

## The Easter Message of Hope

Someone once wrote: *Totally without hope one cannot live. To live without hope is to cease to live.* And I believe there is a great deal of truth in those words.

In the difficult and often confusing world in which we live today, hope, for many people, is something that seems to be short supply. In fact, I would even go so far as to say that in a world of pain, grief and sorrow, of complex family relationships, of problems at work - alongside many other hardships of life causing sadness, loneliness and depression - hope, for many people, has died a death! But hope, I believe, is one of the key Christian attributes and one of the most important gifts we can give to the world today.

Nothing brings hope back to life like Easter. For the Easter message gives us hope in a bewildering world and hope to face the uncertainties of the future. This special day never arrives without its refreshing reminder that there is life beyond this one: True life. Eternal life. Glorious life. Those who live on the 'outside' of hope need an injection of hope (a hope transfusion perhaps!) and Easter certainly gives it. The Easter message is well known - there is no need to prolong it, complicate it or try to explain or defend it.

The facts speak for themselves:

- ◇ Jesus said He would be in the heart of the earth for three days and nights (Matt. 12:40)
- ◇ Later, He said He would suffer... be killed, and be raised up on the third day (Matt. 16:21)
- ◇ Betrayed by Judas, He was placed under arrest, hurriedly pushed through several trials and declared guilty - first of blasphemy and then of treason (Luke 22:70; 23:24)
- ◇ Finally, all the disciples left Him and fled (Matt. 26:56)
- ◇ Alone and forsaken, He endured the torture of scourging, the humiliation of insults and mockery and the agony of that walk to Golgotha (Mark 15:15-22)
- ◇ The horrors of crucifixion followed, leaving Him suspended for six excruciating hours - the last three of which were spent in eerie darkness that fell over the whole land (Mark 15:33).
- ◇ Then - He died. (Matt. 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30)
- ◇ Two men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, took Him down from the cross, prepared the body for burial and placed it in the garden in a new tomb. (John 19:38-41)
- ◇ Because He had predicted, After three days I am to rise again, the chief priests and the Pharisees had the tomb secured by a large stone, set a seal on the stone, and arranged for a Roman guard to watch over the tomb. (Matt. 27:62-66)
- ◇ Before dawn on the third day, a miracle occurred. When astonished people visited the tomb that morning, they found the stone rolled away and the body gone. They were asked by angels, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen just as He said." (Luke 24:5-6; Matt. 28:6)

I cannot fully explain all that happened on that first Easter day in this short column, but the simple fact is that there is something magnificent, therapeutic and reassuring about Easter morning - Hope. And this hope in the resurrected Christ silences the empty message of sceptics and cynics alike. How? Because the evidence of the resurrected Christ can be found in the testimony of many thousands of people who have had their lives transformed by the indwelling presence of Jesus through a personal trust and faith in Him.

Our identity, at this time of Easter celebration, is strengthened as we stand together and proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen - He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This hope can be with us every moment of our life. The prayer of St. Patrick puts it into a much better perspective than I ever could:

*Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.  
Salvation is of the Lord, Salvation is of the Lord, Salvation is of the Christ,  
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us. Amen.*

A HOPE transfusion awaits us, it happens every Easter Sunday - make sure you don't miss it this year. It's guaranteed to change your life!

With every blessing in Jesus' precious name,

Reverend Paul A. Carr

Team Rector, Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry, Chelmsford Diocese, United Kingdom  
www.billericaychurches.org; revpacman.wordpress.com

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ISSUE 4

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- ◆ *Holy Week services schedule*
- ◆ *The Search*
- ◆ *IHN at OGPC 4/8 - 15*
- ◆ *Iron Pigs Game planned*
- ◆ *The Mission Garden*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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Dear OGPC Members,

Time sure is flying, and believe it or not, it has been a little over two months since Pastor Segers has departed OGPC for her new call. A lot has happened since then, and we feel we have been fortunate with the continuity of Rev. Alex Hendrickson covering the pulpit for us for the majority of the time since mid-February. Rev. Hendrickson has graciously agreed to work with OGPC for as long as her availability allows until we can secure an interim pastor to shepherd us through until the next phase of our journey. With that said, Session would like to provide a quick update as to where we are in the process of securing an interim pastor.

Our Committee on Ministry (COM) liaison from Newton Presbytery, Irene Penza, shared the next steps necessary at our February Session meeting. These steps included forming a committee of Session members to draft a Job Description for an interim pastor, as well as the proposed Terms of Call. Session agreed that the chairs of Personnel, Budget & Finance, and Worship & Music would be a well-rounded group of individuals to complete the task at hand, and appointed those committee chairs to draft the necessary documents. These documents were presented to Session at the March meeting for approval and submitted to the COM for their approval on March 19.

At this time, we are in the process of waiting for the Job Description and Terms of Call to be approved by the COM and for the search to begin. Qualified candidates will apply through and be referred to us from Presbytery leadership for consideration, and the interview and selection process will follow.

The timeline for when this will all be finalized is unknown, but we believe that God has a plan for us at OGPC, and it is now time to wait for that plan to be revealed. With faith, prayer, and patience we will be led to the next phase of our leadership here at Old Greenwich.

Sincerely,

Al Marino

Clerk of Session

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### **IHN Host Week April 8 - 15 at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church**

Volunteer Responsibilities:

Breakfast/Lunch - Please bring your donation to the church kitchen at least one day before your assigned date, clearly labeled with IHN and the date to be used.

Dinner volunteers - Please plan to be at church by 5 pm when the guests arrive. Our guests usually need a few minutes to unpack and settle in before dinner, so plan to eat around 5:20 - 5:30. The overnight volunteer will relieve you by 8 pm.

Overnight volunteers - Please arrange to be at church by 8 pm to relieve the dinner volunteers. There will be mattresses ready for use, please bring your own linens, blankets and pillow. A key will be in the kitchen so you can lock the doors for the night. Guests are picked up the next morning 5:30 - 6 am and you are free to go once they have left. Please make sure the doors are locked before you go.

Sign up at: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4AABAE29A1FF2-ihnhost3](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4AABAE29A1FF2-ihnhost3)

Questions? Please contact Sharon Smith at [ssmith@nhvweb.net](mailto:ssmith@nhvweb.net)

## MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP NEWS

### CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL:

|    |                         |    |                       |
|----|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 01 | Sharon Jiorle           | 17 | <b>Brandon Bogyos</b> |
| 02 | <b>Charlie Wojcik</b>   |    | Rick Bartholomew      |
| 03 | Kim Mrotek              |    | Walter Campbell       |
| 04 | John Repko              | 19 | Amy Perkins           |
| 05 | Weston Newbrough        |    | Santa Cercado         |
| 07 | <b>Lorenzo Ricci</b>    |    | <b>Violet Snyder</b>  |
| 08 | Shelley Nazario         |    | <b>Emmett Snyder</b>  |
|    | George Coe              |    | <b>Ella Snyder</b>    |
|    | David Brown             |    | Donald Hannis         |
|    | Jay Cronce              | 20 | <b>Jacob Miller</b>   |
| 09 | Mary Laubach            | 21 | <b>Cora Bishop</b>    |
|    | Sandra Stutzman         |    | Megan Eagleburger     |
|    | Elizabeth Metz          |    | Kevin Grelle          |
|    | Cynthia Jelliffe        |    | Kimberly Maher        |
| 12 | <b>Conor Freer</b>      | 24 | T. Hunter Simonds     |
|    | Gregory Bouton          |    | Carol Lacamera        |
| 13 | Susan Tintle            | 25 | Peter Ruzich          |
|    | Grace Deemer            |    | Melissa Mauricio      |
|    | <b>Nora Ronan</b>       | 26 | <b>Kyle Long</b>      |
|    | <b>Emma Mallory</b>     |    | Elizabeth Buckwalter  |
| 14 | <b>Alivia Kreichelt</b> | 27 | Angela Donnelly       |
| 16 | Amanda Ricci            |    | <b>Brian Whalen</b>   |
|    | Harry Pursel            | 29 | Edward Cichone        |
|    |                         | 30 | Sharon Smith          |
|    |                         |    | <b>Margot Szapacs</b> |

### CELEBRATING APRIL

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

|            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 04/05/1947 | Geraldine & Earl Ihrle      |
| 04/07/2007 | Ian & Daniela Hill          |
| 04/12/1953 | George & Otilie Coe         |
| 04/14/2012 | Alan & Patricia Marino, Jr. |
| 04/16/1983 | Gary & Cathey Yeager        |
| 04/17/2010 | John & Mary Jean Wojcik     |
| 04/19/1965 | John & Barbara Repko        |
| 04/22/1990 | Tim & Suzanne Newbrough     |
| 04/25/1992 | Carl & Kathleen Herrman     |
| 04/26/1975 | Janice & Wayne Kosa         |
| 04/29/1995 | David & Christine Brown     |

***Thank You*** to: **Bill Lee, Tom Alencewicz, Dan Rosa, Marcia Taylor and Heather Todd** for help with clean-up around church; **Bob Luzietti** for help with cleaning; **Don Metz** for purchasing and installing light bulbs in sanctuary

### PRAYER LIST

Please hold the following people in your prayers:  
The family of Rev. Dr. James Chesnutt; the family of Lawrence Falzone, Sharon Jiorle's dad, and especially his wife, Josephine; Barbara Heater's mom, Lenora Decker; Sue Beacht's friend's son, Dylan; Evona Vliet; the family of Deb Calhoun's cousin, Sherry Chambers & friend's daughter, Amira Suggs; Rev. Jim & Marie Chesnutt and family; the family of Doris Bartholomew; Phil Millon's co-worker's wife, Muriel Windolf; Sue Beacht's co-worker, Lydia; Edith Slamp; Charles Slamp (Abington Manor); Don Hannis' sister, Patty; Sue Snyder; Carol Lee Doeringer; Kathleen Scala's friends, Mark Zawadzki & family, Marlene, Loraine and Diane; Dick & Cynnne Gibbins; Geraldine & Earl Ihrle; Jack Reinhard; Marie Smith; Shirley Sloyer; Phyllis Dietz; Mary Laubach; Shelly Papp & family; those serving in our Armed Forces: Will Rimmler

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE

Beginning **Sunday, April 8**, the Christian Ed Committee has decided to move the 9:30 am Sunday school class to correspond with the class that starts after Time With the Young Church. The teachers did not feel it was enough time to prepare the students for confirmation class the following year, and moving the class time allows more instruction time.

Rev. Dr. James Chesnutt, Presbytery Executive Emeritus, entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Cards and notes can be sent to: Marie Chesnutt

30 Westgate Drive  
Sparta, NJ 07871

## BULLETIN BOARD

### WOMEN'S FUN NITE

Another great night organized by Heather Todd on behalf of the Women's Group was had at the State Theater. *Decades Rewind* brought everyone back in time to a few music eras that were appreciated by everyone in the theater, regardless of whether they grew up in the 60's, 70's or 80's. Everyone heard some of their favorite songs. Some people got up and danced, some just clapped their hands and danced in their seats. The show brought singing, dancing, costume changes and live music. A great night was had by all!



The crew from OGPC awaiting their trip back in time through the music of *Decades Rewind*.

Congregational Life coordinated a fundraiser with Cassandra Lesko, of Premier Designs Jewelry, a Christian based company, to help raise money for the annual church picnic. Cassandra donated 50% of the proceeds from the total sales to Old Greenwich. It was a fun-filled afternoon with the Women's Group and their friends! Those who brought a friend had a chance to win \$50 in free jewelry and the winner was Charity Pyatt – congratulations Charity! The Congregational Life Committee and the Women's Group, wish to thank Cassandra for her time and generosity.



The Premier Designs Jewelry display.



Some of the ladies who attended the Jewelry Party.

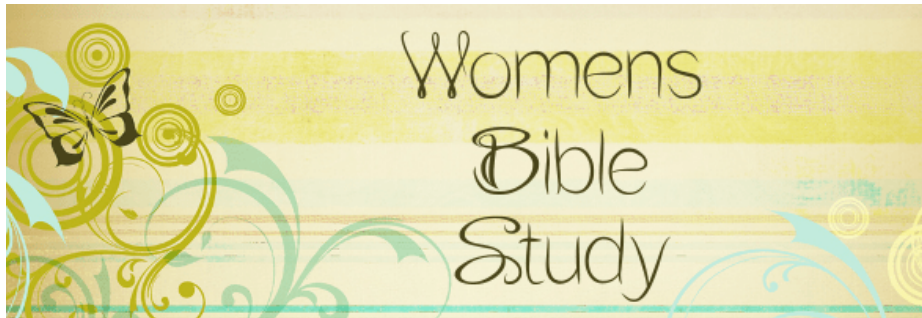
## BULLETIN BOARD - CONT'D

### POST-EASTER WOMEN'S FUN OUTING

On **Saturday, April 7, at 2 pm**, the Women's Fun Group is planning an outing to Columcille Megalith Park to walk the labyrinth and trails. Inspired by the Iona community in Scotland and named after the monk who founded it, this spiritual space includes a stone chapel, walking trails, a labyrinth, in a Stonehenge-style setting. This afternoon outing the week after Easter should assure spiritual refreshment for all who attend.

The park is about a 45 minute, beautiful, country ride from Old Greenwich. Check it out at: [www.columcille.org](http://www.columcille.org)

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### DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Women's Bible Study group has begun the Bible study of "Who is Jesus?"

We meet the **second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am** in the Resource Room at the church. Bring a bag lunch. Read the Gospel of Mark and see Lisa Gray for a book!

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### PLAY BALL!

Congregational Life is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Baseball Game Outing with the Iron Pigs at Coca Cola Park in Allentown, on **Friday, July 27**, at 7:05 pm. A block of 30 seats is reserved - a minimum of 20 required to get the group discount. Tickets are \$11 each (children 3 and under are free if they sit in their parent's lap). Group price includes \$2 credit to apply toward food or other purchases within the park. Fireworks, with Beatles music, are featured following game (weather permitting). Parking \$5 per car - carpooling is strongly suggested. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. The park is VERY kid-friendly and handicap accessible. For more info, please contact Walt or Anita Campbell - 908-479-4737 / [souptime2222@gmail.com](mailto:souptime2222@gmail.com). Cash or check payable to "Anita Campbell." Payment Deadline - Sunday, April 22.



## BULLETIN BOARD - CONT'D

### 2,873 Pounds and Growing

Our Mission Garden, which debuted in 2009, is about to sprout into its 10th year. Last summer we grew, harvested and donated a total of 2,873 pounds of produce for those in need. Included in the total donation was 103 pounds of produce grown by an OGPC member and an OGPC friend in their own home gardens. Our 44' x 87' garden is located in the rear of Greenwich Cemetery. What began as an idea for Summer Sunday School has literally bloomed to fruition thanks to the efforts of many.

We grow a variety of vegetables that get distributed through Norwescap Food Bank in Phillipsburg, NJ. Please consider 'digging in' with your support. Our Sunday School children cannot do it all! We value contributions of any kind.

1. Donate needed funds.
2. Lend a hand at the Initial Garden Planting Event on Sat. 5/12 - 9 am (Rain Date - Sat. 5/19 - 9 am)
3. Volunteer to be a Summer Sunday School Garden Chaperone. (Sundays only, beginning in June)
4. Be a "Weekly Mission Garden Tender." (Volunteer sign-up sheets will be located in the Green Room soon.)
5. Deliver already harvested and bagged produce to the NORWESCAP Food Bank. The Food Bank is open Mon. - Thurs, 8 am - 4 pm; Fri - Sat, 9 am - 12 pm. Volunteer sign-up scheduling will be available at a later date and detailed delivery instructions provided.

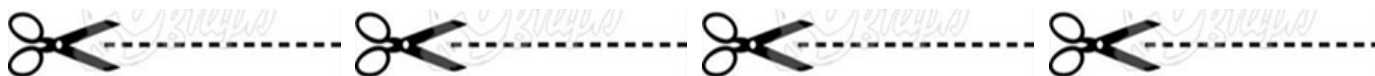
Whether you have a green thumb or two left thumbs, we welcome your support!

*\*For Mission Garden questions, please contact [mission\\_garden@ogpc.org](mailto:mission_garden@ogpc.org) or any individual noted below.*

- Jaelene Slaven [908-581-3864](tel:908-581-3864) / [jaeslaven@comcast.net](mailto:jaeslaven@comcast.net)
- Sally Reinhard [908-479-6220](tel:908-479-6220) / [sreinhard4211@embarqmail.com](mailto:sreinhard4211@embarqmail.com)
- Ernie Maso [908-475-1952](tel:908-475-1952) / [ernie.maso@gmail.com](mailto:ernie.maso@gmail.com)
- Christine Brown [973-477-0753](tel:973-477-0753) / [crissybrown222@hotmail.com](mailto:crissybrown222@hotmail.com)
- Mike Lemons [570-972-3216](tel:570-972-3216) / [ML12504@gmail.com](mailto:ML12504@gmail.com)

**For all questions about becoming a Summer Sunday School Garden Chaperone please contact:**

The Christian Education Committee via the church office at 908-479-4449



Check off where you would like to help (you may choose more than one!) and place form in the "Mission Garden Watering Can" on the windowsill in the narthex. **(Please print clearly)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- I can lend a hand at the Initial Mission Garden Planting in May.
- I am available to be a Weekly Mission Garden Tender.
- I am available to be a Summer Sunday School Garden Chaperone.
- I am available to deliver produce to Norwescap Food Bank in Phillipsburg.

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!**

# APRIL, 2018

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed                                    | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>1<br/>Gr'wich Ringers - 9:30<br/>Easter Worship - 10<br/>Easter Egg Hunt - 11<br/>AA Meeting - 3 pm</p>  | <p>2</p>   | <p>3</p>  | <p>4<br/>Christian<br/>Ed. 7:30 pm</p> | <p>5<br/>BS Vent. Crew<br/>7 pm<br/>Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:30 pm</p>                                     | <p>6</p>   | <p>7<br/>Eagle Scout Cer.<br/>Crawford<br/>Noon<br/>Women's Fun<br/>Outing - Labrynth<br/>&amp; Trails at<br/>Columcille - 2 pm</p> |
| <p>8<br/>Communion Wor. 10<br/>Sun. Sch. Pre-K - Gr. 7<br/>10:20 am<br/>Home Communion<br/>noon<br/>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br/>IHN Host Church</p>       | <p>9<br/>GNS Lunch Bunch<br/>noon<br/>Boy Scouts - 6 pm<br/>Deacons' - 7:30 pm<br/>History Comm.<br/>7:30 pm<br/>IHN Host Church</p> | <p>10<br/>Deborah<br/>Circle Bible<br/>Study - 11:30 am<br/>IHN Host<br/>Church</p> | <p>11<br/>IHN Host<br/>Church</p>      | <p>12<br/>Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:30 pm<br/>IHN Host Church</p>   | <p>13<br/>IHN Host<br/>Church</p>                                | <p>14<br/>IHN Host Church</p>   |
| <p>15<br/>Gr'wich Ringers - 9:30<br/>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br/>Sun. Sch. Pre-K - Gr. 7<br/>10:20 am<br/>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br/>Youth Group - 5:30</p> | <p>16<br/>Boy Scouts - 6 pm<br/>Session - 7:30 pm</p>  | <p>17<br/>Safety Team<br/>7:30 pm</p>   | <p>18</p>                              | <p>19<br/>Worsh. &amp; Music<br/>6:30 pm<br/>BS Vent. Crew<br/>7 pm<br/>Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:30 pm</p> | <p>20<br/>Girl Scout<br/>Swap &amp; Ziti<br/>Dinner<br/>3 pm</p> | <p>21</p>   |
| <p>22<br/>Gr'wich Ringers - 9:30<br/>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br/>Sun. Sch. Pre-K - Gr. 7<br/>10:20 am<br/>AA Mtg. - 3 pm</p>                           | <p>23<br/>GNS Lunch Bunch<br/>noon<br/>Boy Scouts - 6 pm</p>   | <p>24<br/>Daisy Troop<br/>5:45 pm</p>   | <p>25</p>                              | <p>26<br/>Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:30 pm</p>   | <p>27</p>  | <p>28</p>   |
| <p>29<br/>Gr'wich Ringers - 9:30<br/>Sun. Sch. Pre-K - Gr. 7<br/>10:20 am<br/>Youth Group<br/>End of Year Mtg - 2 pm<br/>AA Mtg. - 3 pm</p>         | <p>30<br/>Boy Scouts - 6 pm</p>  |   |  |   |  |   |

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Stewartsville, NJ 08886-2515

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*The Breezeway*

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

|          |                            |         |
|----------|----------------------------|---------|
| March 29 | Maundy Thursday Service    | 7:30 pm |
| March 30 | Good Friday Service        | 7:30 pm |
| April 1  | Easter Celebration Service | 10 am   |



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Contributions deadline is the 15th of each month.

WE'RE ON THE  
WEB!

[www.ogpc.org](http://www.ogpc.org)