

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER April 2024



The mission of West Berlin Presbyterian Church is to follow God's law and act in true faith by being a welcoming place where community members come to learn, take part in worship, find fellowship, and serve those in need, for the glory of God.

The Small Strong Church with a Big Heart



From the Pulpit - Not Just a Sunday, it is a Season

Easter (was March 31st this year) is one of the principal holidays, or feasts, of Christianity. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion. For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful end of the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. The earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration comes from the 2nd century, though the commemoration of Jesus' Resurrection probably occurred earlier. At WBPC, our joyful service with the flowering cross, wonderful music and sharing of the word is our traditional Easter Sunday.

Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday is a wonderful, highpoint of our Christian year. Without the resurrection there would be no Christian faith. But Easter is not just a Sunday, it is a season. The Easter season is the second-longest liturgical season. Only ordinary time is longer. The Church celebrates the Easter season (also known as "Eastertide") for 50 days, culminating with the feast of Pentecost, where Scripture (Acts 2:1-31) tells us that the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles. This year Eastertide starts March 31 (Easter Sunday), continues with seven Sundays of Easter, and then ends on May 18th (Day of Pentecost). Although not a Sunday, within this time period we also recognize the Ascension of the Lord on May 9.

Our PC(USA) Mission Agency tells us "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."

Let us celebrate the full season of Easter

Pastor Bob



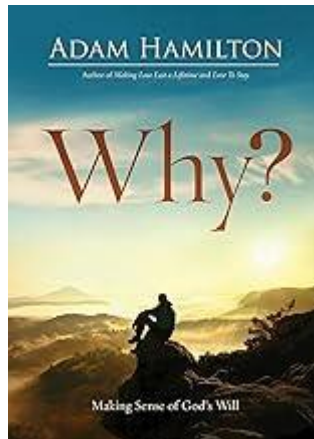
Upcoming Adult Ed – Why? By Adam Hamilton

A new Adult Education series will start on Monday evening April 8 at 7 PM. We will be using a curriculum entitled "Why? Making Sense of God's Will" by Adam Hamilton. The book and connected videos will cover four weeks with the provocative titles:

Why Do the Innocent Suffer?
Why Do My prayers Go Unanswered?
Why Can't I See god's Will for My Life?
Why God's Love Prevails.

The author's introduction says "As I counsel with parishioners, talk with those curious about faith or struggling with faith, and have conversations with complete strangers, I can count on the question of theodicy to come up with great regularity: If there is a loving and all-powerful God, why do bad things happen? My aim in writing WHY? Was to distill into a very short book a way of thinking about this question that I've found helpful in making sense not only of suffering but also of intercessory prayer and of what is meant when Scripture speaks of God's will. I wanted the book to be brief enough to be read in one sitting, and in a format that readers might easily share with a friend."

Watch for the weekly announcements and attend either at the church or online.



Expanded Open Table Support

Saturday before Palm Sunday, the Deacon and Mission Board had its semi-annual drive to support the Open Table Food, Hygiene Products and Clothing collection. Open Table is a program based at Grace Point Church (Piatt and Cheshire Roads). The donations were bountiful in all three categories.

Keep in mind that you can also bring items of all three categories to the church at any time. They then get transported over to Grace Point for their distribution. Keep the donations coming.



Important Dates:

April 2024

- April 2
Session Meeting
7:00 PM
- April 7*
Worship and
Communion 10:30 AM
- Source Point Overview
11:30 AM
- April 8*
Adult Study, Why?
7:00 PM
- April 9
Worship and Outreach
Committee
7:00 PM
- April 10
Deacon and Mission
Board
12:00 PM
- April 14*
Worship
10:30 AM
- April 15*
Adult Study, Why?
7:00 PM
- April 16
Education Committee
7:00 PM
- April 21*
Worship
10:30 AM
- April 22*
Adult Study, Why?
7:00 PM
- April 26
Chicken Noodle Diner
4:30 – 7:00 PM
- April 28*
Worship
10:30 AM
- April 29*
Adult Study, Why?
7:00 PM
- April 30
Administrative
Committee
7:00 PM

*See email invite for Zoom link and bulletin.

Guests in the Building this Spring

- The Berlin 4-H clubs are again using our facility for Monday evening meetings a couple of times a month. Members will be volunteering to help with our Chicken Noodle dinner coming up the end of the month.
- Recently the Capitol City CPR Training Group used our facilities to train more than 20 youth in babysitting and youth CPR.



- It is great to see our little library being used! You should feel free to take or leave books of all types. There is a bookshelf in the annex for overflow books. Check it out. It is great to see these things happening around the building.



Chicken Noodle Dinner

Mark your calendar!! Our annual Chicken Noodle Dinner is coming up Friday, April 26, 4:30 - 7:00 PM.

Please plan on two things. 1) Inviting friends and neighbors, and 2) Volunteering to help by supplying food and helping the day of the event.

More on this as we get closer.



Wednesday Toddler Program

Our program of 0 to 3's and their parents and/or grandparents continues Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 AM.

Three of the families participated in our Easter Egg Hunt festivities.

Several of the kids are aging out, so please help us recruit new participants.

It is great to see these things happening around the building.

April Birthdays

6 – Charline Barrie
7 – Eileen Doucher
8 – Tom Gooding, Aaron Roll
11 - Jaycen Jordan
14 – Cathy Cramer
21- Blaire Martindale, Debbie Fisher
25 – Julia Roll

Anniversaries

4 – Aaron & Jaymi Roll



Overview of Source Point Programs and Resources

A program giving an overview of the resources and programs through the Delaware County Senior Center (Source Point) will be given on Sunday April 7 after the service (and a light lunch). Brian Doone, new Community Relations Coordinator for Source Point will be leading the session. Deacon and Mission Board will be supplying the free lunch.



Prayer Lists

Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Raymond & Glinda Poonan, Gene & Penny Ford, Gene Pillion, Richard Johnson, Mary Ann Johnson, John & Debbie Rucker, April Hardt, Mark & Debbie Russell, Sue Cox, Bill Philput Jr., Natalie Thompson

Around the Building - Storm Cleanup

We need to be thankful that the March 14 tornado did minimal damage to our church building: a bent gutter on the west side and some missing trim on the North side. We did however lose a number of trees. Thanks to those who helped clean up on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday following the storm. A picture below shows most of the Wednesday morning crew. Got kind of loud with four chainsaws in action. But teamwork got things cut, stacked, and mostly removed.

Thanks to Jerry Stein for trailering away eleven loads of the branches. (He plans on a large bonfire when it dries a bit.) We still will need to have the building facia repaired and plan on re-roofing our utility shed. (On the lighter side, it needed a new roof anyway.) Sunday following some roads were still blocked and the church power but no internet service. The church showed its resilience when the Sunday following, we did a Zoom only service. Total attendance was the same as the previous week, even without anyone in the building.

Keep those in the neighborhood experiencing damage from the storm in your prayers as recovery continues. We can thank God that no persons were injured.



March Stats from the Treasurer:

Attendance:

March 3 – 36
(20W/16Z)

March 10 – 33
(19W/14Z)

March 17 - 33
(0W/33Z)

March 24 – 38
(21W/17Z)

Contributions:

March 3 \$16,551.00

March 10 396.00

March 17 646.00

March 24 1,521.00

\$19,114.00