

The Messenger

Volume 24, Issue 3

Maplewood
Presbyterian
Church



2018

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Christ Not Only Died for All; He Died for Each!

The words of the above title came from the late Billy Graham, who died on February 21st, of this year at the age of 99.

Billy Graham preached the message of Christ's love and forgiveness around the world, reaching over 200 million people in more than 185 countries. He led millions of people to pray to receive Jesus Christ into their lives as Lord and Savior. His integrity and wisdom opened doors to offer spiritual support and guidance for United States presidents from Eisenhower to Bush, as well as many celebrities, athletes, politicians and leaders. But he reached out mostly to the common man and woman around the world with the simple message of the gospel of Jesus Christ and his power to save! It was a message that is timeless and relevant even today.

The phrase, "the Bible says," resounded throughout his sermons, and the truth he preached for years still transcends all barriers of denominational differences, age, nationality, and culture. It has stood the test of time and generations, pointing millions to Christ.

**From
Our
PASTOR**

Maybe you are one of those people who attended one of his 417 crusades between 1947 and 2005? His final New York City crusade in 2005 was sponsored by 1,400 regional churches from 82 denominations. Billy Graham influenced my own life, as I watched him on a television screen. I remember him talking about Jesus returning very soon! It made an impact on me, as I had not been told that before. I remember my prayers, as a young boy, becoming more serious after hearing of Christ's soon return. It had an effect on my life and direction.

Perhaps you remember some of his words:

"The cross shows us the seriousness of our sin, but it also shows us the immeasurable love of God."

"The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us."

Continued

Email: maplewoodpc@comcast.net Web Site: www.maplewoodpc.org



The Maplewood MISSION STATEMENT:
TO KNOW CHRIST and TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
By LEADING People to a Saving Faith in Jesus Christ,
NURTURING and EQUIPPING People in the Faith,
Love and Knowledge of Jesus Christ,
DEPLOYING People in Servant Ministries to the Rest of the World.

From Our Pastor Continued . . .

“Take one day at a time. Today, after all, is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.”

“Knowing we will be with Christ forever far outweighs our burdens today! Keep your eyes on eternity!”

“Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone, except God.”

“It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love.”

“Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion; it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.”

Though I still look for Christ's soon return, it is this last quote from Graham that I remember most! It is in walking with Christ in our day to day living, that we come to know Christ more and more, and are transformed into his likeness. My prayer is to Know Christ, and to Make Him Known!

I give thanks for Billy Graham, and for all those lives that Christ touched through him! And I thank God for the hope we all have through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessings to all of you, in Christ!

Steve

STAFF & CONTACTS

PASTOR:

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MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jim Overly

Elders & Committees:

Christian Education

David Hileman, Chair
Mike Troster

Church Life

Rita Perotti
Donna Costelnock

Finance

Sharon Elkettani, Chair
Art Cappella

Missions/Outreach

Bob Cochran, Chair
Bob Harlan

Personnel

Sharon Elkettani

Property

Dana Ferry, Chair
Ray McAteer

Worship

Mike Cerilli, Chair
Bob Bereit, Co-Chair

Clerk of Session

Mary Jane Myers

Deacons Chair

Bonnie Peebly

Treasurer

Arlene Troster

Financial Secretary

Roy Myers

Webmaster

Bob Bereit

Messenger Staff

Katy Doran
Marie LaSor



Actions approved by Session in February:

ACTION: to renew Tom and Tricia Lowden on our membership roll without any formal meeting with the Session.

ACTION: to adjust the existing Church Investment Strategy's stop-loss feature so that when the S&P 500 index declines 15% below the S&P 500 peak value, the decision to sell the investments will be made by the Finance Committee. This transaction will occur at the end of the trading day. The repurchase point policy is not changed.

ACTION: session has confirmed the removal of Carol Limegrover, former President, as an authorized signer of checks for the Operating Fund Account. Sharon Elkettani, President will be added as new President, and Arlene Troster, Treasurer and William Young, Ass't Treasurer will be remaining signers.

Reminders & Committee Reports:

The project of member listing highlighting skills and talents will be done by Bob Cochran, Pastor Steve, Donna Costelnock and Sharon Elkettani.

All committees are reminded to come up with instructions on what they do and how it is done so it can be handed over to the new committee chairs.

Worship – No Report

Church Life – No Report

Finance – See ACTION

Mission & Outreach – Meal was served at Union Mission on February 13, 2018.

Personnel –will host Coffee Hour in February

Property – A three-year capital budget plan was presented. Eric Pino offered the use of his truck to remove the hedges from the front of the church. The final proposal to change the door hardware has been received. The water backflow preventer was inspected in January and passed.

Christian Education – Due to the lack of elementary youth, there will be no VBS this year.

Next Session Meeting will be March 19, 2018.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Communion Preparation:

Ken & Kim Stough

Communion Servers:

Bob Bereit, Cindy Conrath, Donna Costelnock, Marie LaSor, Bonnie Peebly, Lorraine Roth

Lay Reader: Mike Cerilli

Greeters: Sharon Elkattani, Dana Ferry

Ushers: Mike Cerilli, Jane Myers

Downstairs Greeter: Shirley Filicko (11th, 18th, 25th, 29th), Ron Shafer (4th)

Acolytes:

March 4th - Rebecca Bouknight

March 11th - Logan Williams

March 18th - Mackenzie Williams

March 25th - Emerson Musgrove

April 1st - Jonathan Bouknight



NURSERY SCHEDULE:

3/04/ Val McAteer and Kristen Wonderling

3/11 Katy Doran and Peggy Potts

3/18 Marie LaSor and Susan Witt

3/25 Melissa Lenhart and Christi Musgrove

Coffee Hour Schedule for 2018

Jan – Worship

Feb – Personnel

March – Finance

April – Property

May – Womens' Retreat

June – Martha's Circle

July - Choir

Aug. – Church Life

Sept – Christian Ed

Oct. - Mission

Nov – Hanging Greens

Dec – Church Life



Maplewood Happenings

IN SPECIAL NEED OF PRAYER

- Bob Bogert** – nephew Allen’s knee surgery
Ruth Gordon
- Ruth Lash** – successful CPA exam
Joyce & Allan Neville
- Babe Pacienza** – back problem recovery
- Bonnie Peebly** – daughter Kate’s baby arrival, travel mercies for Bonnie to TX
Evalinda Rose
- John Scales’ family, wife Joan**
Sylvia Shearer – brother Byron
- Families & Friends of FLA school shooting**
- Nation’s Leaders** - discernment for best ways of keeping schools & children safe

**New Additions in BOLD

Several of your prayer requests have been removed. If you or your family member is still in need of prayer, please complete a Prayer request card (in pews), notify Katy Doran or leave a note in “The Messenger” box in the Church Office.

- Prayers for our Maplewood Church Leaders
- Prayers for our College Students
- Prayers for our local, national and world leaders, our armed forces and their families
- Prayers for our persecuted Christian brothers & sisters world-wide
- Prayers for our missionary families, the Carlsons & the Saldis

DEACON’S CORNER:

If any members are in need of a meal due to illness or any other circumstance, we are glad to deliver a meal to you. Please contact **Ann Ryan, Peggy Potts, or Bonnie Peebly** if we could provide you with a meal.

NEWS from the PEWS

Blessings to all for the many beautiful cards, phone calls, visits and so needed prayers, during my recent fall, breaking my hip. Thank you ever so much. This meant the world to me.
Evalinda Rose

Don Snyder is thankful for church members and all the cards, phone calls, and prayers during the recent loss of his brother, Allison.

Visiting our Fellowship Hall Library? Don’t be shy about borrowing any books that may catch your interest OR making your own donations, offering suggestions for additions!

MARTHA CIRCLE IN MARCH:

Our February 21 meeting was well attended but we missed some regulars. Hopefully, when we have our next meeting, closer to spring, we will have a full house.

On February 6 we began our yearly project of offering coffee and goodies (for a voluntary donation) to the AARP preparers and persons getting their taxes done on Tuesday’s & Friday’s through the tax season. Thanks to **Ann Ryan’s** initiation of a night before setup, we ask for **volunteers** to set up the coffee/goodies. AARP volunteers offered to monitor the action and clean up after their session. This gives us the opportunity to offer the service both on Tuesday and Friday and earn more donation funds to complete our next project - to fund some of the reorganization costs for Jim’s office.

Our next meeting, on **March 21**, will be hosted by **Ann Ryan** and **Shirley Filicko**. **Lorraine Roth** will provide devotions. All ladies are invited to join us in the church lounge.

MORE Happenings

CHURCH LIFE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

MISSION MANEUVERS

On February 13th we provided a meal for seven men at the Union Mission in Latrobe. It was a nice evening of fellowship with them. Thanks to **Bob Cochran, Mary Ellen Miller, Katy Doran** and **Nancy Gosser** for providing the food. If you want to experience a meaningful evening, please join us for our next visit there.

Our next meeting is **Monday, March 12th** at 7 PM in the church lounge. Come. join us.

Palm Sunday Brunch

Church Life & Finance Committee are hosting the annual Palm Sunday Brunch, which includes eggs, ham, fruit and sweets. The brunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following church service on **Sunday, March 25**. To help us with the planning of this brunch please RSVP by filling out the form in your Sunday bulletin or by calling our Secretary, Diane, by **March 23**.

Are You Interested?

CHURCH LIFE is asking if there is an interest in attending the play *JESUS* in Lancaster, PA on **Friday, June 29**. A write-up was in the February newsletter. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex for those showing an interest. Deposits for this play will start to be collected towards the end of March. By the end of **May**, the full payment of **\$185.00** must be paid in full. Questions will be answered and more information will be made available to those showing interest. The sign-up sheet will be posted through the months of March, April and May. This is on a first-come, first-serve basis with the bus company sponsoring this event.



Easter Flower Order – 2018



Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 11, 2018

Circle color choices:

6 ½" Mums @ \$7.50 (Purple, Yellow, White, Pink) No, ___ Amount \$ _____

6 ½" Tulips @ \$7.50 (Red, Pink, Yellow, Purple, Orange, White, Bi-Color) No, ___ Amount \$ _____

Purchaser: _____

IN MEMORY or HONOR of _____
(please circle one)

Please make checks out to **Robert Bereit** and put it (along with order form) either in the collection plate or mail to 1018 Grove St.; Greensburg, PA 15601.

Musical Notes from Jim

Hi, y'all!

I was reminded yet again at choir practice this past Wednesday night that our Chancel Choir is inspiring in their faithfulness, and I believe that God blesses us all through them. I felt a sense of wonder as we worked on an arrangement of "Agnus Dei" by Michael W. Smith and thought about what that word means to me..."wonder". I had lunch with my dad today and we discussed a trait that we both share which tends to invite comments from people close to us. We both seem to see things through the eyes of a child, staring in wide-eyed wonder at the things that God does for us, the gifts He gives so freely to us. Things like flowers, trees, stars, sunsets, mountains, other people, ESPECIALLY kids! =) So, I decided to share a condensed adaptation of an article entitled "Wonder and Worship: What We Can Learn From Children", written by David Bunker, from the Winter 2018 issue of *Worship Leader Magazine*.

As an adult, I struggle to keep a childlike sense of life. I learn so much from children. We all have an inborn capacity for wonder - it may very well be at the heart of worship - but I fear that wonder may be an endangered human faculty. You only need to visit a church or school where imagination and questions are excluded to discover how unimaginative the teaching and training of a child can be.

How can we keep this inborn sense of wonder alive as they grow into adulthood? I believe s/he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share in this wonder, rediscovering it with the child in joy, excitement, and a deep sense of curiosity and mystery. In the Bible, we have been given a majestic manifesto for the vibrant curiosity and sense of wonder with which we are all born. The challenge? We all risk losing this wonder if we slip slowly but surely into the apathy of going through the motions.

We adults, informed by the fall, often walk in our desired way of being seen by the world, including those closest to us. Even in church we are often absorbed in the daily minutiae of our lives, going through worship on auto-pilot. Wonder requests our presence, yet our real presence is absent. Children are not controlled by social propriety and persona. They are automatically present and sensitive. They are innocent in their intent, trusting, uncomplicated in their requests, not self-conscious, full of mustard seed faith, content in the moment, free of preconceptions, and trusting in the Father's care. I am sure there are countless other traits that may indeed make up or welcome wonder - this is a list to start with. Embracing wonder is one of the most extraordinary gifts of all, precious and vulnerable to the highest degree. Wonder is one of our most precious natural resources and therefore one of our greatest responsibilities to maintain. We must, therefore, steward it well in our children...and in ourselves.

As we enter the season of Lent that leads to the wonder of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus, pay attention to the children in your life, whether at home, church, or somewhere else. Try to emulate their sense of wonder when they discover something new and exciting to them. Listen with everything you have as we present the Easter cantata *Redeemed* on **April 8th**. If you can, watch the reactions of children to the different musical styles and the words. Listen to the singers as they share this powerful message. See if you can share in the wonder of this beautiful music about the most powerful gift ever offered...the redeeming grace and love of Jesus Christ.

In Him, *Jim*





Celebrate or Commemorate

Do you have a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion to rejoice about? Are you remembering a loved one who has died? Are you joyful about God's love? If so, share these events with others by placing flowers in our church for Sunday service. It's very easy. Choose a date you wish to have flowers, fill out the form below and put in the church's office. The rest will be taken care of for you. For \$24.00, you can have fresh flowers for a service, a note in the bulletin to commemorate your special occasion and you can take the flowers home with you. If you do not want the flowers, the Deacons can deliver them to shut-ins. Detach and send to church office:

M.U.P.C., 108 Woodland Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

Name _____ Phone _____

Date for flowers (Sunday) _____

Notice for bulletin to read: In honor of _____

OR: In memory of _____

I wish to (check one) _____ take the flowers after the service _____ let the Deacons deliver them to shut-ins

March Celebrations

7.....Vince Falvo
Nancy Pushwa

14.....John Potts

16.....Tim Mikos

17.....Mike Cerilli
Karen Bouknight

19.....Jean Gleditsch

20.....Scott Gordon



21.....Eric Pino

22.....Dennis Leavy

23.....Audrey Smith
Dana Ferry

26.....Molly Hileman

27.....Jonathan Casteel

29....Paul Fritz
Sylvia Shearer

30.....Matt LaSor

CELEBRATING 50+ YEARS of MARRIAGE

**March 21st -
Unk (Roland) and
Mary Lou Constable**

***PSSSSST:
Pastor Steve & Marie
celebrate their Anniversary
on March 22nd !***

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service	26 7:00 PM Deacons	27 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	28 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	1 11:00 AM Presby 6:30 PM C.O.M. 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	2 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	3 9:00 AM Food Bank 10:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal
4 Communion Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM C.O.M.	5 7:00 PM Christian Ed 7:00 PM Property Committee	6 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	7  10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM LIFT Study 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	8 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	9 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	10 10:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal
11  Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship Committee	12 7:00 PM Missions/Outreach	13 Special Election	14 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM LIFT Study 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	15 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	16 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	17  10:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service	19 7:00 PM Session	20 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	21 9:15 AM Martha Circle 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM LIFT Study 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	22 10:00 AM Presby 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	23 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	24 10:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal
25  PALM SUNDAY Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Palm Sunday Brunch	26 7:00 PM Deacons	27 9:00 AM AARP Tax Service	28 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM LIFT Study 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	29  LAST SUPPER Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	30  GOOD FRIDAY Good Friday 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast	31 10:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal