

# *The Shepherd's Staff*

Volume 53, No. 4 April 2017



## *Holy Week Services*

### *PALM SUNDAY*

April 9, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

### *MAUNDY THURSDAY*

April 13, 7:00 p.m.

### *COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE*

April 14, 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Boyertown Area Ministerial Association

Location: Butter Valley Community Church, Bally

### *GOOD FRIDAY*

April 14, 7:00 p.m.

### *EASTER SUNDAY*

April 16, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.





Hi Shepherd! As I write this it is hard to believe we are coming into April and are already a quarter of the way through 2017. Even though we just went through the biggest snowstorm of the season, I am eagerly anticipating the coming of spring. The smell of fresh-cut grass, the blossoming of flowers, the planting of vegetable gardens, baseball and the return of beach-going weather run through my mind this time every year. And while the evenings by the fire are always nice, I welcome a return to the warmer months as spring and summer approach.



There is something else I am looking forward to as well and that is our new ***Magnifi* service!** In case you were not there to hear the announcement in March, we are adding a worship service called *Magnifi* to the weekly calendar. It will be held on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. in the main sanctuary. We are planning for a time of worship and then a message. This message, however, will be slightly different in focus from our regular Sunday services.

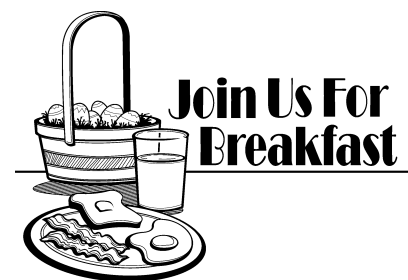
Sunday messages are usually filled with application, meaning they relate the Gospel to our life in a variety of ways. *Magnifi* messages will be more study oriented. We will be going through books and chapters of the Bible with a proverbial 'magnifying glass,' verse-by-verse and line-by-line, with the purpose of learning the meaning by 'zooming in' on the text. In fact that is the purpose of the service, *To expand your understanding of the Word of God so you can expand your relationship with the God of the Word.* And to start our journey, we will *Magnifi* the book of Genesis, starting in the very beginning. I have always been passionate about the creation story and am excited to share that passion with you!

It is also my hope that by gaining an even better understanding of the text of scripture on Wednesday nights, you will be able to take even more away from the application of scripture on Sunday morning. That also means, feel encouraged to **invite your friends!** Even if they attend other churches, they are welcome to join us on Wednesdays. There will be no effort whatsoever to draw them away from their home church, but rather by using what they learn at *Magnifi* they will be better equipped to strengthen their own congregations and more prepared to receive their pastor's message Sunday morning. In this way we can also better Connect with the people in the community around us, which is, if you remember, one of the three ways we want to Connect this year.

You can expect a casual and condensed service, designed to help build your connection with God, which is yet another way we want to Connect better. I should also emphasize that this is not designed to replace the regular Sunday service but rather augment it. Having said that, however, we all understand with summer come summer vacations. Therefore, if you are unable to attend service on Sunday you will have another opportunity to worship. In addition, it will also provide everyone an opportunity to connect with people you might not regularly see on Sunday (yet another one of our Connect goals for this year).

So, with all of that being said, let me **personally invite each of you to *Magnifi Genesis*, starting May 3.** It will be a great way to spend spring and summer Wednesday nights and I look forward to spending them with you all! God bless and see you there!

Collin Monger



## Prime Timer Activities

### Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.  
Pennsburg Diner, Pennsburg  
Register on the Welcome Card

### Montco-Berks Golden Age

Thursday, April 6, 2:00 p.m.  
Butter Valley Community, Bally  
Program: Michael Kropp,  
guitar player



## Youth Group

### Youth Sunday

April 2  
Theme: "Returning to a Child-like Faith"

### Youth Club

April 12 - 6-9 p.m.  
Family Roller Skating  
Pheasantland.

### Children's Church

Pre-K to Grade 4—every Sunday  
during the 10:30 a.m. service.

### Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

### Children & Youth

Toddler—K—Room 14  
Grades 1-3—Room 24  
Grades 4-6—Room 25  
Grades 9—12—Den  
Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8)  
Library

### Adults

Adult—Room 22  
Discussion—Parlor East  
Spiritual growth—FH

# Missions Commitment

## The Mission Commitment

**Project** for April is David and Lee Hall of Marrakech, Morocco.

David continues to serve as pastor of the Marrakech congregation, which is part of the Evangelical Church of Morocco. The congregation is diverse, consisting mainly of sub-Saharan African Christians from over 15 countries, but also including some European members.

When they arrived church attendance was 100 or less, but now is averaging 150-170. David calls this a "blessed problem." They need more room. Since the country is over 99% Muslim, getting all the permissions necessary to expand the church would be difficult. They are considering a tile floor with a tent enclosure, which would be defined as temporary. This would not require government approval.

David also has responsibilities at the national level in the area of worship and music. He has participated in weekend events and seminary classes for the training of musicians and hymnology.

Lee continues to work in discipleship and women's ministries and counseling. While she is not a professional photographer, she is a great camera enthusiast. Recently she put together a new photo book that is called *Morocco, A country of beauty and intrigue*. It is a book which matches scripture passages to pictures of the gorgeous country side of Morocco.



## Youth Missions Fundraisers

**For Summer Mission Trip to Orlando, Florida  
July 26—August 2**

### April 2

Support Envelopes for youth participants will be presented in the foyer during Sunday worship.

### April 22

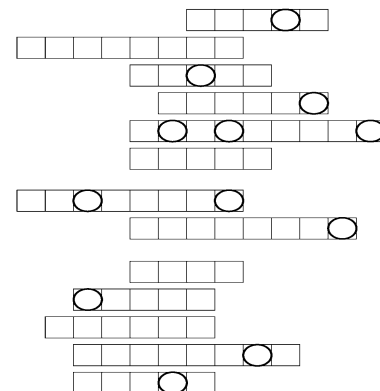
Coffee House Fellowship Hall (watch for details)

**The Vision Project for April** is St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota. St. Joseph's provides residential school for children of the Lakota tribe.

# Puzzle!

After completing this Easter crossword, unscramble the circled letters to discover a special word:

1. What Jesus was wrapped in
2. The site of Jesus' crucifixion
3. One of the rulers who questioned Jesus
4. He washed his hands of Jesus
5. Followers of Jesus
6. He denied Christ
7. A large hill
8. The feast celebrating escape from Egypt
9. Jesus' mother
10. A Jewish teacher
11. The doubting disciple
12. Jesus was mistaken for this
13. One of Peter's other names



\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. cloth, 2. Golgotha, 3. Herod, 4. Pilate, 5. disciples, 6. Peter, 7. mountain, 8. Passover, 9. Mary, 10. rabbi, 11. Thomas, 12. gardener, 13. Simon; resurrection



## The Role of the Cross

If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony.

...

To be "saved" requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*

## Bits and Pieces

**Vacation Bible School dates for 2017** are June 19-23. Please contact Diane Smith about your interest in being involved.

**Charisma, Today's Christian Living and the Upper Room** are regularly available at the literature rack in the sanctuary foyer. Use the attached envelopes for payment (place in offering plate or in mail slot on church office door.) The magazines are \$2.50. The Upper Room devotional is by donation. (they cost about \$1.00 each.)

**Congratulations** to Scott and Rachel Landis on the birth of son, Mason Scott, on March 26, 2017.

**Prayers of sympathy** are offered for the Mertz and Moser family on the death of Mae Mertz on March 27.

**Issachar Imperitive** will host the Biblical World View Institute at Hope Community Church, Gilbertsville on March 31 and April 1. J. Warner Wallace will speak. Contact [Issacharimperitive.com](http://Issacharimperitive.com) to register.

## Sunday Services

**8:00 a.m.**

Traditional Service

**10:30 a.m.**

Contemporary Service

April 2

**Youth Sunday**

April 9

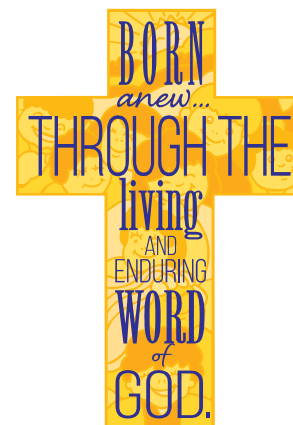
Palm Sunday

April 16

Easter

April 30

Bring A Friend Sunday



1 PETER 1:23, NRSV



"Hope the choir does some hip-hop for Easter!"

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Collin Monger

Senior Pastor

Derrick Whitmore, John Brown

Associate Pastors

Shepherd of the Hills' regular office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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