

April 2017

### DATES TO NOTE:

**April 9** Palm Sunday

**April 13** Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm

April 14 Good Friday Service 7:30om

April 16 Easter Sunday 6:15am Sunrise Service in Downing Park 8:30am and 10:45am Worship Services

April 23 Earth Day Green Faith Sunday Labyrinth Dedication

> April 29 Tag Sale

The Disciple

# HOLY WEEK @ FPCY



Palm Sunday, April 9—Worship Services at 8:30am and 10:45am Maundy Thursday, April 13—Worship at 7:30pm Good Friday, April 14—Sanctuary is Open All Day—Worship at 7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

SUNRISE SERVICE (DOWNING PARK) AT 6:15AM, WORSHIP AT 8:30AM AND 10:45AM

### Easter – Celebrating the Cosmic Sabbath

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen·

~ from the Easter hymn "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Finally – spring is here! The ice and snow have melted, the sun is shining and the air is warmer, the birds are singing. It feels like the whole earth is taking a deep breath and re-emerging from its winter slumber. In a similar way, our Lenten Sabbath journey also finally brings us to the joyful celebration of Easter. But what does Easter have to do with Sabbath-keeping?

A little history might be helpful here. In the first centuries of Christianity, many of the earliest believers were Jewish Christians. Since Jesus said that "he came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it" and most certainly kept the Sabbath himself, these faithful Jews continued to follow the Fourth Commandment and keep the Sabbath on Saturdays. Thanks to Jesus' resurrection from the dead, however, Sunday also became an important day in the week. Early Christians gathered together after work on the first day of the week as well, to worship God, celebrate the Lord's Supper and share a meal and fellowship with one another. Then in 321 C.E., Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire and established Sundays as the official day for both rest and worship. Ever since, Christians have both kept Sabbath and celebrated the good news of our faith on Sundays.

However, the connection between Easter and Sabbath is much more than a scheduling issue. For the Jews, Sabbath is the culmination of their week, the day to be renewed in their faith and identity as God's children. Sabbath is a weekly reminder of how God provides for all their needs and gives them strength for the coming week. Sabbath is a preview of life in right relationship with God, one another and all the earth, the culmination of all our hopes and God's plans.

For Christians, the good news of Easter morning takes our Sabbath celebration to the cosmic level. In his death and resurrection, Christ has conquered sin and death and offers new life to us and the whole world. When we gather for worship, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper, when we rest in

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### The Disciple

#### (Continued from page 1)

God's grace and goodness, we also are renewed in our faith and our identity as God's resurrection people called to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world. Our Easter Sabbath celebration is a foretaste of God's kingdom on earth. As we keep the Sabbath, we look forward to the promise of God's endless Sabbath day and eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The point of any Lenten discipline is not just to do something different for six weeks and go back to life as usual. It is to deepen our faith and grow closer to God. As you have thought more intentionally about the Sabbath, as you have stopped, rested, embraced and feasted during Lent, how might you continue this life-giving practice beyond Easter? We have gathered a wonderful collection of Sabbath resources in our Church Library – please check them out and use them to continue your Sabbath-keeping and growing in faith. Keeping the Sabbath leads us to be Easter people, people of resurrection and new life.

We hope you will join us for all of our services during Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – that we can join together in proclaiming the good news: 'Tis the spring of souls today! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

See you in church,



# EASTER OFFERING collected through april

Supports Midnight Run and the Diaper Ministry



Mark checks "Easter", Give online at http://tinyurl.com/FPCYEaster or Text FPCY Easter to 73256 (Standard text messaging rates may apply)

Progressive Dinner
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY and YOU'RE INVITED!

Image: Control of the part of the

This is a great event and offers a chance to meet new friends or become better acquainted with other Church friends over appetizers and cocktails beginning at 5:30p.m. At 7p.m. we will separate into smaller groups at the home of various hosts. The evening will end with desserts and coffee back at the Church.

To make this party a success, we will need hosts for dinner. You provide the house and guests bring the dinner. Wine will be provided as well several vegetarian specialties. The Committee welcomes any suggestions for the dinner menu or wine favorites. If you would like to help plan the event please let us know.

Please register online at http://tinyurl.com/FPCYpd2017 or on the Sign Up Poster located in the Gathering Space. We will be collecting the money on Sunday May 21st between services. It is also possible to pay online with the registration. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. For any questions please contact Sue Nelson, Gloria Coccodrilli, or Louise Fang.

### Welcome to FPCY's Newest Members!

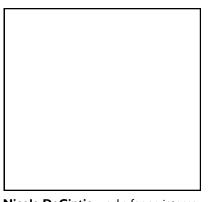


**Monika Biscoglio** was born in Wunstorf, Germany and lives in Yortkown Heights. She has a daughter, Christine, and a son, Michael. She enjoys retirement which gives her the time to attend bible studies and become an active member of FPCY.





Abby and Andrew Cross, grew up in Ohio where they met in the brass section of a city-wide high school youth wind symphony. They didn't get married until reconnecting in Boston nearly a decade later. The Crosses live in Yorktown with their children Jamie (7) and Clara (almost 4) and cats Filibuster & Mew. Andrew is a research scientist for IBM in the field of Quantum Computing; he enjoys skiing and playing piano. Abby is trained in music and librarianship and works as a technical writer for IBM. She loves singing with the choir and cross-stitching irreverent sayings in her free time.



Nicole DeCintio works for an international moving and logistics company in Norwalk, CT, in quality control and operations. She lives in Yorktown with her partner, Koreen and their "kids," Lenny (canine) and Bella (feline). She is happy to be a new member of the church!







**Jackie and Matt Sheridan** enjoy exploring family-friendly activities around Westchester with their two daughters, Madison (4) and Lexy (2). Jackie is an avid Seinfeld fan and enjoys watching stand up comedy in person. Matt enjoys being active outside, playing pick-up basketball and reading about history.



Lin and John Watkins, have lived in Somers, just off Mahopac Avenue, since 1975. They have two adult daughters and an 8-year old grandson. John is an attorney with offices in White Plains and Lin has a BA from Queens College CUNY. Lin has been a member of our choir for a number of years.



**Brett Yarris** lives in Yorktown Heights, NY with his wife Christine and daughter Thea. He is the CEO of BioKinetiX Fitness Technology, a private physical education company for children with special needs, and he is the chairman of the Westchester/ Fairfield region for Autism Speaks.



### Ecological Reflection—Celebrate God's Creation! by Connie Knapp



God created humanity in God's own image...and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take care of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground." Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened. God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. **Genesis 1:27-31 CEB** 

This Lenten season I have been acutely aware of nature, particularly the plants of the earth. Our daffodils are very confused; they started to form buds and now they are under over a foot of snow! And I wonder how our farmers are handling all of this. God said "I now give you all the plants on the earth...and the trees..." and God could have added, "and I give you warm weather in February and snow in March...deal with it!" The farmers at my CSA, Roxbury Farm, let us know that "It is spring in the greenhouse! Onions and kale are up. More seeds going into trays. Just a few more months until we get to eat from our fields again."

I don't have a greenhouse, and during the winter I can forget my connection to God's creation. I'm not in the garden the way I am in the other three seasons; we're not eating the vegetables that come from our CSA. We're mostly eating food from the freezer, vegetables from last year's bounty, as we wait for the growing season to start.

And so we have our own "death and resurrection" going on. Our garden is basically "dead." Oh I know that there are micro-organisms in the soil, working their "magic" as they prepare for spring. But when I look out all I see is white—our raised beds are covered. Just as in Lent, I look for signs of hope and resurrection. I see the beginnings of crocuses, and my spirit lifts. Winter might soon be over.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the Teutonic word Lent originally meant no more than the spring season. The word also has connections to Old German, and might even refer to the lengthening of days as the vernal equinox approaches. The Latin name for the fast is Quadragesima, derived from the Sunday which was the fortieth day before Easter.

Lent will soon be over. Even as we look at the snow blanketing our gardens, we know that the promise of spring is around the corner, the hope of Easter awaits. Make time to notice the miracle of God's creation. The Common English Bible tells us that "God saw everything that he had made; it was supremely good." Not just good, supremely good.

This Lent let us all find new ways to "take care of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground."

## Here are some of the projects we have going on for the Spring.



### Healing Sacred Sites: A Lenten Journey — Satur-

day, April 8, 2017, 10:00am—12:00pm. Enjoy a ride on the Peekskill Trolley as we tour different sites in our own backyard to learn about the environmental impacts of local industry and development. We will see examples of pollution and degradation, as well as examples of faithful stewardship, revitalization and environmental justice. Organized by HRP Green, a partnership in our Presbytery. \$10 Adults, \$5 Children, \$20 per family with scholarships available. 4th grade &

up. Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healing-sacred-sites-tour-a-lenten-journey-tickets-32054532971.

- We are working on our **Earth Day** service for April 23. We'd love to have help. Let Connie Knapp or Donna Gresh know if you'd like to be part of the planning and the service.
- Our **labyrinth** is ready for dedication. Our community celebration will take place on April 23rd at 12:30pm. All are welcome!





### **Deacons'** Corner

### We're Here to Serve

words & music by Sarah Moore (song from Vacation Bible School)

How many needs are in this world? How many needs are in this world? Seems too much for any boy or girl Start with one and when you're done, Start all over again.

How simple the message of the Gospel really is when put into words children can understand. But how do we know we are here to serve? Answer: Because Jesus our Lord and Master has shown us how to serve and told us to do so.

The Gospel of John tells of the time during the Last Supper that Jesus took off his robes, tied a towel around himself and began to wash his disciples feet. Peter was adamant. "No, Master you will not wash my feet!". Jesus continued what he was doing and answered Peter saying, that unless he allowed Jesus to wash his feet, Peter would not be able to partner and work with him in building the Kingdom.

But how quickly Peter changed the way he saw what Jesus was doing and exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well....not just my feet!" When Jesus was finished he told his Apostles, ".... I am your Lord and Master. I have given you all an example to follow. Do as I have done to you....that is the pathway of blessing." For the complete account of this story see John chapter 13.

What a humble act out Savior performed! What an

### Food Pantry Item-of-the-Month

# **Canned Fruit**

Next Dates: April 8 & 22 9 to 11 am

incredible glimpse our Gospels are into Jesus' true character and the character lesus wants all of us to adopt. As Christians we are to follow Jesus' example of ministering to and serving one another. BUT, how many

times have you wondered

just how you could serve? How you could help? There are as many ways as there are people, really!

We all have such varied and wonderful talents and abilities. All we need to do is ask ourselves, "What can I do to help build God's Kingdom, what can I do to serve?

When you decide to see that we are all needed, all required to do our part in God's Kingdom, when you realize that the only thing that really matters is our relationship with God, each other and the rest of God's creation and when you ask prayerfully what you can do.... the answer will come.

(Refrain) Find a Place where you can serve. Lend a hand to heal a hurt. Make a difference in your world. We all are here to serve.

What can YOU do? Ask for a sign. You'll get it! It may be in the form of a phone call from a friend or neighbor in need. It may be an appeal you see in the Sunday bulletin. It may come during a commercial break on TV. You might get a picture of what you can do in a dream of from reading an article in the newspaper.

Here at the Fist Presbyterian Church of Yorktown there are almost unlimited ways in which you can get involved and participate. Are you handy? Can you help build a wall, set up some shelves, carry and stack groceries. On the lighter side, can you transport someone to a doctor's appointment or a church activity? Can you pick up the phone and ask someone you haven't seen in a while how they are doing? It doesn't matter how we start .... just that we each start to commit ourselves over an over to trusting in God's love for us and each of His creations. When we realize the awesomeness of this we can't help but want to get involved and be part of the building of the Kingdom.

Saint Francis of Assisi said it so well at the end of his famous prayer - "As much as we give - that much we are given.....I die to myself...at last I am living!"

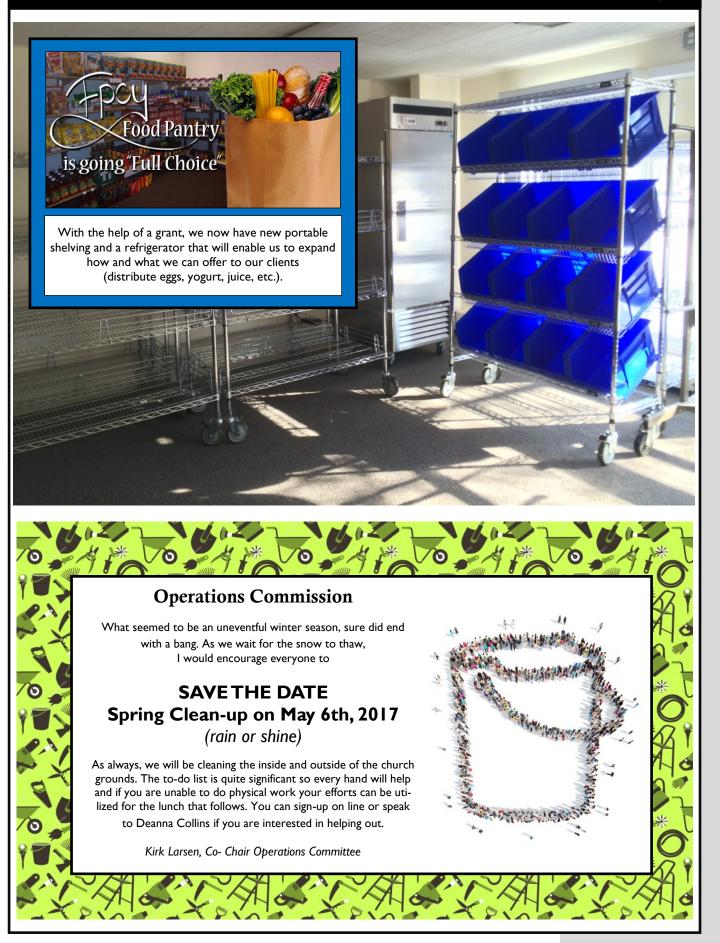
There are many people who presently work alongside our Deacons on an ongoing basis in various of their ministries - such as "Visitation," "Transportation," "School Supplies" and the "Food Pantry." We are grateful to all who contribute their loving service with us. We are grateful as well to those who support our ministries financially by making their donations to the Deacon's Fund and donating food items to our pantry basket in the Gathering Space. Won't you think about joining us as well? God Bless you all!

Carol Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons



Instagram

### Connecting with God, One Another and the World



### The Disciple



#### Save the Dates

April 9 Middle School Youth 4:30 – 6 pm High School Youth 6 – 7:30 pm

April 23 Middle School Youth 4:30 – 6 pm High School Youth 6 – 7:30 pm

June 10 Progressive Dinner

# FPCY YOUTH

Thanks to all the volunteers that came out for our first ever Parents' Night Out on March 25th! Thanks for making the evening so much fun! We hope to do another Parents Night Out in the Fall, so stay tuned for a date for more fun with the younger members of our church family!

Speaking of dates, Youth Groups will be meeting on April 9th and 23rd this month, so mark those in your calendar. Middle School 4:30 - 6 and High School 6 - 7:30. We'll also get the chance to dedicate and start using the Labyrinth on April 23rd, so watch for more details for that special occasion!

In May, we hope to get outside and do a little hiking as a group, so if you like the out-of-doors, get your sneakers and hiking boots ready.

And don't forget to mark the annual Progressive Dinner on your calendar: June 10th. For the second year, we will have a dinner house set aside for Middle and High School Youth. So talk to your families and sign up soon - it's never too early!

All Youth Group activities are open to all Middle and High School Youth whether you're new to Youth Group or have been coming all year. Reach out to Steph Hare with any questions! youth@fpcyorktown.org 914-826-1227





# Summer Camp @ Holmes

For more information on camp opportunities, go to: holmescamp.org and click on "Summer Camp."

If cost is a concern, there are scholarships are available. Please speak to Chip or Tami.

## New in the Church Library

Forget the blizzard of March, think spring! Two new books in the church library can help.

On April 23 we will dedicate our labyrinth. Get a head start with **Walking the Labyrinth;** *a Spiritual and Practical Guide* by Sally Welch (254 W). In addition to general background information on labyrinths their construction, chapter 5 "Using a Labyrinth" has suggestions for both individual and group experiences, and there are several sample liturgies for Advent and Lent at the end of the volume.

Ways to Help Save the Earth; How You and Your Church can Make a Difference (261.8 B). Author Rebecca Barnes outlines fifty ways in which we can help fight global warming, making the connection between stewardship of the earth and living one's faith. Each idea includes specific suggestions (sun-baked brownies anyone?) for us as both individuals and members of a faith community. (A related title, already in the library, is *Green Faith; Mobilizing God's People to Save the Earth*, by Fletcher Harper [261.8 F].)



Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

### Connecting with God, One Another and the World



Hard to believe, but Easter is just around the corner! We look forward to celebrating with you and your children.

We are finishing up our Lenten study on "The First Sin" and soon will be starting our Palm Sunday and Easter unit. As many parents know, Easter can be a bit difficult to explain to a sensitive or inquisitive kid. In encouraging parents to observe Lent and Holy Week with their children, Rev. Beth Herrinton-Hodge reminds us that:

We can tell our children that even Jesus experienced death and burial, but death was not the end for Jesus. Neither is death the end for us, for Jesus promises to welcome us to a life beyond any wonderful thing we can know. This is our hope forever and ever. ...

The brightness and joy of Easter morning stand as an antidote to the solemn passion of Holy Week. The reality of life is that sadness, pain, and disappointment exist. All children, as well as adults, have experienced these emotions on some level in their lives. Easter morning and Jesus' resurrection stand in our faith tradition as ringing affirmations that there is good. God is good. Light shines and darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5)!\*

Discover

On March 26, our 4th-grade students will begin the 8-week Bible Skills seminar led by Barbara Humphrey. We are blessed by Barbara's ministry with our children (and also Heidi Haring, who has graciously agreed to assist with this year's class).



As the fourth-graders move out of the Spark rotation, we will welcome our preschoolers into the rotation! We have had an amazing group of preschoolers this year (one of our largest classes each week!). We'd like to thank Alison Cordone, Joanne Campoli, Debbie Flynn and Judi Baddeley for everything they have done to make the preschool class so special.

Peace, Michele Mosca and Jessica Mayes Co-Superintendents



Get Ready for Yorktown Cooperative VBS 2017 Discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God.

July 10 to 14 ~ 9 am to 12 noon at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Teen Training ~ July 5 to 7 ~ 10 am to 12 noon Go to **cokesburyvbs.com/yorktown** to register Questions? Contact Tami Seidel (914) 245-2186 ~ www.FPCYorktown.org

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### The Disciple

# Thank you for another successful concert season!

Plans are already underway for the next exciting season.

Please consider becoming a patron of the 2017-2018 Concert Series. Simply make a tax deductible donation of \$50 or more.

Here are a few ways to donate:

I.) Drop a check marked "concert patron" into the offering plate

### 2.) Visit http://tinyurl.com/FPCYconcerts or scan the QR code below with your smart phone



3.) Text FPCY Concerts \$50 to 73256 standard text messaging rates may apply



16th Annual Christmas Concert

Handel's Messiah ~ Plus Saturday December 3 at 7:30pm

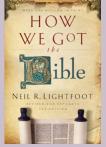


# **Adult Education Commission**

Our Sunday morning Lenten study will focus on Sabbath Keeping, complementing the worship theme for Lent. We'll be reading 24/6, by Matthew Sleeth. Books will be available every Sunday for a \$10 donation. Come learn along with us why keeping the Sabbath is not just a commandment, but also a good idea. Come every week, every other week, or even just once-everyone is welcome at all times! Members



of the Adult Education planning team will be leading the discussions.



Our Thursday morning class continues studying how we got the Bible. We're viewing lectures by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson from Emory University provided by The Great Courses. We're supplementing the lectures with readings in How We Got the Bible by Neil R. Lightfoot. Join us for one or more Thursday-it's fine if you can't be there every week (but you won't want to miss the lectures and discussionswe're all fascinated by what we are learning). Tami and Connie are co-leading the discussions.

Stay tuned for our post-Easter Sunday Morning Study that is currently in the works.



### Connecting with God, One Another and the World

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The **Knit Togethers** will meet on April 10 & 24 and May 8 & 22.

We are making lap blankets for local nursing homes and hats and mittens for December giving.

Come and join us as we continue to make plans for 2017. All who knit or crochet are welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, in the Library/Room 15. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370 or radke30@msn.com) or Lois Ostling (962-2809)

# Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Wednesday April the 19th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall for a Pizza Party. Pizza, salad and dessert will be on the "HOUSE" but <u>reserva-</u> tions are a must and should be in by Thursday Aprill 3th, a sign up sheet will be on the Seniors bulletin board or call Pat 737-4674. May Lunch Bunch will be Pot Luck on the 17th.



All are welcome!



# Noon Time Meal Preparation

will meet at 1:15 pm

on Tuesday April 11th at the Peekskill Presbyterian Church in Peekskill (705 South Street, Peekskill—use the kitchen entrance off of Washington St). The meal will be served to the Homeless Clients at the Salvation Army on Wednesday, April 12th.

We could use a few more hands to help with the preparation, so if you can spare I to I.5 hours, we could surely use you! Interested in helping? Speak to Pat Prauda. Prayer Shawl Group will meet next on April 5 at 9:30am and April 19 at 10:30am.

Anyone who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. In addition to the regular knit-



ters who come on Wednesdays, we have at least seven off site knitters. Any questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.

On February 19, we celebrated with Karen LaBonte & Mark Linehan as they left to begin their new life in Oregon.





# Jan Peek House

is a shelter for people experiencing homelessness, including several veterans. They depend on a meal from our congregation on the 4th Saturday of each month.

Thank you to Donna Giglio and Nance Thompson along with their

Families for preparing and serving a meal to the Jan Peek clients in February. The March meal will be served Saturday the 25th by Lynda Spring and Monika Biscoglio. We still need a family to work with Beth Coccodrilli and her Family on June 24th and also two families to prepare and serve on Saturday May 27th.

If you would be interested in preparing a meal, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway across from Fellowship Hall. Questions? Speak to Pat Prauda (ppladyofscotland@aol.com or 737-4674)

First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown 2880 Crompond Road Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Non-Profit Organization Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Permit No. 20

#### Bio umosylocycly (mosylocycly) umosylocycly (mosylocycly)

8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Green Team, Youth Bells		9:30am Disciple 4 1:15pm Noontime Meal Prep (Peekskill Pres)	9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle	10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir		9am Food Pantry
9 Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:30pm MS Youth 6:00pm HS Youth	10 10:00am Knit Togethers	7:30pm Session 11 9:30am Disciple 4 7:30pm Worship Design Team	7:00pm Disciple 4 12 7:00pm Disciple 4	13 Maundy Thu 10:00am Adult Bible Study 7:30pm Service 8:30pm Choir	14 Good Friday 7:30pm Service	15
16 Easter Sunday 6:15am Sunrise Service at Downing Park followed by Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation	17 Easter Monday Office Closed	18 9:30am Disciple 4 7:30pm Mission & Operations	19 9:00am Stewardship 10:30am Prayer Shawl 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Disciple 4	20 I 0:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	21	22 Battle of Yorktown 9am Food Pantry 6:00pm Jan Peek Meal
23 Earth Day 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 12:30pm Labyrinth Dedication 4:30pm MS Youth 6:00pm HS Youth	24 10:00am Knit Togethers	25 9:30am Disciple 4 7:30pm Education/ Communications	26	27 I 0:00am Adult Bible Study 4pm Tag Sale Drop-Off 6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	28 I:00pm-5:00pm Tag Sale Drop-Off	29 9:00am-4:00pm Tag Sale 9:30am VBS Adult Leader Training @SALC
30 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:30pm Confirmation Dinner with Session	April					