

April 2025 Newsletter

West Alexander Presbyterian Church
108 Main Street, PO Box 303, West Alexander PA 15376

Phone: 724-484-7542 Office hours M, W, F 8am-1pm

Website: www.wapresbyterianchurch.org

Facebook group : West Alexander Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

Church Administrator Email: wapc-admin@comcast.net



This Month's Message

Dear Friends,

You know doubt are aware that each of the four Gospels presents the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ from a slightly different perspective and evidently with different intended audiences in mind. Accordingly, each has its own unique summation of the Resurrection. For example, Matthew has Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” going to “look at the tomb.” (28:1) They then see an angel descend from Heaven and open the tomb by rolling back the stone door. Then he sits upon it as if to say, “Ta da!” The guards faint, and the angel tells the two that Jesus is risen from the dead, that they will see Him, and to go tell His Disciples. Jesus surprises them and tells them much the same. Matthew ends his Gospel with Jesus pronouncing the Great Commission. (28:18-20)

The earliest copies of Mark’s Gospel end at 16:8 with the women who went to the tomb fleeing after the encounter with the angel. In fact, “They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.” Evidently, this ending was a “hook” to get the reader to seek out Christians and get, as Paul Harvey used to say, “the rest of the story.”

Luke’s Gospel gives us a few more details: a larger group of women, Peter running to the tomb and seeing for himself that it is empty, Jesus’s encounter with the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appearing to the larger group after the two had hurried back and reported what they experienced, Jesus having to convince them that He was real and they were not seeing a ghost, and then His ascension into Heaven.

John tells of the foot race between Peter and himself to the empty tomb upon hearing from the women that the tomb is empty. Mary Magdalene stays behind and has that very tender encounter with her risen Lord. Jesus later appears to the disciples behind closed and locked doors, then later again when Thomas is present to answer his challenge of wanting to see His pierced hands, feet, and side. But John gives us more – the miraculous catch of fish and the reinstatement of Peter for his denials.

So, which ending suits you, the best? Are you living out the Great Commission, telling others about Jesus? Or are you silent because you are afraid? Are you surprised by Jesus like the two enroute to Emmaus? Do you doubt, like Thomas? Or are you perhaps a bit ashamed like Peter was? If I had to guess, perhaps we all, from time to time, have had each of these reactions. Hopefully, though, we more and more have tender moments with our Risen Lord like Mary Magdalene had, until we see Him face to face for ourselves. This is my hope and prayer for each of you.

In Christ’s Love,
Rev. Powell

Opportunities to learn and grow with others

Adult Friendship Class —Choir Room 9:30 am

Adult Praying Hearts Group— Fellowship Hall 9:30 am

Children's Christian Education —Youth Room 9:30 am



THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Clerk of Session - Jane Noble

2025

The Session- Louis Winters, Karen Johnson, BobiJo McCuen

The Deacons- Kathy Morgan, CeCe Burig

The Trustees- Helen Buckholt, Will Noble

2026

The Session- Lynne Glessner, Mary Lea Dutton, Jane Noble,

The Deacons- Gino Delbert, Lee Ann Delbert, Kathy Strawn

The Trustees- Lee Rodgers, Barb Rodgers, Michele Buckholt

2027

The Session- Patty Johnson, Jodi Noble

The Deacons - Beverly Philabaum, Regina Wood, Peggy McCuen

The Trustees - Doug Teagarden, Bob Wagner, Tiffany Wagner

Addresses for Shut-ins & Military

Martha McAdoo

Visit:

Presbyterian Sr. Care,
Southmont

Washington, PA 15301

*Correspondence to:

163 Crawford Road
Fredericktown, PA15333

Major Garrett Hunter
Address currently unknown

Nancy Gashel
Greenery Rehabilitation
2000 Hill Church-Houston
Road, Room 121
Canonsburg, PA 15317



Remember in Prayer

To request prayer by the church, call or email the church office at wapc-admin@comcast.net or 724-484-7542. Praying Hearts Christian Education Class will receive your request and honor it. Also, Elder Jane Noble, Clerk of Session, 304.639.9148, and Deacon Kathy Morgan, 724.255.1845, welcome your prayer requests. Please tell us if your request is to be held in confidence or included in the Prayers for the People in morning worship.

Thank you, Lord for the Fellowship in Our lives.

Jesus Lives

April, how we love to hear that sound – A p r i l --- how we love to hear this word. It is like music to our ears.

One of the most important events is the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ!!! Hallelujah. Amen!!!

Lord, we are so thankful to celebrate Holy Week together as a family this year. You have brought us full circle through some of the darkest times we have known. Yet, we still struggle with the losses of lives, finances, and everyday living as we once knew. But our faith in You will bring us out of this turmoil to the sunrise on Eastern Morning.

We will rejoice Palm Sunday with our Brothers and Sisters as we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and the beginning of our Holy Week. We will be carrying our crosses on Good Friday, as we weep for the crucifixion of Jesus and His death at Calvary. Even though we know, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Then, our Sunrise Service for Jesus – as we gather early in the morning at the gazebo to worship our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. Amen!!! Coming to worship early Sunday morning at an hour and place different than we normally do, offers a sense that something unexpected has happened. Where there appeared to be no hope, there is now hope. Where there was death, there is now resurrection!

The life-changing power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ allows us to experience the transformation that comes from recognizing Jesus is risen, understanding that anyone can be forgiven regardless of their past, and realizing that true change and a purpose-driven life are possible through the Holy Spirit.

Easter Sunday Service – what a joyful event for us all to cherish this year. Whether in person or by our Facebook page, we will be together. We thank all those that were so generous and worked untiringly for our congregation, our families, and our community.

Jesus says in John 14:19 *After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*

*Yours in Prayer,
The Worship Committee*



Community Event

"The Portrayal of the Last Supper"

Saturday, April 19 at 7pm

West Alexander Community Center

Hosted by the Methodist Church

Refreshments to follow



Community Lenten Series

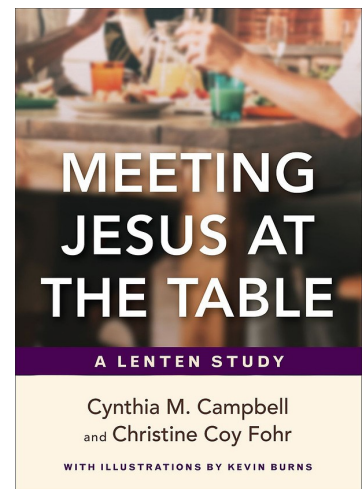
"Meeting Jesus at the Table" (A Lenten Study by Christine Coy Fohr and Cynthia M Campbell)

Week 5 Excuses and Invitations: Empty Chairs at the Table
(Luke 14: 15-24)

Week 6: Hospitality and Discipleship: A meal with Chosen Family
(John 12: 1-8)

Here is the remaining schedule:

April 6	Host: Claysville U.P.	Speaker: Pastor Cindy Smith
April 13	Host: Fourth U.P.	Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jerome Creech



Sharing our Easter inheritance

After David Clarke's mother died in a cycling accident, she left him \$125,000. Inspired by how his mom had lived, he decided to share that inheritance with his community. Clarke chose four organizations that assist people in poverty, those with special needs and others. Liverpool (U.K.) Kids Plant to Plate received one-fourth of the money to teach urban kids about food growth and preparation. Team Oasis, which provides free meals and positive opportunities to disadvantaged families, also received 25% of the funds, as did two other nonprofits.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we too have an inheritance (see Colossians 1:12). Because we did nothing to earn this abundant love and life — and because God teaches us to serve and care for others — we look for ways to share it.

Unlike Clarke's monetary windfall, however, our gifts of salvation, grace, joy, love and blessing never run out. In fact, the more we share Jesus' love through word and deed, the more we experience it ourselves. As Clarke keeps his mom's spirit alive by following her example, so we, as Easter people, make the Spirit of God known far and wide.



Dear Jane,

We just wish to thank you, as well as each person who assisted you, for the preparation and serving of the funeral luncheon for our mother Ann. Your delicious luncheon was an honor to her, as one of her greatest joys was having her family all together enjoying a meal like this.

We also wish to thank each member of the WAFB Deacons for the many cards, gift bags, and notes that Ann received from them. Their actions brought a smile to her face and we believe lifted her faith throughout the time she was with us.

May God Bless,
Paul & Julie Hogg
and Family

Easter insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name *Eostre*, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to *Eostre*, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to *Eostre*. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horse-radish and lamb-shaped butter.

April is WAPC's month to help at the McGuffey Food Pantry.

4-5 Volunteers are needed to assist with the distribution Monday, April 14 beginning at 4:30pm.

4166 Rt 40 (by the former Kim's Korner)

Please see Mary Lea if interested.

The Legion is in need of approximately 800 plastic gallon jugs for the annual Christmas Eve Luminary.

Your empty/clean jugs can be dropped of anytime at the Legion's back door or in the stairwell. Thank you for your donations.



April 5	Gino Delbert
April 6	Alexis McCuen
April 9	Janet Burig
April 12	Merl Johnson
April 14	Michele Buckholt
April 15	Jean Sheperd
April 22	Barb Reed
April 22	Amy Snyder
April 29	Mason Garrett
April 30	Helen Buckholt

Have a birthday you want added or removed? The list in our database is VERY outdated. Please let me know!
Susan

Trustees Notes

The Trustees are offering the old safe to anyone who wishes to have it. They are asking that s/he simply make a monetary donation to the church for it of their choosing. Please contact a Trustee or the office if interested

As always, should you see any issue concerning maintenance and/or safety, please contact a Trustee.

Special Notice: "Washington Presbytery's website has been hacked, and as a result spurious emails and texts have been sent out by someone pretending Rev. Powell or an officer of the Presbytery asking for financial help. Please disregard all such requests and if possible, please block the emails or phone numbers."

We would like to welcome

Rev. Eric Powell

to our church family as our interim Pastor.

As he begins his ministry here, he offers his support and service to the congregation. He may be reached on his home phone at

724-743-3933.

Hi West Alex Church Family,

Feb 2025

Melting in the Northeast has begun...for now! We are looking forward to spring.

Winter Break- The boys were all off a week of school which began with some bad weather of snow then rain then ice then more snow. The built up ice layer on our 4" of snow gave the boys opportunities for some hockey on the church parking lot (w sneakers), butt sledding (no sleds needed!), and snow tunnels.

Adoption-Sadly we heard we were not accepted from India to be an adoptive family. There is a new director this year and big families that would've been accepted previously have not been. It was difficult news to hear initially but we've been encouraged trusting the Lord's plans for our family.

Ministry Update

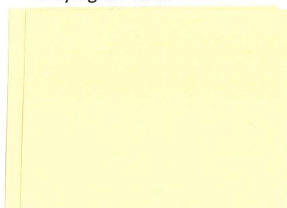
Marriages-A couple Sundays ago the weather kept many folks at home and some area churches closed. Since our church was open one of our ladies brought her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson with her who usually attend a different church. Andy's sermon happened to be about God's plan for marriage in Genesis. The lady messaged me a couple hours later, "Andy did an amazing job on the sermon on a difficult topic! I am still in awe of God's hand leading my daughter and son-in-law to that message today. Not widely known but my daughter shared with me the other day that she made the decision to get a divorce, but after this morning's message she's rethinking...if you and Andy could pray for them I'd appreciate it..." God uses snow storms!

Families-Our February Family Fun Night brought 12 of the 14 area kids (and their parents) that we've been praying for. What a blessing! Similarly, on Sunday a new family with 2 elementary children came. (We had met this family at a 65th anniversary party for one of our senior couples 2 weeks prior).

Please pray for...

- Praise the LORD for families and answered prayers!
- Praise the LORD for Clark's 12th birthday, and for JB (age 10) playing Happy Birthday on his saxophone as we sang!
- Marriages that are struggling like the story mentioned above. We heard this week that 2,000 marriages end in divorce every day :(
- Clark to continue to gain weight amidst his lower esophagus sphincter dysfunction
- Andy** as he preaches and leads us with *grace and truth*. He's doing a great job working through Genesis.
- our congregation to **Know God, Grow together as disciples of Christ, and Go share the love of God in Christ Jesus empowered by the Spirit.**

Praying for YOU!



Praying the Lord draws near to each of you as you welcome a new pastor and grow together in love and grace!
♥ Heather + Andy Nelson





Upcoming events

- April 11*** ***Community Choir's Easter Cantata, 7pm***
- April 13*** ***Palm Sunday Morning Worship 11am***
- April 17*** ***Maundy Thursday Supper 6pm***
Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- April 18*** ***Good Friday Cross Walk 6:30 pm at the cemetery entrance***
- April 19*** ***"Portrayal of the Last Supper" at the Community Center 7pm***
- April 20*** ***Easter Sunrise Service (time TBA) at the town gazebo***
Easter Morning Worship 11:00 am

Know who (and whose) you are

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget — or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

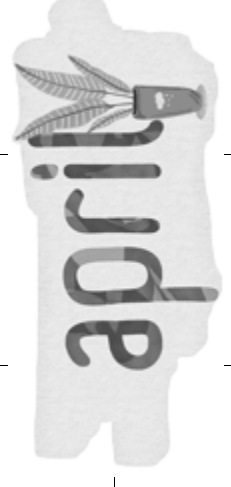
Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Welcome Spring

	1 Session Meeting 7pm Bell practice 6pm Cantana rehearsal 7pm	2	3 Golden Agers noon	4	5
6 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	7 8 Bell practice 6pm Cantana rehearsal 7pm	9 AA Meeting 6pm	10	11 Easter Cantata 7pm	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	14 Trustees Meeting 6:30pm	15 Bell practice 6pm	16 AA Meeting 6pm	17 Maundy Thursday Supper 6pm and Service 7pm	18 Good Friday Cross Walk 6:30pm Cemetery
19 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Town Gazebo time TBA 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	20 21	22 AA Meeting 6pm	23 AA Meeting 6pm	24 25	26 Portrayal of the Last Supper 7pm Community Center
27 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	28 29	30 AA Meeting 6pm			



West Alexander Presbyterian Church
108 Main St
PO Box 303
West Alexander PA 15376

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You are invited to an

Easter Cantata

Presented by the Methodist and
Presbyterian Churches.

April 11, 2025 at 7pm



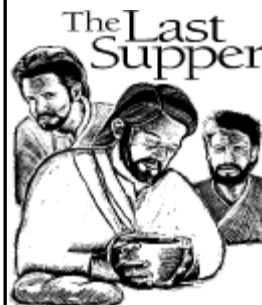
Presbyterian Church
108 Main Street
West Alexander, PA

You are invited to

“Portrayal of the Last Supper”

Hosted by the Methodist Church

April 19, 2025 at 7pm



Community Center
34 N. Liberty Street
West Alexander, PA