

# GREENSTONE GAZETTE

Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)  
497 W. Christine Road  
Nottingham, PA 19362-9760

**May 2019**

**Phone: 610-932-0556**

**E-mail: office4npc@gmail.com**

**Website: www.nottinghampc.org**



We the people of Nottingham Presbyterian Church strive to be Christ-centered, friendly and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We are called to surrender our individual desires in order to do God's will. We are led by God to be a light in this world by: • Bringing the love of Jesus to our community with an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment. • Expanding our missions and worship experiences to meet the needs of the community and the world. • Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. • Seeking to develop partnerships with local and global organizations in pursuit of God's vision.



**Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that he will consummate his work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

Confession of 1967, 9.26



Supper at Emmaus (1602/3) by Michaelangelo da Caravaggio, National Gallery, London

***Nottingham Presbyterian Church—Bringing the love of Jesus to our community with an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment.***

## **Celebrate with us during this EASTER SEASON**

### **Why is everything white at church?**

Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a *season*. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a "week of weeks"), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord.

The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church.

Of course, Easter really isn't just a *season* either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11), called to "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for fifty days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter — as we await its completion in the fullness of Christ's reign.

# Nottingham Presbyterian Church GREENSTONE GAZETTE

May 2019 Newsletter Pastoral Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter we are in the midst of Holy Week. When you read it, Easter will have been celebrated and we will be in the midst of the season of Easter heading toward Pentecost. Both times are moments of waiting – knowing what is coming, anticipating the next event, preparing even, but waiting. This is true, of course, of all of Christian life. We await Christ's coming again even though for this event we do not know its exact arrival or even if it will come in our lifetime. We anticipate with trust that the day will eventually arrive, and prepare for it, but also must wait. Waiting does not have to be passive. In fact, in Christian faith, waiting is a very active status. We wait upon the Lord's instruction. We wait (as in serve) upon one another, and upon the least of these as we would wait upon Jesus Christ. This is Christ's instruction to his disciples, and to all who would follow Christ, at the Last Supper. But what exactly does it mean to wait and serve?

This question came to me as I read today's devotional in an online devotional I use – d365. This week's devotionals have been written by Bruce Reyes-Chow, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I respect and admire his writings. The devotional was based on John's description of Jesus washing the disciples' feet and his commandment to the disciples to serve as he has served them. The devotional was followed by this prayer: "God, give me the courage to serve more and be served less, and in all that I do, let me have a heart, mind, and soul for service. Amen." I like this prayer, but I also found myself a little disturbed. It took some thinking for me to realize what was troubling me.

In my years of ministry, I have observed that some of the people who are most willing to serve others have the most difficulty allowing others to serve them. I do not think they consciously consider the inequity of this attitude. They usually feel they have enough resources (faith, financial, psychological or other) to handle any problems that they have, and that others just have not been blessed with as many resources. They feel other peoples' problems are greater than their own. They truly are concerned to share the blessings they have received. I certainly do not want to discourage anyone from serving others. What I do want us all to consider is what serving means.

Serving others in Christ's name and manner does not mean always taking an attitude of "let me do for you what you cannot do for yourself" which can lead to a sense of inferiority on the part of the recipient (and even, at times, a sense of superiority on the part of the one serving). Unlike Jesus' Incarnation and death on the cross whereby Jesus obtained for us a reconciliation with God that we cannot achieve for ourselves, the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus was an action which the disciples could have done for themselves but which Jesus did out of love. To be clear, the Incarnation and all that it entailed was also done out of love. Love can be shown in various ways.

Serving in love is a gift which restores dignity and engenders hope. This is a wondrous feeling when we are able to perform it. It should also be a wondrous feeling to receive it. We deny others this gift when we are too proud to receive their gift of service. On the other hand, receiving with thanksgiving is very different from expecting or demanding service as our right. Humility and grace are the key components of the service which Christ commands us to give and to receive.

The Glory to God hymnal contains a marvelous hymn written by Richard Gillard. The first verse reads: "Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too." The final verse of this beautiful and challenging hymn is so appropriate for the Easter season: "When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony." Harmony requires notes that vary in tone and timing, yet flow together to create a beautiful sound. In our service to one another we acknowledge that we all have times of need, that we need one another as we need God.

So to Bruce Reyes-Chow's lovely and appropriate prayer, I would add "Give me the courage as well, O Servant Lord, to receive gratefully the service that others might offer to me in your name, knowing that we need each other."

May the grace of the Easter season be a blessing to you, both in serving and being served, that together we may sing and proclaim God's holy glory to all the world in the fullness of harmony!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Merritt



# Nottingham Presbyterian Church GREENSTONE GAZETTE

## May Volunteers

### Readers:

5 Dar Gray  
12 Gerry Davis  
19 Nina Hansen  
26 Brooke Glover

### Greeters:

5 The Dewees Family  
12 John & Anna Durbano

### Deacon of the month:

Dar Gray

### Communion Servers

#### May 5

Dar Gray  
Jerry Jackson  
Cindy Sudnikovich  
Chris Ulrich

### Communion Prep Team:

Nina Hansen  
Cindy Sudnikovich

## June Volunteers

### Readers:

2 Jim Lewis  
9 Tenille Dewees  
16 Ruth Ann Sumner  
23 Cindy Sudnikovich  
30 Natalie Meixell

### Deacon of the month:

Alice Witmer

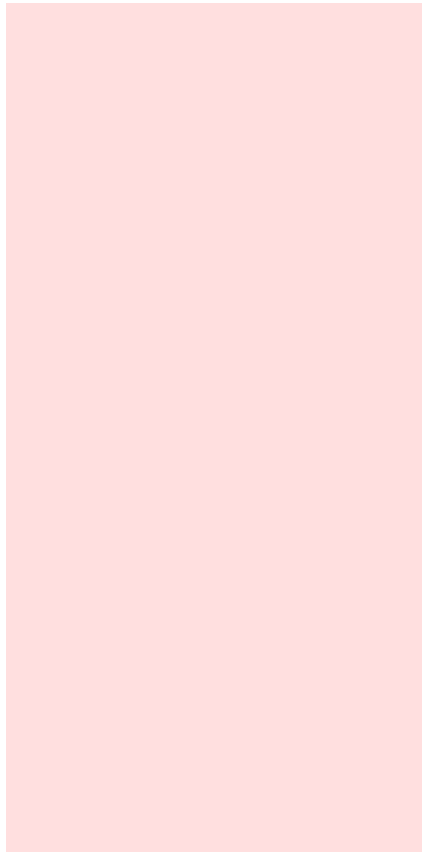
### Communion Prep Team:

Nina Hansen  
Cindy Sudnikovich

**Our website:**  
**Nottinghampc.org**

**The Story Adult Bible  
study concludes this  
month.  
Tuesday at 11am**

May 7 Chapter 29  
May 14 Chapter 30  
May 21 Chapter 31



## Back-to-School Fair Fundraiser Split Garden Sale

**Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 8am-1pm**

Have plants that we can split to supply the sale? We are looking for (in order from top left to bottom right): Bee Balm, Cone Flower, Daisys, Stone Crop (Autumn Joy), Bleeding Hearts, Lilies, Hostas, Irises, Liriope (Money Grass), Phlox, Black Eyed Susans, Yarrow, and any other perennials you may have that split well. House plants like aloe, hens and chicks, and spider plants are also great. Set an appointment with Tenille on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and she and her work crew will come do the digging for you. Need another day, just let us know what works for you, and we'll see what we can do.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

What plants you have to split: \_\_\_\_\_

Time frame on May 4<sup>th</sup> we can come: \_\_\_\_\_



Our own Brooke Glover will be appearing in this Arts Gala playing the piano and recorder

## COMING UP:



**Saturday June 2 \$8/meal**

Proceeds from the Chicken BBQ go to assist a local family with medical expenses.

*Nottingham Presbyterian Church -  
Expanding our missions and worship experiences to meet the needs of the community and the world.*

# Nottingham Presbyterian Church GREENSTONE GAZETTE

## New Door Policy for our safety

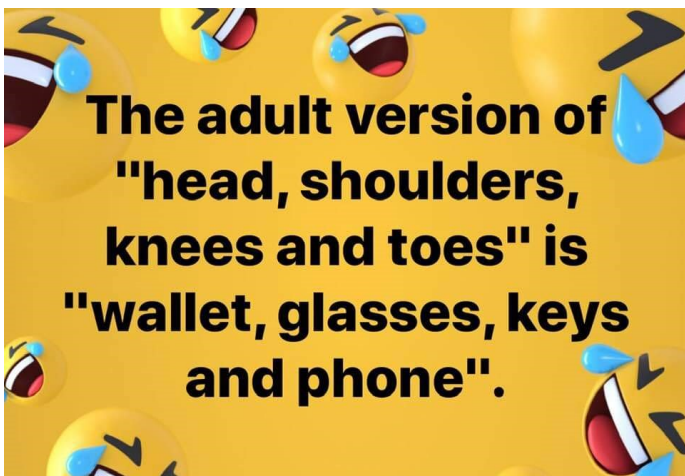
The rear door to the church will now be locked beginning at 10am. Please use the Worship entrance at the side of the church if you arrive after 10am. If you wish to use the restrooms during the service, and don't want to access them from the front of the sanctuary, the Deacon of the Month will be sitting in the back of the sanctuary with a door key.

## Food Drive



**Deacons have moved up their next food drive to May.** This will get the food to Devine Sent Food Pantry by the beginning of June. May 5-26 are the dates of the drive. Here's suggestions: Soup, Stews, Canned Meat, Beans, 1lb bags of Rice Mac&Cheese, Fruit juice, Canned Fruit, Instant Potatoes, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Condiments, Fresh potatoes, Stuffing mix, Salad dressings, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Shampoo, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Disposable Razors.

## On the Lighter Side:



Our Website: [Nottinghampc.org](http://Nottinghampc.org)

## Brothers and sisters in Christ



### SHILOH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Pancake and Omelet Breakfast

Saturday May 11

8:30-10:30am

Adults \$7; Children (4-11yrs) \$5 at the door

This breakfast is 2nd Saturday every other month

## Learn about the Current Opioid Crisis

Informational Sessions presented at  
**Memorial UMC** ([www.quarryville.church](http://www.quarryville.church))  
101 S Hess St Quarryville

**Wednesday April 24, 7pm**—How we got there: Brain Pathways

**Wednesday May 7, 7pm**—Addiction and Recovery

**Wednesday May 22, 7pm**—Opioid Impacts on Family

Questions?: Email:  
[Stormrider5019@gmail.com](mailto:Stormrider5019@gmail.com)

## Storm Riders

A Support Group Strengthening Families  
Facing Addiction

Meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of Each month  
from 7-8pm

Starting May 1, 2019

**Memorial UMC** ([www.quarryville.church](http://www.quarryville.church))  
101 S Hess St Quarryville

Purpose: To tear down the walls that isolate those affected by addiction.