



**Indian Creek Church of the Brethren**  
821 Main Street, Harleysville, PA 19438

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### Sunday Schedule

9:00 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

### Church Staff

**Mark E. Baliles**

Pastor

**Susan Gallen**

Administrative Assistant

**Don Ziegler**

Custodian

**Kathy Moyer**

Wee Folk Director/Teacher

**Heather Thomsen**

Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

### *Focusing on Jesus*

For the past six weeks, we have been immersing ourselves in ads and themes from the nationwide Christian media campaign called He Gets Us. My hope has been that our own church can find some common ground in this deep focus on the life of Jesus, while at the same time using this opportunity to witness to our friends and neighbors that God is for us and that Jesus really does understand our struggles. Recent research demonstrates that while many people, especially young adults, are shut down to any connection with the organized church, they are open to exploring Jesus. Here is how the organizers of this campaign have described their purpose or agenda.

*“How did the story of a man who taught and practiced unconditional love, peace, and kindness; who spent his life defending the poor and the marginalized; a man who even forgave his killers while they executed him unjustly — whose life inspired a radical movement that is still impacting the world thousands of years later — how did this man’s story become associated with hatred and oppression for so many people? And how might we all rediscover the promise of the love his story represents? Those are the questions at the heart of He Gets Us.*

*“Throughout our shared history, Jesus has represented the ultimate good that humankind is capable of aspiring to. And though some no longer believe in God, most are still compelled by the idea of a person capable of unconditional love for others despite their differences. But many of us simply cannot reconcile the idea of that person with the way our culture experiences religion today.*

*“How did we get here? How can we rediscover the life and teachings of Jesus, the world’s most radical love activist? That is our agenda at He Gets Us: to move beyond the mess of our current cultural moment to a place where all of us are invited to rediscover the love story of Jesus. Christians, non-Christians, and everybody in between. All of us.”*

Interestingly, at the same time that this campaign was raising these questions, a movie was released—The Jesus Revolution—that is challenging us with the story of what happened in the 1970’s when a church made space for a large group of cultural outcasts who were exploring and “turning on” to Jesus.

As we look forward to celebrating Jesus’ resurrection, let’s trust that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead can be at work within us and among us for renewal in the church and in the world.

- Pastor Mark (your partner in the journey)



## Deacon Ministry

*"...first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Matthew 7:5 (NIV)*

I've been blessed to never have had any known enemies. Sure, there have been people over the years that I've disagreed with or didn't click with. Nonetheless, I always treated each one with respect. I believe that we should love and pray for our enemies.

Right now, as a troubling divide continues to widen in our country, I find myself labeling "the other side" my "enemy." I bring those on the other side into my prayer time, pleading with Jesus to do whatever is necessary to change their hearts to draw our world back to Him.

But one day as I sat at Jesus's feet, He revealed that when I use the words "us" and "them," I am feeding the divide. Such terms assume one side is right and the other is wrong. Each time I succumb to that kind of divisive thinking, pitting people against one another, the plank in my eye grows bigger.

As a carpenter, Jesus knows a thing or two about splinters. To remove them, we need clear vision. He's helped me see that it's not just the speck in the eyes of others that are splintering our country but also the plank of malice in mine. First, I need to remove the obstacle that prevents me from seeing with open eyes and heart. Then I can pray for Jesus to remove the speck from the eyes of others. With clear vision and clean hearts, together—with Jesus as our guide—we can bridge the divides that separate us.

~Claire McGarry

Faith Step: During the next conflict you experience, examine your own heart for any plank that needs to be removed.

Submitted by Pat Bub.

From *Mornings with Jesus* devotional.

It's chilly this morning, Lord, and I don't think it's going to be sunny this Easter. But here I am, just as I said I'd be. And like almost everybody else at this sunrise service, I'm half asleep.

I'm not here because I want to be, but because I think I ought to be. Is that all right with You? I'm not very good at loving. Things keep getting in my way—like staying up too late last night, getting ready for a big dinner today and deciding at the last minute that the livingroom curtains needed laundering. It's a good thing you didn't find something else to do on Your way to us. I'm sure there must have been a million distractions. Yet You got here, and I'm glad You did.

That's why I'm here, Jesus. And I'm glad I am. It's important—to me. I want to thank You—for Easter, for life, for love—but I need Your help. You see, I can't find the words big enough. As I said, I'm not very good at loving. But You already know that, and it doesn't seem to get in Your way.

That's another reason why I'm here—because even though I'm not good at loving. You love enough to make up the difference.

~Brenda Barnett

From *The Guideposts Handbook of Prayer*.





# familyFUN

Article and photos by Donna Parcell



The Nurture/Fellowship team picked the perfect Sunday afternoon in March for our first kite flying event! After a week of rainy gloomy weather, we had a perfect warm and sunny day with just the right amount of wind. Kevin Bedell retrieved two biplane kites that were hanging in his basement, and with the detangling assist of Pastor Mark he soon had them airborne. Jane, Chris, and Claire Spigel took to the skies with their two awesome butterfly kites. Sheila Allebach happily assisted anyone who needed an extra hand, which was all of us at some point or another. Reba discovered kite-flying talents that she never knew she had, and her sun kite coordinated nicely with the sunny day. It came as no surprise that Micah Duett was flying a Paw Patrol kite. He was assisted by his parents Sarah and Dennis and Grandma Donna. But all of the afore mentioned kite flyers stood humbly in the shadow of master kite flyer Jodi Luskin, who has recently started worshiping with us at Indian Creek. Jodi came with her puppy and some of the most amazing kites we've ever seen. We are happy to say that although there were some close calls, nobody got bonked on the head by a wayward kite! Everyone had a great time being outside, being together, and of course flying kites!





## More Kite Flying!



## Peeps-Stuffed Chocolate Chip Cookies



### Ingredients

- 2 tubes refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough (or your favorite recipe for chocolate chip cookie dough)
- 6 Peeps

### Directions

- 1) Preheat oven to 350°. Separate each roll of dough into six equal chunks. Flatten each chunk into a disc, then sandwich two discs around a Peep, using your fingers to close up the seams so Peep is fully covered in dough. (Each roll of cookie dough will make about three cookies.)
- 2) Place each Peep-filled cookie dough ball at least 3 inches apart on a parchment-lined baking sheet—cookies will spread a LOT while baking—and bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until cookies have turned golden brown around the edges. Let cool before serving.



## Small Talk

by Kathy Moyer



With the arrival of spring, the Wee Folk are so excited to be back outside to enjoy the playground on warm “lamb” days. We’ve been noticing the signs of the season as daffodils bloom, the grass is greening-up, and the beautiful flowering cherry trees greet us along the driveway.

April will find us hopping down the bunny trail while we continue our Easter preparations! We are busy painting crayon-resist eggs to decorate our bulletin board, creating “hopping” paper bunnies, and decorating berry boxes for our Easter baskets. Soon, we will fill them with treats and the real Easter eggs we will dye to take home. Our video presentation this month will be **The Easter Story**, from the makers of the Beginner’s Bible. This follows our lessons about Jesus and the reason for our celebration, as we’ve shared *Easter Bunny, Are You for Real?* and *Easter is Coming!* at story time.



When we return from the Easter holiday, we will explore the wonderful literature of one of our favorite children’s author-illustrators, **Leo Lionni**. More than a simple picture book, each of Lionni’s tales is a work of art with a message and a mission for young children. We will be reading a wide variety of his books, and using them as springboards to other curriculum areas. We will explore animal life and behavior, and experiment with techniques in collage, painting, patterning, and construction. Above all, we will focus on each book’s theme of integrity, self-control, generosity, compassion, and compromise. Books to be shared in this unit will include: *Inch by Inch*, *An Extraordinary Egg*, *Fish is Fish*, *It’s Mine*, *Swimmy*, and *A Color of My Own*.

Our writing center will feature an assortment of mazes, dot-to-dot, and hidden pictures to color, all with a spring/Easter theme. Pastel color Play-

doh will be available to make assorted spring cut-outs and molded creations. And our discovery tub is filled with lots of pom-pom “eggs,” hidden in mounds of Easter grass, waiting to be found by the children who enjoy the search!

From all of us at Wee Folk, we wish you Easter joy and blessings!

## April Rain



It is not raining rain to me,  
It’s raining daffodils;  
In every dimpled drop I see  
Wildflowers on the hills.  
The clouds of gray engulf the day  
And overwhelm the town;  
It is not raining rain to me,  
It’s raining roses down.

It is not raining rain to me,  
But fields of clover bloom  
Where every buccaneering bee  
May find a bed and room.  
A health unto the happy!  
A fig for him who frets!  
It is not raining rain to me,  
It’s raining violets.

~Robert Loveman

## Take the Son

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art." The young man held out the package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home, he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?"

There was silence.

Then, a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one."

But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting. Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?"

Another voice said angrily, "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real art!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

"We have \$10. Who will bid \$20?"

"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters."

"\$10 is the bid. Won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"

A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry; the auction is over."

"What about the paintings?"

"I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "The son, the son, who'll take the son?" Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

~Author Anonymous

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#### April Birthdays

- 1 Michelle Clemmer, Annabel Steward
- 4 Lea Landis, Sam Bedell, Ben Rostick
- 7 Sam Houck
- 10 Kathy Moyer (Wee Folk)
- 12 Sherry Ziegler
- 15 Mark Baliles, Adam Steward
- 16 Jen Alderfer
- 19 Kevin DeRosa
- 20 Brian Detweiler, Trey Clemmer
- 21 Marie Hill
- 23 Claire Spigel
- 26 Marge Hendricks
- 27 Ray Scherfel
- 29 Brian Alderfer
- 30 Pam Bedell, David Houck

#### Early May Birthdays

- 1 Rick Houck
- 2 Janet May
- 3 Isabella Smalls
- 4 Jeanette Kirk

If we are missing *your* birthday, please let the Church Office know! We want to include everybody in our monthly birthday notice.



## Resurrection Day

The dazzling rays of light today  
 Disperse the cold and gloom.  
 The shortened shadows seem to say,  
 "Come forth ye from the tomb.  
 This is your resurrection day;  
 Let springtime flowers bloom.  
 The birds shall sing their songs,  
 All nature shall resume  
 Her healing growth from earthly clay  
 And scatter sweet perfume."

~Leon Eugene Wright

## Daffodils

Spring has a way of painting  
 The meadow with delight,  
 With the crowning glory  
 Of the daffodils so bright!

For beams of yellow sunshine  
 From a watercolor sky  
 Seem to cast their glow of magic  
 All along the countryside

Until there comes the moment  
 When the brilliancy is spun,  
 And the flowers meek and golden  
 Lift their faces to the sun.

Then is the day exultant  
 Where all of April smiles.  
 My joy is wrapped in wonder,  
 And my way is dream-beguiled.

~Joy Belle Burgess

