

The Buckingham Gram



Buckingham Presbyterian

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HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.”
– John 20:1*

Happy Spring! Wow—that sure feels good to say after a colder-and-snowier-than-usual winter! Although Spring, as we know, has been showing little signs of its arrival for a while. The best sign of spring for me is what I call **“green day.”** You know what I mean: that day when the grass and the budding trees – and all the fields as far as the eye can see – just seem to explode in deep, dark greens. Suddenly, in the blink of an eye, the whole winter-brown landscape changes into a bright and inescapable shade of spring green. And everywhere and everything just seems to sing of new possibilities.

Suddenly the lawn mowers start revving and the weed-whackers start shredding, and the gardeners among us start getting serious about planting. Suddenly the whole world feels like a **giant new garden** – ready and ripe for anything. **And it’s a beautiful thing to see this new garden grow!**

In John’s gospel, on Easter morning, we find ourselves in a garden where Jesus had been laid to rest after his death. His friends had placed his body in a never-before-used tomb and sealed it with a stone. It is to this garden that Mary Magdalene came, alone – “early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark.”

We may imagine perhaps that as she walked she could just see her breath in the cold air. **She came - expecting to mourn death; but what she discovered instead took away her breath.** The stone was rolled away! Mary sits down, dismayed. As if in a daze, two angels appear to her and say: “Why are you crying?” Mary answers: “They’ve taken my Lord away.” But then she turns – and there is Jesus, standing right by her. But (and I LOVE THIS!), she doesn’t recognize Him. Rather – **she thinks He’s the gardener!**

It’s only when Jesus says her name – **“Mary!”** – that she recognizes him immediately and calls Him “Teacher!” “Yes,” says Jesus, “it’s me – really me. Now, go – and **tell the others** that you’ve seen me.”

And she runs, finds the other disciples, and proclaims: **“I’ve seen the Lord!”**

And the rest is, as they say, history. Or should I say: it’s **HIS story - and ours – and all of humanity’s.** We remember the very beginning of “the story” when God created the world – and in it God put a **garden – and in the garden lived a** man and woman. They were created to tend the garden, working with and depending on God for everything. It is there, though, that they fell to temptation and sin. **It is from this garden that they had to leave – for a time.**

Fast forward, now, to that first Easter morning and remember: **Jesus is** the One through whom God has created a **NEW garden** - a garden of grace and forgiveness, of mercy and acceptance - of love and peace. And through Him God has sowed the seeds of this new garden in you and me: the children **of God - redeemed** – and given a new life in Jesus Christ. And that new garden is still growing.

The question for us all is this: how will we help this new garden grow? What new ways is Jesus placing on your heart to plant seeds as a church community and take part in the wonderful garden-growing kingdom of God? How might we – in these dark times of war and illness and deep human divisions – be the voice of hope and the eyes that help others see Christ’s vision for the blessed community of human unity?

This Easter, let’s open our hearts to new gardening techniques, finding ways together to make His garden even greener here in Berlin – so that when any and all come into our midst, they may say:

We have seen the Lord!

Peace,
Pastor Mark





S'more Time with Jesus/Messy Church will resume once a month on April 8th at 6pm. Join us for a fun Holy Week scavenger hunt and fellowship.

CHRISTIAN ED



BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

Christian Education will be having Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 16th with seating at 8:30am and 9:30am. Pancakes, sausage, fruit, milk, juice and coffee will be served. The price is \$7 for Ages 11 and up, \$5 for Ages 10 and under, Free for Ages 3 and under. **Reservations are suggested but not required.**

Please call the office to make your reservations.

All proceeds will help send youth to camps and conferences to help grow their faith in Christ. If you are interested in helping on April 16th please contact Victoria (443) 880-1105 or Lindsay (443) 880-0107.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 17th at 10:15am. All are welcome to attend!



We are collecting donations of individually wrapped candy, small treats and/or prizes for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We ask that all donations be placed in the basket in Kortright Chapel by Sunday, April 10th.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our youth and help them grow spiritually!

MISSIONS



Thank you for all the donations of jackets and clothes! We will be sharing them with the Cold weather shelter & Beyond Your Walls, the Shower trailer.

Many have asked about way they can help with the shower

outreach on Tuesdays. We will be providing lunch again on April 5th and starting in May our church will be responsible for providing lunch on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 2 volunteers are needed each week to help make lunches, pass them out and help with cleaning the showers after use.



Donations of bread, lunch meat, cheese, bottled water, chips and baked goods can be brought the Sunday before. There will be a sign up sheet on the board in the hall to sign for volunteers or to provide any of the items. Gift Cards to Food Lion, Walmart and Dunkin Donuts are also a great way to help as donuts have been a big hit in the mornings! Contact any Mission Team member for questions or more information.

Missions Team: Wendy, Nanci, Lynda, Carol N. & Lindsay



COMMUNITY DINNER

**Saturday, April 23
4-5pm**

Drive Up or Delivery

Pulled Pork, Cole-Slaw, Green Beans, Roll and Dessert are on the menu for April. Make sure to order your dinners by using the sign up sheets at church or by calling or texting Cindi Pruitt, 443-880-5502.

Please share this with your family, friends & neighbors or anyone else who would enjoy a free, hot meal.



04/03—Joe Pylypczuk
04/13—Cindy Scukanec
4/14—Brooke Warren
4/16—Paul Cook
4/18—Susan Rencher
4/22—Wyatt Parker
4/23—David Pruitt
4/24—Leslie Fraser
4/30—Hugh Cropper IV

Special Dates that we know about will be posted monthly. Please make sure to let the office know about your special day so that we can celebrate with you!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
4/28 -Kurt and Jean Marx



SPECIAL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

All are invited to set time aside to attend these special services as we prepare for the celebration of Easter



PALM SUNDAY

April 10th – One combined service at 10am

Join us for a combined service as we welcome Jesus with the palms-a-waving and shouts of Hosanna! Let us also welcome Cade Harsh into the life of the Church through the waters of Baptism!

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 14th – 6pm in the Chapel

“Fit for a King: A Celebration of Bread and Vine.”

Come around the table and experience the Lord’s Supper in a way you may not have before. Bring your favorite bread or “fruit of the vine” beverage to share. Let’s remember how the simple gifts of the Lord’s Supper change our lives in powerful ways.



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Friday, April 15th 6pm in the Chapel

Come for a quiet prayer service in which we will reflect on Jesus’ Passion while we wait in the hope of the Light that darkness can never extinguish.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17th 9am & 11am Services

Join us as we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus!



MISSIONS (cont’d)

Once again Buckingham Presbyterian Church will be participating in the CRICKET Walk on the Boardwalk. Visit thecricketcenter.com to register to walk with our team. You can also make donations to our church team! A donation of \$250 will be given to CRICKET Center on behalf of the church from mission. The walk will be on April 24th from 12pm-3pm, more information to follow as we get closer on the time our church will walk together and where we will meet! The CRICKET Center is Worcester County’s only Child Advocacy Center. Visit their website to learn more about their awesome mission.



Friends let us continue to pray for the crises in Ukraine to be resolved, the war to end and peace to be restored and upheld.

Let us pray for the people – young and old – whose lives have been upended and forever changed by this senseless and selfish act of terror. Let us pray for all world leaders – our allies – and Russia’s – to seek to be peacemakers so all may know the blessings of God’s kingdom. Let us pray for peace, justice, mercy, and for all to live in the better way of God’s love.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Session: First Tuesday of every month 6:00pm (next meetings April 5th & May 5th)

Deacons: Last Tuesday of every month 6:30pm (next meeting April 26)

Trustees: Last Wednesday, every other month 6:30pm (next meeting April 27)



A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

Below is the latest and final article submitted just weeks ago by Lynne Murray, our faithful life-time member and historian. We are saddened by her passing March 26, 2022. We will miss her spirit and her wisdom as she has provided informational and interesting articles for the Gram for many years. Her family, friends and loved ones are in our continued prayers. Please stay tuned for a more in depth tribute in next month's Gram.

The 1904 fire, continued from March Gram

These photos from Arcadia Publishers show the tinderbox the Veneer Works became and discusses the water system and firefighting equipment resulting from the conflagration.



"The fire started at the Veneer Works, a great big place, one of the largest veneer works on the Shore. Those sheets of veneer caught in the wind just like airplanes. Two churches were burning at once." This is a quote from William Pitts, surveyor and local historian about the Berlin Fire of October 1, 1904. The Veneer Works made fruit baskets and crates for transporting local produce. It was located at the west end of West Street; thus, the sheets mentioned above flew about three-quarters of a mile into the town. (Mabel Rogers Collection.)

Below: Seated second from left is Elmer Warren that sang in our choir for many, many, years. Elmer was a WWII veteran of the Army Air Corps who was an auto mechanic for my father until he enlisted and served as an airplane mechanic. After the war he came back to his job at Berlin Motor Company and following my father's death worked for Barrett's.



After the 1904 fire, the town authorized the construction of a town water system and the purchase of effective firefighting equipment. A volunteer fire company was organized with 26 volunteers in 1910. The 1936 newly renovated Berlin City Hall on William Street included space for fire equipment and a firemen's meeting room and social hall. The social hall also was used by the community. A new Berlin Volunteer Fire Department building was built on North Main Street in the 1970s. Many of the firemen in this photograph participated in fighting the Berlin Milling Company fire in 1956.

2022

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 5th Sunday of Lent 9am Contemporary 11am Traditional Celebration of the Lord Supper (both services)	4 Share & Care 6:30pm	5 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Lunch to Beyond Your Walls mobile shower—OC Session 6pm	6 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	7 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	8 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	9
10 Palm/Passion Sunday Baptism Combined Service 10am	11 Share & Care 6:30pm	12 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	13 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	14 Maundy Thursday service 6pm	15 Good Friday Service 6pm Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	16 Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 8:30am 9:30am
17 Resurrection Day/Easter 9am Contemporary 11am Traditional	18 Share & Care 6:30pm	19 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	20 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	21 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	22 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm Earth Day	23
24 9am Contemporary 11am Traditional	25 Share & Care 6:30pm	26 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Deacon's Meeting 6:30pm	27 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Trustees Meeting 6:30pm	28 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	29 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	30

BUCKINGHAM GRAM

VISION STATEMENT

*We are a community of disciples,
Who honor all people,
Care for those in need,
Share the hope we receive from Jesus Christ.*