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# THE BELLRINGER



April 2018

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## Pastor's Study

Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews has risen! The tomb is empty! Christ the Lord is risen today!

We spent (literally!) weeks preparing for Easter in the season of Lent. We prayed. We studied. We gave things up and also picked things up. (For example, one family in our congregation gave up using their phones and electronic devices between after school and bed time and picked up playing board games for the season of Lent. Someone else gave up beer for Lent.) We had special worship services, sermons that focused on how we can use all of who we are to proclaim God's holy name, worshipped in beautiful Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday worship services, and of course, celebrate Easter Sunday (and April Fools Day)!

Whew! We have prepared for and entered into our Easter Joy!

But now what? Where does all of that preparation and prayer, that giving up and picking up, the special worship - - - where does it all take us?

At sunset on the Eve of Easter we enter a new season, one that lasts 50 days through Pentecost, called Eastertide. For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ by the power of God and the presence of the risen Christ within our church. Easter, truly, is not just a day, but a 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). And so, 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. *As Easter people in the season of Eastertide, we ponder how we are to be disciples of the risen Christ.*

Jesus Christ has risen! May we be filled with the fullness of the amazing grace of the cross and the empty tomb, and in the joy of the resurrection, enter into Eastertide seeking to follow the one who rose and who calls us to new and abundant life.

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Christ's peace- Diane 

## Eastertide Opportunities to Explore Discipleship and Following Jesus

### ***Movies That Matter***

Join a group of folks for a film viewing and theological discussion of the film with nationally recognized film critic and pastor, Rev. Ed McNulty. *Movies That Matter* is an engaging way to take real life and to look for and talk about the presence of God in real life - - and in the movies!

**Join us on April 8<sup>th</sup> for The Fisher King.**

After shock jock Jack Lucas (Jeff Bridges) inadvertently provokes a caller into murdering a group of innocent people in a Manhattan bar, he grows depressed and turns to booze. As he's about to hit rock bottom, Lucas meets a homeless man named Parry (Robin Williams), whose wife was killed by the caller Lucas pushed to the brink. Mentally scarred by his loss, Parry spends his days searching for the Holy Grail. Lucas, feeling culpable for the poor man's plight, pledges to help him in his quest.

**Join us on May 6<sup>th</sup> for Fried Green Tomatoes.**

On one of trapped housewife Evelyn Couch's (Kathy Bates) Wednesday nursing home visits, she encounters Ninny Threadgoode (Jessica Tandy), a colorful old woman who brightens Evelyn's outlook by sharing tales from her past. As Ninny recounts the exploits of her free-spirited sister-in-law Idgie (Mary Stuart Masterson), owner of a small Alabama café in the 1920s, and the bond Idgie shared with her friend Ruth (Mary-Louise Parker), Evelyn gains the confidence to change her own life for the better.

### **Bible Study**

**There are two weekly opportunities for Bible study and conversation.**

**Both groups welcome anyone who is interested in participating.**

**Old Testament Series.** Mondays at NOON. Join us for the viewing of a video series of lectures by Biblical Scholar Amy Jill-Levine as she leads us through the Old Testament and key passages from Old Testament texts. This study looks not only at the texts, but also at ways that scholars and experts read and study the Old Testament, providing insight and ideas for us as readers of Scripture. The class lasts an hour and you are welcome to bring something to eat during the session.

**Beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

The Wednesday evening Bible Study group will begin the study of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Set in the Persian Empire, one of the greatest kingdoms the world has ever known, the stories contained in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah provide the most comprehensive scriptural account of the restored Judean community after the Babylonian exile. The book of Esther is also set in the Persian period of Israel's history, although the concern is for a different community. Join us at 6:00 p.m. All welcome!!

### **Fellowship and Groups**

There are a number of regularly occurring opportunities for fellowship and conversation with others in the church including the monthly book club and the monthly men's breakfast. Please contact Donna Ruschau for information about book club and Mike Seiler for information about Men's Breakfast. 🛎

## Session Highlights

The Session of The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church met on March 15 for their regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting included reports from the Deacons and the Trustees. The Trustees shared information on furnace repairs made, and updates on the parking lot. Ministry team reports included that there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children on Easter Sunday (Pat Crowe stuffed hundreds of eggs for this!), the new web site is up and running and will continue to be worked on, and the worship team continues to work diligently on special services and on meaningful worship for the Lenten and Easter seasons. The pastor's report was presented and reviewed (copy in Fellowship Hall). Al Evans, Clerk Pro Tem, shared that the minute book had been reviewed and approved with no exceptions. Kudos to Sue Seiler and Sally Smallwood for all of their hard work on this. Also shared by the Clerk was material on recently attended training for clerks, provided by the Presbytery. The Session reviewed responses to the possibility of a jointly held meeting of Session, the Deacons, and the Trustees; many folks indicated a willingness to attend, but there were no agenda items forwarded, so the Session decided not to hold this meeting in April, but to consider a joint meeting again in the fall. The next meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This is an open meeting – all are welcome. Agenda items or For the Good of the Order items may be forwarded by any congregation member to the Session by submitting it directly to a Session member, to Sue Seiler, Clerk of Session, or to Sally or Diane. 🛎

# Welcome to the ministry and community of The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church!

On Palm Sunday our community of faith welcomed two new members, Stephen Bilen (“Bill-en”) and Michael Anspach (“Ans-pa”) into the church.

Stephen is an engineer and works at Wright Patterson Airforce Base. He is an Eagle Scout and tri-athlete. He grew up Presbyterian, and was active as a youth in the church, and later helped with youth ministry leadership. He and his wife Bethany, and two daughters Emma and Ella, enjoy the worship and community of The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church. Stephen is already active in the life and work of the church, and has graciously read scripture, acted in skits, and assisted in the worship and life of the church in Bible study and with the youth.

Michael, and wife Jana and daughter Rylynn, are active in the church. Michael is a musician and plays soccer recreationally as part of an indoor league. He grew up in a family that sang gospel music and led worship throughout Southwestern Ohio and in other parts of the country. Today Michael works with individuals, small businesses and organizations to build health through a filtered water system. Michael enjoys the welcoming and fellowship of The Church, and enthusiastically participates in and is active in the life and ministry of the church, in worship and in teaching Sunday School.

*Membership in the church is one way we seek to live out our faith and to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.* In joining the church, Stephen and Michael have made a special commitment to being a disciple.

Membership in the church is very different than membership in other contexts in our culture. Most of our memberships (to stores, fitness clubs, golf courses) provide us access to a service or venue when we want to access that service or venue. Most of these membership programs don’t expect us to come, or participate but welcome us when we do. For example, a membership to Costco. Members can go to Costco once a year, or every week.

Membership in the church is not like membership at Costco, or the YMCA. Membership in the church is a commitment to be an active part of the life and ministry of the church. The Book of Order, part of the Constitution by which our church is guided and lives under, says this about membership. “Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church.” (Book of Order, G-1.0304) This participation includes sharing the good news; taking part in worship and the common life of the church; praying and holding up each other in prayer and concern; studying scripture and issues of the Christian faith and life; supporting the ministry of the church with time, talent and treasure; living responsibly; working for peace and justice in the world; participating in the governance of the church; and regularly reviewing and evaluating the integrity of our membership in the church and considering how our participation might be increased and made more meaningful.

Please extend the peace of Christ to Stephen and Michael over the next weeks and months as they continue to grow in the life and faith of the church. And, in celebrating their commitment to membership, let’s take time too to review and consider the membership commitment and look for opportunities to more fully serve Christ through our membership in the church.





Family of Brenda Circle  
Fritz Ganshirt  
Pat Steuver-Ganshirt  
Family of Lynne Clough  
Randy Pavalak  
Jean Forgey  
George Walker  
Family of Paddy Claypoole  
Jon Wagner  
Josie  
Tammy Caskey's Mom  
Pam Boughm's Father  
Becky Garrett and baby Lydia  
Juanita Jamison  
Andrew Berryhill  
Family of Louis Dudrick  
Cindy Garrett-Johnston  
Christian Toya  
Family of Dwight Waits  
Dorothy Evans  
Letha Martin- Jana's sister  
Paulette Tyler  
Family of Don Brawner  
Rose Lambert  
Michael Harnish  
Megan- granddaughter of Betty Blose  
Charlene  
Susie Kircher  
Keith and Leslie Clements  
Alzheimer Patients + caregivers  
Traveling Prayers  
Cancer patients + caregivers



Terry Allen- 620-4811

Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219

Kim Hensley 848-4756

Allene Circle-Rader 848-8218

Donna Ruschau 429-2107

Sue Seiler 848-2043. 478-1426 or  
604-1426

Call with assurance of confidentiality,  
love and prayer



Susi  
Geneva  
Virginia  
Darlene  
Betty  
Bud

To visit or send cards please check with  
office for addresses.

# April Happenings



Easter is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Join us in being "Fools for the Gospel" with worship at 10:00am and a special fellowship Hour to follow



**Bible Study.** Study groups meet on Monday at noon and Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Join us!



**Movies That Matter Film Series**  
Join us for a movie viewing and discussion led by Rev. Dr. Ed McNulty, nationally recognized film critic.

*"The Fisher King" -April 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.*



**40h Annual  
Sugar Maple Festival  
APRIL 27-29, 2018  
THEME IS "40 YEARS IN THE  
MAKING"**

Go to [www.Sugarmaplefestival.com](http://www.Sugarmaplefestival.com) for the full list of events and times.



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## Time and Talent Sharing Your love of worship!

The Worship Ministry! The hard working and most amazing Worship Ministry Team is responsible for planning and implementing worship in conjunction with the pastor. This Team has been very busy during the Lenten and Easter season.

The Worship Ministry team is the group that changes the banners in the sanctuary and makes sure the paraments are hanging in the correct color in the sanctuary. They coordinate flowers in worship and any special decorations (such as those for Advent and Christmas). One team member prepares the slides for worship every Sunday. And they plan special services and events, including the many special services of Lent and Easter, Pentecost, Heritage Sunday, and more, as well as provide special touches for Mother's Day, Father's Day, the Blessing of the Backpacks, and other such Sundays.

As you can imagine, this Ministry Team stays busy, and currently there are just three members of the Team! We would LOVE to have more members of this ministry team. The Team meets on the SECOND Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for about 90 minutes in the pastor's office. No special skills or training are needed, just a love for worship. You can also help with this Ministry Team's efforts on a seasonal basis, or just with one component of this ministry (such as preparing the slides for worship each week, or helping just for the summer). For more information or to discuss how you might be part of this group, please speak with Nancy Hearrell, Chair, or Pastor Diane.

The vital, participatory, meaningful and engaging worship that The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church offers is one of the elements of this congregation's life that we receive significant positive feedback about. Please prayerfully consider being part of this wonderful group of folks who do so much for our life and worship as a community.



# Children's Corner



## CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

### What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.

# Happy Spring!



twistynoodle.com



<p>1</p> <p><b>Communion</b></p> <p><b>Easter Sunday</b>        8:45 am Keystone Class        10:00 am Worship        10:20 am Children's        Sunday School        11:00am Fellowship        Hour</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Deacons</b>        10 am</p> <p>Noon-bible        study</p> <p><b>Stewardship</b>        1:30pm</p>		<p>4</p> <p>11:00am Bellcreek        Seniors</p> <p>6:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>Birthdays</b>        8:45 am Keystone Class        10:00 am Worship        10:20 am Children's        Sunday School        11:00am Fellowship        Hour with cake  <b>2:00pm Movies That        Matter</b></p>	<p>9</p> <p>P.E.O Group        11-3</p> <p>Noon-bible        study</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>Book Club</b>        10:00am</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00am Bellcreek        Seniors</p> <p>6:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ministerial        Association        12:00noon</p> <p><b>Trustees 7pm</b></p> <p><b>Worship 7pm</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>Anniversaries</b>        8:45 am Keystone Class        10:00 am Worship        10:20 am Children's        Sunday School        11:00am Fellowship        Hour        11:30 Sermon        Roundtable</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Noon-bible        study</p> <p>Historical        Society        6:30</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Men's        Breakfast 8:30        (BBC)</b></p> 	<p>18</p> <p>11:00am Bellcreek        Seniors</p> <p>6:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Session</b>        1:00pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:45 am Keystone        10:00 am Worship        10:20 am Children's        Sunday School        11:00am Fellowship        Hour</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Noon-bible        study</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Winter's        Library Book        Club 6-9</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00am Bellcreek        Seniors</p> <p>6:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> 
<p>29</p> <p>8:45 am Keystone        10:00 am Worship        10:20 am Children's        Sunday School        11:00am Fellowship Hour        11:30 Sermon        Roundtable</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Noon-bible        study</p>					<p>Newsletter 7</p>



## Reading through the Bible Scriptures for April

- Day 91 - Matthew 25:1-30; Numbers 30-31; Job 1
- Day 92 - Matthew 25; 31-46; Numbers 32-34; Job 2
- Day 93 - Matthew 26:1-25; Numbers 35-36; Job 3
- Day 94 - Matthew 26:26-46; Deuteronomy 1-2; Job 4
- Day 95 - Matthew 26:47-75; Deuteronomy 3-4; Job 5
- Day 96 - Matthew 27:1-31; Deuteronomy 5-6; Job 6
- Day 97 - Matthew 27:32-66; Deuteronomy 7-8; Job 7
- Day 98 - Matthew 28; Deuteronomy 9-10; Job 8
- Day 99 - Acts 1; Deuteronomy 11-12; Job 9
- Day 100 - Acts 2:1-13; Deuteronomy 13-14; Job 10
- Day 101 - Acts 2:14-47; Deuteronomy 15-16; Job 11
- Day 102 - Acts 3; Deuteronomy 17-18; Job 12
- Day 103 - Acts 4:1-22; Deuteronomy 19-20; Job 13
- Day 104 - Acts 4:23-37; Deuteronomy 21-22; Job 14
- Day 105 - Acts 5:1-16; Deuteronomy 23-24; Job 15
- Day 106 - Acts 5:17-42; Deuteronomy 25-27; Job 16
- Day 107 - Acts 6; Deuteronomy 28; Job 17
- Day 108 - Acts 7:1-22; Deuteronomy 29-30; Job 18
- Day 109 - Acts 7:23-8:1a; Deuteronomy 31-32; Job 19
- Day 110 - Acts 8:1b-25; Deuteronomy 33-34; Job 20
- Day 111 - Acts 8:26-40; Joshua 1-2; Job 21
- Day 112 - Acts 9:1-25; Joshua 3:1-5:1; Job 22
- Day 113 - Acts 9:26-43; Joshua 5:2-6:27; Job 23
- Day 114 - Acts 10:1-33; Joshua 7-8; Job 24
- Day 115 - Acts 10:34-48; Joshua 9-10; Job 25
- Day 116 - Acts 11:1-18; Joshua 11-12; Job 26
- Day 117 - Acts 11:19-30; Joshua 13-14; Job 27
- Day 118 - Acts 12; Joshua 15-17; Job 28
- Day 119 - Acts 13:1-25; Joshua 18-19; Job 29
- Day 120 - Acts 13:26-52; Joshua 20-21; Job 30



- 1 - Katie Steuver, Glen Janus
- 11- Cameron Farenholz
- 12 - Ron Hearrell; Virginia Kable,  
Nicole Van Pelt
- 17 - Bud Rogers
- 19 - Ben Rader; Janet Stevens
- 26 - Al Evans



- 11 - Tom and Lisa Graham
- 15 - David and Nicole Van Pelt
- 16 - Mike and Sue Seiler
- 18 - Ben & Charlotte Downing
- 25 - Al and Sharon Sawyer
- 28 - Ben and Allene Rader
- 30 - Bob and Diane Green \*58 years

### Special dates

- Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018
- Administrative Professionals  
Day, April 25, 2018

## Bellbrook Presbyterian Church



Title: *The Language of Flowers*  
by **Vanessa Diffenbaugh**

Date: **April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **10:0am**

Place: **the church**

**JOIN US!**

A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, *The Language of Flowers* beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings.

Now eighteen and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market has her questioning what's been missing in her life, and when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.



**Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**  
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