

Gbg Church of the Brethren

April 2025

“...Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”

Matthew 28:5-6a



“¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you **always, to the very end of the age.**”

Matthew 28:19-20

The Tomb Is Empty and He is Alive!

We definitely have a lot going on in April and it's an exciting time! Spring is here and we are all looking forward to better weather. Vacation times are in their planning stages.



The first day of April we think about is April 1, which is called April Fools' Day. That's a time when people play tricks or jokes on others and try to fool them. It's something that our not-so-welcome friend, Satan, likes to do to us a lot of times during the year! He'll try to put us in certain situations or whisper things to us that make us wonder if this is God talking to us. Yes, sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference between the words and actions of God and of Satan. Satan might put us in good situations just to flip them over and create difficult issues for us. He will try and cloud our thinking and move us away from our faith. We can take comfort in what Jesus tells us in Scripture. In John 10:27, he says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." What Jesus is telling us is that we will know His voice. We can hear Him, and if we're deep in his Word, deep in worship, and deep in glorifying Him, not just on Sundays, but every day, it becomes easier to tell if we're being tempted by Satan or it's Jesus calling us.

On April 13th this year, we celebrate Palm Sunday, which is known as Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem as He headed towards the cross. It's also a day that we here at Church of the Brethren will baptize believers in the name of the Father, the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Spirit. What an exciting day to have other brothers and sisters witness their faith in Christ and join us in serving God!

The Son Rise Service on Easter Sunday is at 7 AM out on the front lawn as long as it's not raining. That's the time we come to the tomb, expecting it to be empty. The women came that Sunday morning after the crucifixion, expecting to anoint Jesus' dead body with oil. What they found, though, was that Jesus was not there. Can you even imagine what they might have been feeling? They must have been devastated from watching Jesus be beaten and crucified on a cross--that terrible scene that took place on what we call Good Friday. They grieved over the loss of their loved one all that Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning, never occurring to them that He was alive. It is sad to say that many people today do not believe that Jesus is alive. They believe that someone stole the body, that He never resurrected from that tomb. They want some sort of evidence that He is alive. We can't give them medical records and we don't have any pictures from that day. All we have is the words in the Bible from the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the testimonies of those who witnessed Jesus' life, His death, and His resurrection.

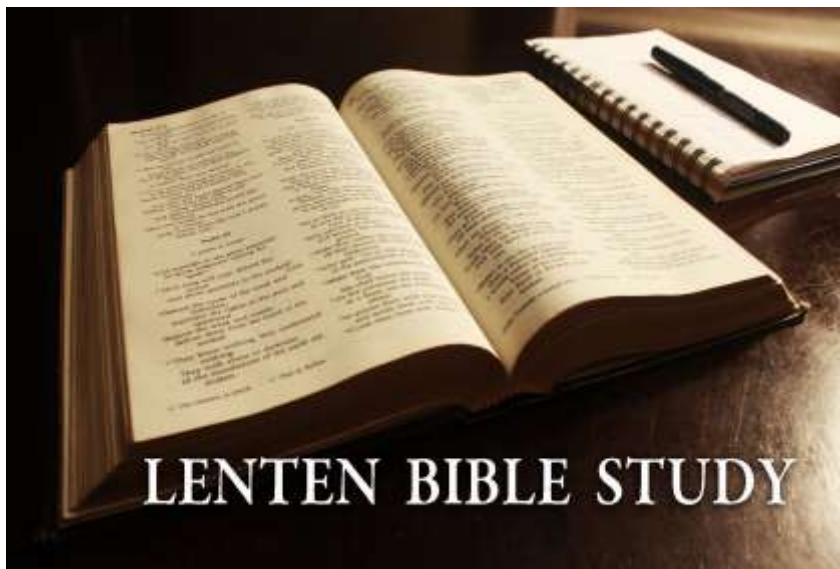
Besides the whole Bible, where you can find Jesus from the beginning to the end, we have our very own stories and testimonies of what Jesus has done for each of us. If you are a Christian you will have a testimony of Jesus in your life. It's up to us to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. What can we do so that others, too, can believe that Jesus is alive? We have no physical proof from that day, but we can tell others and show them we walk by faith not by sight. And for those of you out there that have been on the other side, where maybe you didn't believe in Jesus, and now you do, that's a heck of a story that needs to be told!



The Tomb Is Empty and He is Alive!

God Bless,

Pastor Stephen



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Come join us as we
prepare to share
in the death and
resurrection of
Jesus—

“A PATH TO THE CROSS”

Wednesdays at 6:30
March 12—April 9



Adult
Sunday school
9:30 am
March 16—April 6



Love Feast Service

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m., we will be remembering the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples as we participate in communion and the practice of foot washing. Please plan to attend this very special service, an important part of our Church of the Brethren identity, and our personal relationship with the Lord.



What's Going On
at GBGCOB?

WOMEN'S MINISTRY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 2, 12 p.m.
at King's Restaurant,
(near Home Depot)

ALL women are welcome to join
us, and bring a friend!

We'd love to see you there!

Please bring a nonperishable item
to help fill our Blessing Box
outside our church building.



Movie Night
"The Passion
of Christ"

April 11
6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday,
April 13, 2025

We will remember Jesus' triumphal entry
into Jerusalem on that day almost 2000 years ago,
but also rejoice with several new believers who will
symbolize their commitment to Jesus through the act
of baptism on this day! Please join
us and celebrate with our brothers
and sisters in Christ!



Join us for our Easter morning
outdoor Son Rise Service
~7 a.m. on April 20th~
followed by a breakfast!
All are welcome!

Easter morning worship
10:30 a.m.

Copies of the church constitution and revised by-laws are
available on the table by the mailboxes.
Please pick up one copy per family.

Dear Pastor Steve,

Please convey our thanks to the members of the congregation for their recent donation of \$500 to Blackburn Center. We are so grateful for their generosity.

We depend on contributions from the community to help meet the needs of thousands of people each year. Your donation will provide services critical to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, it gives assurances to the women and children in our shelter that someone cares.

Thank you for joining with us as we accept the challenge to overcome the violence that impacts our homes and communities. We couldn't do this work without supporters like you--thank you!

Sincerely,
Renee N. Reitz,
Executive Director
Blackburn Center

Thank You!

A BIG thank-you to Barry Roddy for offering his generous gifts of time and talent to direct the choir a number of times recently! It is much appreciated!

Joy and Chuck Sphon



Blessing Box

As we move forward into 2025, it is my hope we can continue to be a support to those in the community that need our help--not only physical food, but spiritual, as well. I hope to include Bibles in the Blessing Box for the community to have access to and have. Thank you for all your support. Now, more than ever, our world needs love and support from us Christians. To quote Mr. Rogers, "In troubled times, look for the helpers." I am blessed to have such a church family, so full of love and support. Please continue to pray for our community, helpers, and the Blessing Box, that we may continue to share our love and be a blessing to our community.

Wendy Muir

"Way of the Cross"

Good Friday, April 18, 2025,
at 11:30 a.m.

This outdoor drama begins on the steps of the Westmoreland County Courthouse on Main Street and processes through the streets of Greensburg, ending at the First United Methodist Church at 15 E. 2nd Street.

A brief worship service will follow to thank God for his sacrifice!



Do you know someone who is graduating from high school or college this May/ June or graduated this past December? We want to honor them on graduation Sunday on June 8th.

Please let the Christian Education Team know as soon as possible.

Honored Member of the Month

Our honored “Member of the month” for April is Louis Smail, Sr.

Louis Smail, Sr., has been attending the church since he was a baby. He grew up in a big family and is the youngest of thirteen children--four sisters and eight brothers. Lou and his wife Diane will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. They have two great children, Louis Jr. and Daniele.

One of Lou's favorite memories from church is of Violet Seaman, Jody Casteel's mother, who taught him in Sunday School as a child. Lou's favorite song is “Thank you, Lord, for Your Blessings on Me,” and his favorite Bible verse is John 3:16.

Lou enjoys spending time with his family, taking trips to Tennessee and spending time at their camp in Newmanville, near Tionesta, Pennsylvania. Lou collects coins and likes to keep his truck and car clean. One of his pastimes is cutting grass for his neighbors up and down both sides of his street.

Lou is very involved at GBGCOB. He participates in Disciples' Hands, Joyful Celebrations, and the choir. He is a very giving person and is always willing to help when he is asked and if he is able.

Thought for the Month

“No matter how chaotic and sinful the world may become, God's light cannot be eclipsed.”



News and Notes from the Worship Team

The choir outreaches to the nursing homes were cancelled this past month, but they will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

April brings the reenactment and the reminder of how much Christ loves us--so much so that He died for us. We hope you will join us for the Lovefeast on Thursday, the 17th of April at 7 p.m., the Easter Son Rise Service at 7 a.m. on April 20th, complete with a wonderful breakfast following the service; and the Sunday easter Service at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you there!

God Bless,
Joy Sphon



SPOT LIGHT

Jim Blair

SPOTLIGHT ON THE OUTREACH TEAM

The church is involved in various outreach activities and efforts. Some of those endeavors are taken on by the Outreach team. The team plans and puts into action various forms of evangelism, such as fellowship evangelism. Their ministry involves the practice of looking beyond the church in sharing the love of Christ and therefore connecting with the community. Their service includes any undertaking that results in providing love and support to others. They have a goal of reaching out to the community to build lasting relationships. More specifically as an example, during Christmas the team sponsors a birthright tree which concludes in the accumulation of items for needy children.

The team also oversees the disbursement of monies for mission and outreach purposes. Such oversight includes the Bittner Mission Fund, which was established as a bequest by the Galen Bittner estate solely for outreach purposes. As a core ministry team they are required to submit an annual report to the Congregational Forum. The team is comprised of Julie Curry, Chairperson, Carole Giron and Lynn Grimme.



Irwin Male Chorus Concert at Greensburg Church of the Brethren

Be sure to mark your calendar for this special concert, featuring the Irwin Male Chorus, directed by Mr. Forrest Moore, directing since 1999. This group is based out of Irwin and has been singing for 112 years. We will be hosting them at **6 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025.** Invite your friends!

Greensburg Church of the Brethren
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Address Service Requested

