly booklets.

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. Shenango PW Spring Gathering - At Northminister Presbyterian Church, New Castle - \$10.00.

Theme: Story of Quilts and the Work of the Underground Railroad in Western Pennsylvania. This church was part of that underground railroad. Items collecting for the gathering: For Annie's mission for the homeless in New York City: Good Men's Pants, New T-shirts, Socks, Underwear, Peanut Butter, and Jelly. Especially needed for Roo International: Depends, Kitchen Items, Towels and Bed Pillows.

Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. To 4 p.m. At Friendship Community Center in Slippery Rock. Women's Retreat PW in the Synod. Chocolate where Women Delight in God's Grace. Cost \$45. Includes Continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and materials. Reservations to Janice McElhinny by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## LEARNER'S FELLOWSHIP CLASS NEWS:

March 19, 2022

Tom and Nina Cooper hosted the class in their home. Eleven were in attendance for an enjoyable afternoon of devotions, delicious lunch and several friendly games of dominoes. Nina led devotions prior to lunch being served.

Our current bible study is "God Frees and Redeems". The Lord gave Cyrus King of Persia all the kingdoms of the earth and commanded Cyrus to build Him a temple at Jerusalem. Those exiles who desired to go went to Jerusalem and those exiles that desired to stay behind supported the temple with all the gifts they could spare to ensure the Lords decree was fulfilled.

It reminded us of the struggle in Ukraine. Many exiled away from their homes or fighting for their country have families supporting them here in the United States. Whenever possible; radios in Ukraine play the patriotic national anthem and also a gentle, solemn song "Melody", written by Marta Krechkousky violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Marta has lived in the western part of Ukraine as a child. Music both forceful and gentle have produced something Putin fears most..... A united Ukraine.

We in America and the world over, pray for the siege to end and for the exiles to return home to peace.

Nina's class is also collecting the fronts of cards Christmas cards for Dean Kildoo. He makes trees using the base, made for him by his son, and the cards. There is a box in the narthex for them and a sample tree. He appreciates any cards, but Christmas cards look the best! Thank you!





## APRIL 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Choir 7 p.m.	<b>30</b> <b>Lenten Soup &amp; Study 6:00 PM</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:45 Prayer Group 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Choir 7 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>PW Circles Morn 10:30AM (Hall) Afternoon 1:00 PM (Parlor)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:45 Prayer Group 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship	<b>11</b> <b>10 AM Christian Ed</b>  <b>7 PM Deacons' Mtg</b>	<b>12</b> Choir 7 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Maundy Thurs 6 PM Seder Dinner W/ Communion	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Easter</b> 7 AM Sunrise Service Breakfast in Hall NO Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Choir 7 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6 PM Session Mtg.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Shenango Presbytery PW  Spring Gathering 9AM Northminster – New Castle
<b>24</b> 9:45 Prayer Group 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship Session Re-Cap after worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Choir 7 p.m.  <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## April Birthdays

1 Sarah Coulter  
4 Bob Barger  
6 Jesse Duncan  
8 Julie Myers  
9 Kathy Schultz  
11 Dennis Youshock  
14 Linda Knight  
17 Nancy Clark  
21 Emily Campbell  
23 Stephanie Youshock Grame  
28 Emma Uber

## Anniversaries:

14 Tony & Janice McElhinny  
20 Adam & Dawn Carothers  
21 JR & Rhonda Sankey



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