



APRIL 2023

United Fellowship Lutheran Church

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Keep collecting for Lenten Food Pantry Boxes! Due after Easter. 	All loaf cake orders due Sunday the 9th.	The Hymnal Drive continues! Our goal is 60 hymnals - we are at 42! 	<i>SUNDAY SCHOOL (SS):</i> 9:00 AM <i>WORSHIP SERVICE</i> 10:15 AM	<i>S Sanctuary</i> <i>FH Fellowship Hall</i> <i>K Kitchen</i> <i>L Lounge</i>	<i>SS Sunday School</i> <i>CR Choir Room</i> <i>QR Quilters Room</i>	<i>1</i> -UFLC Outdoor cleanup 9am - ? -Egg Hunt @ St. John's 10am-12pm
2 -SS 9am -Worship 10:15am with the Reading of The Passion and Holy Communion -Executive Cmte Mtg PALM SUNDAY	3 -AA Mtg 9am (FH)	4 -A Place to Belong Sr. Center 10am-2:30 pm (FH)	5 -Finance Mtg 10am -Quilters 9:30am-12:30pm (QR) -Bell Choir 6-7pm Chancel Choir 7-8pm	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship service with Holy Communion 7pm	7 GOOD FRIDAY Tenebrae Worship service 7pm	8
9 -Easter Dawn Service @ Hay's Cemetery 6:30am (weather permitting) -NO SS or Fellowship Hour -Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am RESURRECTION SUNDAY	10 -AA Mtg 9am (FH) -Food Pantry Delivery 9am OFFICE CLOSED	11 -A Place to Belong Sr. Center 10am-2:30 pm (FH) -6pm Council Mtg (L)	12 -Quilters 9:30am-12:30pm (QR) -Bell Choir 6-7pm Chancel Choir 7-8pm	13 -Safe Harbor meal Delivered -Food Pantry 6-7:30pm	14 -Fundraiser pick ups	15
16 -SS & Practice 9am -Worship 10:15am -Youth Easter Program "The Colors of Easter" -Property Mtg -Social Ministry Mtg -Worship & Music Cmte Mtg	17 -AA Mtg 9am (FH) -Strawberry Festival Meeting 6pm	18 -A Place to Belong Sr. Center 10am-2:30 pm (FH) -Christian Ed Mtg 6:30pm	19 -Quilters 9:30am-12:30pm (QR) -Bell Choir 6-7pm Chancel Choir 7-8pm -Girl Scouts 7-8pm (FH)	20 -Safe Harbor meal Delivered -Food Pantry 6-7:30pm -Fellowship & Community Building Mtg. 6pm (L)	21	22
23 - SS 9am -Worship 10:15am -New members received -Special Congregational Mtg -Annual Mission District Assembly 4pm @ Arndt's.	24 -AA Mtg 9am (FH) -GSCNS Board Mtg 6pm	25 -A Place to Belong Sr. Center 10am-2:30 pm (FH)	26 -Quilters 9:30am-12:30pm (QR) -Ladies' Bible Study 12p -Bell Choir 6-7pm -Chancel Choir 7-8pm -Girl Scouts 7-8pm (FH)	27	28 -NE Penn Synod Spring Fling & Service Event	29 -NE Penn Synod Spring Fling & Service Event
30 -SS 9am -Worship 10:15am -Executive Cmte Mtg -Service of Healing, Potluck following worship						



OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Bangor had the vision to extend the use of our outdoor grove for our community. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we found that our grove provided a new opportunity to worship together before we opened for indoor worship in late fall. Our vision took on a new reason: to make the grove more accessible and available for more use to complement worship.

The first step identified was building a walkway to make the grove easy to enter and exit. We applied for a grant from the Synod Witness and Service Team Ministry and received it. (We also applied for a special ELCA grant but did not receive the ELCA grant.) As buying supplies became an issue, we needed to apply for a second Witness and Service grant. We received this grant in June of 2022, which enabled us to complete the walkway for our 50th Anniversary picnic and joint worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Mt. Bethel.

Since the completion, we have held several outdoor worship services. We have also added "Faith by Firelight", a monthly gathering for anyone who wants to be in God's beautiful creation, play a few bible trivia games and enjoy s'mores. God has blessed our congregation with this beautiful space, and we keep visioning and planning for ways to make it a safe haven for our community and us. We are thankful that this grant was made possible through mission support given by congregations in our Synod.



Tragedy in Our Midst: R.M. Palmer Candy Company Disaster

Here in our Synod, on Friday, March 24, 2023, the R.M. Palmer Candy Company in West Reading, PA suffered a catastrophic explosion in one of their manufacturing buildings. This disaster killed 7 people, injured at least dozen more individuals, and changed the literal landscape of the borough of West Reading.

God is present with those who watch, weep, and wonder; those who supply material and spiritual support; and, those who walk alongside the R.M. Palmer community.

How are we helping?

- Synod ministers and other leaders have been on the ground since the explosion.

There will be a prayer vigil in West Reading at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 31st.

Information is here: [West Reading vigil](#). I plan to be there myself.

The Berks County Community Foundation set up a community fund in conversation with the United Way. Information and a donation link is here: [West Reading Fund](#). *The offering from next week's Christ Service will go towards this fund.*

Pastor Bruce Osterhout of Bethany Lutheran Church, West Reading shared key points with many of us yesterday afternoon, from his perspective; [his writing](#) follows my post, see below.

Please pray with me:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this week and night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen. (ELW Evening Prayer)

O God, our very present help in trouble, bring hope and courage to all who are affected by this explosion as they wait in the 'now what?' Bring assurance that you will be with them in whatever lies ahead. We pray for first responders, debris clearers, funeral directors, water bearers, medical and social work personnel, and Palmer co-workers, for you are our refuge and strength. Support families in their grief. You are God, and we need you! We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (adapted from ELW Pastoral care, page 174)

We are Stronger Together in Christ,

Bishop Christopher deForest