



of Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Which Holy Week activities will you experience?

Holy Week: Palm Sunday to Easter

Holy Week is what we call the week that *began* with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and *concluded* with the discovery of the empty tomb on Easter.

When you're in Jerusalem you can see or participate in re-enactments of many of the events of Holy Week. Here at RRPC we mark the most revered of those moments with these activities:

Palm Sunday, Apr. 9, 10:30 a.m.

Hold a palm frond in your hand as you recall Jesus' joyful approach to Jerusalem, but watch in silence as worship concludes with the somber "Stripping of the Chancel" in which candles, banners, flowers, etc. are removed from our sanctuary to prepare for the starkness of Holy Week events. [A children's Easter Egg Hunt follows worship.]

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Our communion service in Walker Chapel features the ancient "Tenebrae Rite" in which the room gradually descends into darkness as the Crucifixion approaches.

Good Friday, Apr. 14

12 noon—a Community Good Friday Walk hosted by St. Christopher Church. You're encouraged to wear the color red as you join with other Christians for this public witness to faith, walking +/- 2 miles through northeastern Rocky River, pausing occasionally for scripture and prayer.

6:00 p.m.—a 30-minute service of scripture and prayer focused on the Crucifixion. Walker Chapel.

Easter Day, Apr. 16

7:00 a.m.—Easter Sunrise Service in the Outdoor Chapel overlooking the valley at Rockport United Methodist Church (Wooster Rd., south of Center Ridge) led by our youth and theirs. Service indoors if weather dictates.

10:30 a.m.—Behold the array of spring flowers as you worship in our sanctuary. —Worship Committee

Sign-up in progress NOW

Let God guide you to the healthier lifestyle you desire: The Daniel Plan

So what are YOU waiting for?

The registration period for RRPC's spring program "**The Daniel Plan**" is now open... but closes on Easter. Adults of all ages—from RRPC membership and beyond—are signing up for this chance to achieve a healthier lifestyle. **The Daniel Plan** is a ground-breaking healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on "five essentials:" *Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends*. **The Daniel Plan** offers a comprehensive approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where we get better together by restoring our health in each of those areas.

In particular, the essentials of *Faith* and *Friends* are what they call the "secret sauce" that makes **The Daniel Plan** so effective. The program's benefits are accelerated when done in a supportive community of friends (a "small group") because God has designed us to thrive in relationships. With the support of God and your small group you have far more than willpower helping you make and sustain positive changes.



The program is FREE and OPEN TO ANYONE. You don't have to have any relationship to RRPC. (You do need to be at least age 18 to receive the FREE study guide and FREE "before-and-after" health screenings by Cleveland Clinic nurses.) The 40-day program will start the week of May 14.

In our church both our pastor and Brenda Fahrenkopf have been through **The Daniel Plan**, so contact either of them if you have particular questions. For more information, visit danielplan.com or see page 1 and 2 of last month's issue of "The Pulse" for more information: http://riverpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017_03_Pulse_Newsletter.pdf But don't wait—registration closes April 16.

Register for The Daniel Plan now on our website www.riverpres.org or call the church office (440-333-4888)

See page 9 for an update on RRPC's 2017 budget

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From Your Pastor

What needs to be tended in your garden?

My experience of the arrival of Spring is that it seems to sneak up on me. Just today, as I backed out of my garage past my snowblower and bucket of road salt, I noticed the green buds on a bush next to the driveway *just* beginning to open up.

That was both exciting and depressing.

I love spring. I enjoy gardening... if you can call what I do "gardening." Our house is on a small lot, and I have just a few tiny patches of flowerbeds that I have been improving across the years by adding peat moss and manure to the masses of clay in the soil. So it shouldn't be all that much work to work them over each spring and put in my annual assortment of marigolds and begonias and impatiens.

...Except there will be a lot more work this year.

You see, two years of various drainage projects for our property resulted in lots of digging around the house. Last fall we had most of the front lawn reseeded with grass. That will come around eventually. But all that digging by the "hungry, hungry backhoe" also churned up the limited space I had been using for flower beds. Now the tidy, well-defined flower beds have all but disappeared. In their place are patches of hard soil and clay, sprinkled with pebbles and stones and rocks and pieces of broken, abandoned clay tile and (believe it or not) weeds already, too!

Yup, there will be a lot more work this Spring to rebuild the flower beds. So I've been thinking about rocks and clay and weeds. They all have their useful function if they're in the right place.

- Rocks make for a great foundation to build on, of course. And rocks can be used decoratively as borders or accents in a garden or yard.
- Clay can make soil denser and more supportive of plants. Clay also holds water and nutrients better than sandy soil.
- And weeds... well, you've probably heard weeds described as "plants that

simply are in the wrong place." Weeds can provide greens for cooking or food for wildlife. They can be used for crafts or medicinal purposes. Most weeds double as wildflowers and can be quite attractive.

So rocks and clay and even weeds can be quite desirable. But of course they have their downsides, too.

- Rocks in our gardens and lawns and flower beds can impede our ability to cultivate.
- Clay in excessive amounts in the soil can frustrate plants trying to take root and grow.
- Weeds can encroach on other "desirable" plants, stealing their access to sunlight and water and nutrients.

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In telling people the news of God's generous love available to all, Jesus often used illustrations in his talks based on farming. People in that agrarian society would have been able to get his point pretty clearly. So, for instance, on one occasion Jesus talked about how different people show different levels of receptivity to the news of God's love. Jesus described it as being like how seeds scattered upon different qualities of soil have different levels of success in taking root, sprouting and bearing fruit depending on how ready the soil is to receive the seed (see Matthew Chapter 13).

If Jesus were to tell parables to us today, they'd probably address experiences of our daily lives like "The Parable of Waiting for the Cable Repair Guy" or "The Parable of Being Put on 'Hold' While Trying to Straighten Out a Medical Bill." But let's stick with his "planting metaphor" by asking ourselves, *What "rocks, clay and weeds" are getting in our way? What do we have to overcome to grow and flourish and bear fruit in our interactions with others, in our progress toward personal goals, in the enrichment of our spiritual lives?*

1. In the way that the *presence* of rocks makes it difficult to cultivate and work the soil, the *absence* of a regular time of prayer makes it difficult to cultivate your ability to lean on God and learn from God. You may have heard it said that "Prayer doesn't change God; prayer changes you." Prayer enriches your awareness of gratitude for the gifts God has already placed in your life. Prayer

cultivates your ability to trust God in times of uncertainty or anxiety.

2. Clay's useful characteristic (its ability to hold onto water and nutrients) also is its greatest drawback: it clings very tightly to itself. In what ways might we be guilty of clinging to our own self-interest and hoarding the talents and skills and treasures and gifts God has given us? Self-centeredness prevents compassion from taking root. In the same way that clay is useful if it doesn't clump together but is dispersed throughout the soil, we are better able to serve God's intention when we ease our death grip on our time and skills and treasures and put them to good use for the sake of people who need a helping hand... *our* helping hand.
3. The presence of weeds in your garden is an unplanned and undesired intrusion in what you seek. In your life, what are the "weeds" that force their way into your schedule and squeeze out your ability to gather with fellow Christians to be nurtured by the experience of weekly worship? Worship is the nutrient for your rootedness in God's word. Worship is the water that slakes your thirst for community. Worship is the sunlight that draws you heavenward. What can you do to keep "weeds" from denying you the opportunity to be fed by the experience of worship?

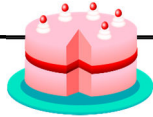
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We all know what happens if a garden is left untended for a week... a month... a season... several years. Chaos destroys order; beauty is devoured by invasive, opportunistic intruders.

In our relationships, in our personal lives, in our spiritual relationship with God through Jesus the Son, it's time for each of us to "prepare the garden."

See you in church... and if you drive down Battersea Boulevard, you may see me in the front yard.



April Birthdays

April 2	Patti Smith
April 3	Marlee McGorray
April 4	Jill Orosz
	Liesl Fahrenkopf
	Austin Williams
	Luke Erml
April 5	Kailee Shaver
	Austin Davis
April 7	Kalen Hustek
April 8	Barb Davis
	Al Yeckel
	Zack Hoon
	Steve Sabolich
	Kathleen Schriner
April 11	Deb Gilbert
April 12	David Magnus
April 13	Betsy Campbell
April 14	Marge Bodenhamer
	Bonnie Loeffler
	Donna Erml
	Tyler Stohr
April 17	Jim Pierce
	Lewis Bohannon
	Lucas Heierding
April 19	Kathryn Toth
	Linda Kanner
April 21	Sue Myer
April 22	Barbara Kirsop
	Al Stohr
	Travis Stohr
	Elizabeth Carney
April 25	Charlotte Solak
April 26	Erin Fach
	Sage Mach
April 27	Marjorie Sutliff
April 28	Kent Spelman Jr.
April 29	Donna Jakupca
	DJ Furry Jr.

****If your birthday is missing from our birthday list, please contact Office Administrator Crystal Duffield at: info@riverpres.org or (440) 333-4888.**

Coffee Hour seeking volunteers

The Deacons' Coffee Hour Committee is currently seeking volunteers to help out the 3rd Sunday of the month. We are also in need of substitutes who would be able to fill in occasionally. Contact Deb Furry debffurry@northernitle.com or 440-336-5114 for further information and/or questions.

Travel opportunities**Cruise the Caribbean, or tour the Holy Land, or more**

Our pastor can speak from first-hand experience: there is nothing like actually visiting the **Holy Land**. When you tour the Holy Land, the Bible comes to life like never before—places that were simply names become locations where you have walked or sailed or worshiped. You experience the sights and aromas and climate and people in the Holy Land. You discover why the Land of the Bible itself is sometimes called “the Fifth Gospel”—being there helps you appreciate the story of God, the life of Jesus, and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

Jon has led Holy Land tours for over two dozen people since 1996. He is organizing his **sixth Holy Land tour for January 2019**—less than two years away. In addition to visiting Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho and other sites in Israel/Palestine, the 10-day tour has the added advantage of also visiting important, breath-taking biblical sites in the Kingdom of Jordan. Common questions potential travelers ask tend to address these issues:

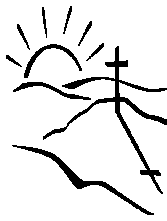
- ⇒ **Affordable**—I have always depended on a religious travel organization called Educational Opportunities (“EO”), which was founded by a Methodist pastor to enable Christians to afford visiting the Holy Land. EO negotiates tremendous rates with airlines and four-star hotels. Right now, all-inclusive prices out of New York are less than \$2,900 for double-occupancy (we can help you find a roommate).
- ⇒ **Safety**—the Holy Land is one of the most secure places you’ll ever see. Like traffic reporters in northeast Ohio, EO has many people in the Holy Land who are always in-the-know about how best to keep tours moving smoothly.
- ⇒ **Do-able**—Though you don’t need to be a mountain-climber, you do need to be fairly mobile, able to walk short distances over uneven terrain and up and down small hills—ancient churches and temples didn’t consider handicap-accessibility.
- ⇒ **Children & youth**—they are certainly welcome, but if you can’t leave them with relatives, you might do as the Fanchers did and “farm out” the children to different families while you travel—they’ll love it!

To learn more about this or other travel opportunities, speak with our pastor.

Caribbean Cruise—EO has grown to offer many other travel opportunities beyond Holy Land tours. For instance, in January 2018 they will offer their 10th annual Celebration Cruise out of Ft. Lauderdale aboard Royal Caribbean’s Harmony of the Seas. If you’re wintering in Florida next year, maybe you want to include a 7-day cruise in your plans! Ports of call include Labadee, Haiti, Falmouth, Jamaica and Cozumel, Mexico. Although our pastor won’t be on this cruise, you can still receive EO’s exclusive discount pricing—he can tell you how.

—Evangelism & Membership

**April 16th at Rockport UMC, Wooster Rd.
Our youth to co-host 7 a.m.
Easter sunrise service**



Can you think of a better way to celebrate the resurrection of Christ than attending an Easter morning sunrise service? The high school youth of our church will be working with youth from Rockport United Methodist Church to create a unique worship experience at Rockport United Methodist Church's outdoor chapel. (The service will be indoors in the event of inclement weather.) The service will be held at 7:00 a.m. and will last about 40 minutes. Show your support of the youth of our community as you allow them to lead you in worship.

**“RIP: Rest in Prayer”
Youth Sunday's coming April 30th**

Do you have a hard time finding a few minutes to spend in God's presence each day? Have you been neglecting that greatest gift God has blessed you with...your very self? Our world is so saturated with people and things that demand our time, we tend to leave our own self-care and spiritual care for last. Never fear, Youth Sunday is coming! You may see a thing or two that you don't normally see in worship. You may take part in an “energizer.” You may hear music that is a bit different, but these kids are hard at work, planning a wonderful, family-friendly worship experience for all of us. Our group began planning this service during their retreat in early November and they have much to share with you. Our youth have a unique blend of gifts and talents and they can't wait to lead you in worship. Their enthusiasm and energy are a blessing to this church. They NEED the support of their congregation. Please make every effort to get to church and show them you support them as they share some ideas on the changes we can make in our world and in ourselves. You'll be very glad you did.

**Spring is here and VBS is just
around the corner!**



Mark your calendars now for June 12-16—this year's Vacation Bible School experience. This program is open to all children age four through 5th grade, and will run from 9-11:30 a.m. each day. Look for registration forms to be available in early April. RIGHT NOW...we are putting together the planning team that makes this incredible week happen- regular meetings have begun. We are looking for adults and teens who are willing to help out in a variety of areas: worship, snacks, recreation, mission, music, crafts and shepherding. If you would like to be involved in this week of fun, faith and fellowship, you can get more information in the Christian education office. Don't miss it!

**Reserve a seat for your child today!
Youth head out on mission trip
July 16-22**

Are you looking for a meaningful way for your teen to get involved in a mission project this summer? Consider signing them up for our youth mission trip. During the week of July 16-22, a group from our church will be heading to East Moline, Illinois to participate in a Group[®] Workcamp. They will be involved in home repair for families in that area.

Group[®] runs very organized trips that are open to youth from a variety of denominations from anywhere in the US. Our group will have a chance to work with and get to know youth and adults from other areas of the country. The trip is open to any youth who has completed 6th-12th grade. Cost for the trip is \$449 per participant, but we will be hosting several fund-raisers (Spaghetti Dinner, Pancake Supper, Car Wash) to help defray that cost. We have reserved 8 spots for youth, and have the potential to reserve additional spots if desired.

If you are interested in having your teen join in, please contact Lisa Watts to reserve a spot. All we need at this point is a \$50 deposit to reserve a space. You can get more information from Lisa or you can visit the Group website to learn more at www.groupmissiontrips.com.

**Summer camp information available
through the church**

Are you starting to plan your summer, even though it is still cold and gray? We have information on several excellent Christian camping opportunities for kids of all ages. For more information or to pick up camp flyers, see Lisa Watts.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Semi-Circle

Semi-Circle will meet on **Monday, April 10th** at **12:00 p.m.** in the West Room. Bring your brown bag lunch, dessert will be provided. If you have questions you may contact Carolyn Watilo 440-799-4779 or Nancy McGillicuddy 440-724-1738. New members are always welcome!

Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle will be meeting on **Thursday, April 20th** at **7:00 p.m.** in the West Room. All are welcome! If you have any questions you may contact Gretchen Koch or Sara Gresh through the Church Office.

Expressions of Faith

Our group will meet **Tuesday, April 11th** at **9:30 a.m.** in the D-3 and on **Tuesday, April 25th**. We welcome anyone who knits or just enjoys a cup of coffee with friends. For more information contact Mary Murphy (440-785-8614).

Women of Grace

Women of Grace will meet on **Monday, April 24th** at 7:00 p.m. in D-3,4 if you have any questions please contact Lee Sabolich or Lisa Watts.

Koinonia

Join us Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor for Koinonia Prayer & Study Group. Our prayer time is personal and confidential within the group, with no obligation to pray aloud.

Questions may be directed to Jane Doughman, Nancy Clash, Jo Naretto, Mary Murphy, or Carolyn Watilo.

Presbyterian Women

“Coming Attractions”

Tuesday, May 2nd SAVE THE DATE. Plan to join us on Tuesday evening May 2nd from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. for a PW Gathering. Kristina Austin, a representative from The Gathering Place (touchedbycancer.org) will speak on a variety of topics related to cancer support for individuals, families and friends. A salad and dessert potluck will be served.

Sunday, April 30, 2017 3:00 p.m.

Logan Wells variety show vocalist

Although she began her professional entertainment career nearly 20 years ago with a country music band, since launching her solo career Logan Wells has greatly expanded her repertoire to feature music made famous by the Carpenters, Nat King Cole, the Beatles, Patsy Cline, the Beach Boys, Neil Diamond, Elvis and more. Her “Variety Show” will feature tunes from ‘40s, ‘50s, Big Band, Oldies, Light Rock, Gospel, Jazz/Blues, and current Pop, Country and Folk tunes... all mixed in with audience participation, comedy and star-studded costuming!



—Nancy McGillicuddy, Artistic Director
RRPC’s Artist Concert Series



Dear RRPC friends,

Thanks to all of you who have sent me wonderful cards wishing me a speedy recovery. I am doing well according to my doctor and physical therapist, but not yet ready for the dance contest. Your good wishes help.

—Karol Hoeffler

Sanctuary Flowers



Do you have a loved one you would like to honor for a birthday or anniversary. Would you like to memorialize that special person who has passed away? By signing up for a Sunday to provide our sanctuary with flowers you can do this. The cost is only \$30.00 and you may take the flowers with you after our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Your “in honor of” or “in memory” attribution will be listed in our bulletin announcements as well as on the card with the flowers. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Parlor. Please contact Crystal in the church office if you have any questions.

Healthy Happenings

... Notes from the Parish Nurse

Dear Friends and Family,

April is National Parkinson's Month. Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects movement. It develops gradually, sometimes starting with a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand or a stiffness and slower movement in the arms and legs. Parkinson's disease signs and symptoms may vary from person to person. Early signs may be mild and may go unnoticed. Symptoms often begin on one side of your body and usually remain worse on that side, even after symptoms begin to affect both sides. A person in the early stages of Parkinson's disease may show little or no facial expression, their arms may not swing when they walk and their speech may become soft or slurred. Parkinson's disease symptoms worsen as your condition progresses over time.

In Parkinson's disease, certain nerve cells (called neurons) in the brain gradually break down. Many of the symptoms are due to a loss of neurons that produce a chemical messenger in your brain called dopamine. When dopamine levels decrease, it causes abnormal brain activity, leading to signs of Parkinson's disease.

Signs and symptoms may include:

- ◇ **Tremor.** A tremor, or shaking, usually begins in a limb, often your hand or fingers. You may notice a back-and-forth rubbing of your thumb and forefinger, known as a pill-rolling tremor. One characteristic of Parkinson's disease is a tremor of your hand when you are at rest.
- ◇ **Slowed movement.** Over time, Parkinson's disease may reduce your ability to move and slow your movement, making simple tasks difficult and time-consuming. Your steps may become shorter when you walk, or you may find it difficult to get out of a chair. You may also drag your feet as you try to walk, making it difficult to move.
- ◇ **Rigid muscles.** Muscle stiffness may occur in any part of your body. The stiff muscles can limit your range of motion and cause you pain.
- ◇ **Impaired posture and balance.** Your posture may become stooped, or you may have balance problems.
- ◇ **Loss of automatic movements.** In Parkinson's disease, you may have a decreased ability to perform unconscious movements, including blinking, smiling or swinging your arms when you walk.
- ◇ **Speech changes.** You may have speech problems as a result of Parkinson's disease. You may speak softly, quickly, slur or hesitate before talking. Your speech may be more of a monotone rather than with the usual inflections.
- ◇ **Writing changes.** It may become hard to write, and your writing may appear small.

If you have any of the symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease, please consult your physician not only to diagnose your condition but also to rule out other causes for your symptoms. Your physician may be able prescribe medication to treat some of the secondary symptoms that are associated with Parkinson's disease. These symptoms include:

- ◆ **Thinking difficulties.** In the later stages, Parkinson's may cause cognitive problems such as dementia and thinking or processing difficulties.
- ◆ **Depression and emotional changes.** Parkinson's disease may cause depression, fear, anxiety or loss of motivation.
- ◆ **Swallowing problems.** In the later stages, Parkinson's may cause difficulties with swallowing, especially liquids. Saliva may accumulate in your mouth due to slowed swallowing.
- ◆ **Sleep problems and sleep disorders.** Parkinson's disease may cause sleep problems, including waking up frequently throughout the night, waking up early or falling asleep during the day.
- ◆ **Bladder and bowel problems.** Parkinson's disease may cause bladder problems, including being unable to control urine or having difficulty urinating. Constipation may occur due to a slower digestive tract.
- ◆ **Blood pressure changes.** Parkinson's disease may cause orthostatic hypotension or a sudden drop in blood pressure when standing up quickly causing dizziness or lightheadedness.
- ◆ **Fatigue.** Parkinson's disease may cause low energy and fatigue.
- ◆ **Pain.** Parkinson's disease may cause pain, either in specific areas of the body or throughout the body.

At this time, the cause of Parkinson's disease still is unknown. Unfortunately, Parkinson's disease can't be cured but medications may markedly improve your symptoms.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." ~ Deuteronomy 31:6

Catherine A. Patton, RN, BSN
440-333-4888 ext 105
Parishnurse@riverpres.org

Source: The Mayo Clinic





APRIL 2017 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS: New books
Easter books



NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

Elementary Fiction books:

The Imagination Station series:

jFIC HER

Faith-based (Adventures in Odyssey) time travel fiction for young readers-join Patrick and Beth on their adventures travelling back in time through history

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| #1 Voyage with the Vikings | #4 Revenge of the Red Knight | #10 Challenge on the Hill of Fire |
| #2 Attack at the Arena | #5 Showdown with the Shepherd | #11 Hunt for the Devil's Dragon |
| #3 Peril in the Palace | #6 Problems in Plymouth | #12 Danger on a Silent Night |

Sugar Creek Gang series:

jFIC HUT

For over 50 years, young boys have enjoyed the faith-building adventures of these courageous Christian boys. The stories focus on the lives of 5 adventurous brothers. The emphasis is on Christian faith, the morality is high, and the lessons for life are just as relevant today as when the books were written.

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| #1 The Swamp Robber | #4 The Lost Campers |
| #2 The Killer Bear | #5 The Chicago Adventure |
| #3 The Winter Rescue | #6 The Secret Hideout |

The Cul-de-Sac Kids:

jFIC LEW

This is an exciting and lighthearted faith-based chapter book series for young readers that centers on the often humorous escapades of a group of endearing neighborhood friends.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| #1 The Double Dabble Surprise | #4 No Grown-Ups Allowed |
| #2 The Chicken Pox Panic | #5 Frog Power |
| #3 The Crazy Christmas Angel Mystery | #6 The Mystery of Case D. Luc |

Flying Lessons & Other Stories

jFIC FLY

This short story collection by celebrated middle grade authors includes stories with diverse characters and celebrates the uniqueness in all of us.

Jones & Parker Case Files

jFIC HOO

This "Adventures in Odyssey" book presents 16 mysteries from the 2 mystery-solving whiz kids in the junior detective agency in Odyssey. Try to crack each case before the answer is revealed with Bible evidence.

How the Whale Became and Other Stories

jFIC HUG

Ted Hughes, poet laureate of England, created these mischievous and magical tales to explain to his children the nature of some of the most admirable and laughable beasts. It is illustrated with beautiful watercolor illustrations.

A Wrinkle In Time

jFIC LEN (Madeleine L'Engle)

Mrs. Whatsit arrives at the Murry house on a stormy evening looking like an eccentric tramp, but she is actually a celestial creature with the ability to read Meg's thoughts. She tells them of the existence of a tesseract--a "wrinkle" in space and time. It is through this wrinkle that Meg and her companions will travel through the 5th dimension in search of Meg's missing father.

The Agony of Alice

jFIC NAY (Phyllis Reynolds Naylor)

A lot about growing up is confusing to Alice. Her mother died when she was 5. How can her father and 19-year-old brother teach her what she needs to know? Even buying a pair of jeans turns into a major embarrassment. If only she had a role model like the beautiful teacher, Miss Cole. But, instead, she gets assigned to plain Mrs. Plotkin's class.

HAPPY READING!!

(All descriptions have been taken from book jacket, title page verso, or review article)

MISSION: POSSIBLE

by Matt Pedone, Mission Committee

Just “One Hour” can change everything

Every year, our congregation supports a few different special offerings, each of which has a unique purpose and gives us an opportunity to participate in the broader Presbyterian congregation. A pillar of our local congregation is ‘serving others’ and the **One Great Hour Of Sharing (OGHS) special offering** gives us an opportunity to do just that. This special offering gives many of us an opportunity to serve those that we wouldn’t normally come into contact with.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour Of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour Of Sharing, received during the season of Lent (March 1 – April 15), makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
- Receives 32% of funds raised

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds raised

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills
- Receives 32% of funds raised

You may have noticed some information about this special offering shared with the Lenten devotional booklet. If not, the offering guidance is to give the equivalent of *one hour* of your hourly earnings for a whole week. If that is beyond your means, consider a single hour of pay. If you are retired, you can still participate! Consider 1 – 3% of your monthly budget as this ranges from ~ 2 – 5 hours of the monthly equivalent of a 40-hour workweek. Any amount you can commit will be impactful. It isn’t about the amount you give but the thought and effort you put forth to make a difference for your global neighbors.

Mark your calendars, brush off those sneakers. . . .



“Cancer free.” Some of us can only imagine how a person who experienced cancer feels when the medical staff tells them they are cancer free, but it must feel great. If you or a loved one has lived with or died from cancer this is your chance to make a difference. Relay for Life is a major fundraising effort for the American Cancer Society.

Our church has participated in Relay for Life for many years. We’ve walked laps around stadium tracks, sold luminaries, and raised funds selling all sorts of stuff. Would you like to see a cure for cancer? Would you be willing to help?

RRPC Deacon Dave Carney (dave_carney_48104@yahoo.com) is heading up the event for the church this year and there is much that anyone can do: fund-raising, sponsoring RRPC participants, stopping by to attend part of the event itself.

Please volunteer to assist him. The 2017 Westshore Relay for Life will be held on May 6, indoors at Westlake High School, 27830 Hilliard Blvd. in Westlake.

— Dianne Russell, Moderator
Board of Deacons

Padded seat with armrests once/month? Join our “soundboard team”!

An easy but important way to help out at your church would be to join our “Soundboard Team.” Yes, it may look and sound complicated, but in reality it’s pretty simple: basically, knowing when to start a recording device, occasionally adjusting a volume level... that sort of thing. We would like to have a rotation so you would serve about monthly. Want to learn more without obligation? Speak to Bob Davis at the soundboard before or after worship some Sunday.

—Board of Deacons



2017 budget update

As reported at the annual meeting on January 22nd, and in a letter mailed out shortly thereafter, our 2017 “contingent budget” showed a deficit of about \$8,500.00. The budget was “contingent” because it was not balanced after comparing expenses to the results of the Stewardship campaign.

It was also explained that anticipated pledges of around \$11,700.00 toward the “member offerings” income line had not yet been received. These are pledges received during 2016 that had not yet been confirmed for 2017. So that income figure of \$356,000.00 was a “leap of faith” to a certain extent.

To try to cover the \$8500.00 deficit, we asked everyone to consider increasing your pledge or to make a one-time “balance-our-budget gift,” while Session continued to consider ways to possibly trim expenses further (though there really aren’t many things left to trim).

First, the good news. With the special gifts and increased pledges, we have covered that \$8,500.00 shortfall. A **big thank you** to everyone who helped make this possible!

The bad news is, of the \$11,700.00 in not-yet-received pledges that was anticipated for member offerings, we have only received about \$3,800.00. So we’re still coming up short on estimated pledge income by about \$7,900.00. What’s more, recently we learned that soon we will need to replace the church office’s “computer server” (think “master computer”) that supports the church’s computer network on which all of our staff rely for their work. That is a significant expense of around \$10,000. Efforts continue to try to bridge that gap.

We want to be sure you know where things stand as your Session and its Finance Committee labor to develop a balanced budget for your church’s operations this year. We’ll keep you posted. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact the pastor or Finance Committee Chair Jim Flynn.

-- Finance Committee



Do you have a few hours a month to give to a great cause?

The One World “Fair Trade” shop here in Rocky River is inviting you to consider joining our Volunteer Team.



Begun by Presbyterian women 38 years ago, our shop has meant fair wages for thousands of artisans and farmers who then are able to provide adequate housing, education and dignity for their families. Our fair trade shop models a transformed economy – one based not solely on profit, but on valuing persons and the health of our planet. We have a message to share as well as products to sell.

As a volunteer, you will play a vital role in the communication of our mission: as a clerk you are our “front line” contact with customers. Through your conversation with customers, they learn the human stories behind our products.

If what our fair trade business cares about and what you care about match, we invite you to be part of creating a more humane future for all of God’s children.

Please respond by email with your interest and/or questions. We will then invite you to a “coffee” where details will be shared. We should add that a volunteer typically works two four-hour shifts a month, but all is negotiable!

Thanks for your consideration of this possibility.

Charline Watts, Member, Board of Directors
Rgwatts330@gmail.com

Of course you can do it!

Be a “guest preacher” in 2017

It’s been said that everyone has at least one “sermon” in them—a personal perspective on faith that they’d like to share with others. Have you been mulling over the idea of being a lay preacher at RRPC on a Sunday when Jon’s not in the pulpit because of vacation or study leave? Many RRPC-ers have done it across the years—why not you? Our fellow church members *really* enjoy hearing from “one of their own”... and they are a kind and gentle audience!

To learn more about it, simply speak with Jon Fancher or any member of the Worship Committee (*Dawn Fuller, Jim Pierce, Bill Knoble, Sara Gresh, Ellen Schickel, Dan McKenzie, Carol Jenkins, Kathy Hartzell, Melissa Stickney*).

Sun

Mon

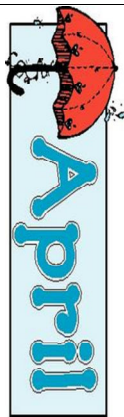
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
2 Fifth Sunday in Lent / Communion / Food Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion 10:30 a.m. Nursery / KISS 11:30 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Mission Committee Mtg. 11:35 a.m. Children & Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Fellowship	3 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	4 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	5 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Worship Comm. 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	6 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. AA Back to Basics 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	7 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's)	8 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes	
9 Palm Sunday / One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Nursery / Children's Church 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship/Butter Braids 11:35 a.m. Children & Youth Choir 11:35 a.m. Evang. & Membership Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Fellowship	10 12:00 p.m. PW Semi-Circle Mtg. & Lunch 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	11 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 9:30 a.m. RRPB Board Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	12 10:00 a.m. RRPC Staff Mtg 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	13 Maundy Thursday 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. AA Back to Basics 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion Service (Chapel)	14 Good Friday 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's) 12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (St. Christophers) 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Prayer Service (Chapel)	15 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes	
16 Easter Sunday  7:00 a.m. Community Sunrise Service at Rockport United Methodist 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship	17 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	18 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	19 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	20 5:00 p.m. Steers/Huslek Wedding Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. PW Priscilla Circle 7:00 p.m. AA Back to Basics 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	21 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's) 4:00 p.m. Wedding: Steers / Huslek	22 11:00 a.m. Bridal Shower for Julie Grash 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes	
23 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Nursery / Children's Church 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Children & Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Fellowship	24 7:00 p.m. PW Women of Grace Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	25 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	26 10:00 a.m. RRPC Staff Mtg 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	27 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. AA Back to Basics 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	28 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's)	29 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes	
30 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Nursery / Children's Church 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Children & Youth Choir 3:00 p.m. ACS presents "Logan Wells" 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Fellowship							

APRIL 2017

“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

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Rocky River Presbyterian Church

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