



HOLMES HERALD

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , PO BOX 117, HOLMES, PA 19043

Pulpit Supply:

Dr. J. William Carpenter
610-529-6276

Email: pastorjwc1@verizon.net

Admin. Asst.: Cheryl Steckel

Email: holmespreschurch@gmail.com

Treasurer: Angelo LoCastro

Organist; Choir Director:
Mark Kalbach

Youth Director:
Rebecca Kalbach

Custodian: Helen Pilgrene

Office telephone: 610-532-0346

Fax No.: 610-532-2420

Website:
www.holmespreschurch.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

A message from Session	page 2
Birthdays	page 3
Communion Schedule	page 4
Compassion Sale	page 5
Youth News	page 6
Prayers	(insert)

Please join us on
Sunday mornings for...

April 2026

Adult Sunday School : 9:15 AM
Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM



On May 7th, Holmes Church will be observing the National Day of Prayer. The Sanctuary will be open for prayer from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come to the Sanctuary during these hours and offer prayers for our nation. (Use Holmes Road door).

Mother's Day Luncheon



For Christians, Sundays are the Lord's Day when we have the opportunity to worship God. So, each Lord's Day is special to us. On Sunday, May 10th, our nation pays tribute to mothers. Holmes Church is grateful for the opportunity to support the mother's role in the family unit and recognizes the women of our congregation and their strong faith as one of our greatest treasures. To recognize this day, the Deacons will be holding a Mother's Day luncheon following worship. During worship on this day, we will be joined by the children/youth in our church. Please take some time to recognize the women of the church and enjoy some refreshments and also greet our youth.

We have concluded the Lenten season. We celebrated Palm Sunday on March 29, and, of course, April 5, was our celebration of Easter! While the secular world makes more of Christmas, **Easter is the supreme festival day of the Christian Church.** We are always glad that many folks attend worship on Easter, but we are more than a bit skeptical about why so many take the time and make the effort to worship on Easter, but seldom at any other time!

Could it be that Jesus is more or less a storybook character to so many people? They may grant that he lived, but a very, very long time ago. Things seem so different now. They may think it was bad that he was crucified. But, they may not know what to think of Jesus' resurrection. It's a nice idea, but, come on, now, it could not have happened. We all know that dead people don't come back to life in three days or 3,000 years. We all know what Egyptian mummies look like!

Well, let us note that the Bible, which the Church accepts as God's message to us, **clearly says that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.** Because he was, **it was and is of earth-shaking significance!** Yes, we do know that the concept of someone being resurrected from the dead is an idea with which is difficult for us to work--just simply because it doesn't happen! And, none of the other great religious teachers in history ever claimed to be resurrected. Jesus' disciples were clearly stunned by his death. Why would they say just three days later, that he was resurrected? They saw him die. They saw him put in the tomb. Why claim resurrection?

The answer is curiously simple. Jesus showed himself alive to his followers! People don't hallucinate or have visions while eating an early breakfast of fish on a chilly lake shore! (Jn. 21:12ff.) Visions are not composed of scars that can be felt or touched. (Jn.20:27) Those men and women were as stunned by Jesus' resurrection as we would be if one occurred before us. So, the **issue of Jesus' resurrection is that it is true** and because it is, it is of critical importance for us! We should believe it because it is true, but also because our eternal destiny is at stake in the truth of Jesus' resurrection!

Because Jesus' resurrection was so incredibly unique, **his disciples had to proclaim what they witnessed!** And, that has been the mission of Jesus' followers ever since. Jesus' resurrection from the dead has been the keystone of the new building God has been erecting and bringing to completion through the ages--the Christian Church!

Just what does the resurrection of Jesus mean? Well, it wasn't a resuscitation or reanimation of Jesus' dead body--which did apparently occur to several people in biblical history--like Jesus' friend, Lazarus. (Jn.11:44) These were all restored to life--only to die again, later. Resurrection had never happened before. It was new and different and the disciples had a difficult time grasping its meaning. It belongs to a whole new order of reality that is coming, but is not yet here. **Jesus' body is a body of life!** Our earthly bodies are bodies of death. **Jesus' resurrection brought a new order of life** which transcends our present existence. He is the first to experience resurrection--which all his followers will experience in the great resurrection at the close of this present age--at the end of time as we know it--at Jesus' Second Coming!!

So, we hope you see that Jesus' resurrection is very important for those of us who trust him for our personal redemption. **God has showed us that resurrection is a certainty in Jesus!** It is not just something for which we hope. **It is an assured certainty in Jesus!** We trust Jesus for an eternal relationship with God--one that begins now and continues into eternity. But, we trust Jesus for even more. We believe that as he was resurrected, so shall we be. **We see our future in Jesus!!** Now, isn't this something to celebrate--celebrate at Easter and every day of the years God gives us in his grace? **We are an Easter people with an Easter faith!** The Apostles' Creed says, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead!" Do you?

Happy Easter!

The Session of Holmes Church



We at Holmes Church are blessed to have a team of Deacons who faithfully reach out and support those in need.

Every May, it is customary for them to focus their assistance on mothers in celebration of Mother's Day. This year, they are once again looking to meet some of the needs for the mothers and babies of Mother's Home. The collection of wish list items will take place until May 3rd.

Easter Egg Hunt 2026

Thank you to all of you who donated candy, to those who filled 3000 Easter Eggs, and to those who braved the frigid temps to help the day of the Holmes Easter Egg Hunt. Our church campus was absolutely packed with families. So much so that all the 3000 eggs were found within less than 2 minutes! A new record! It was very cold, but God blessed us with a sunny day and fun was had by all. Many people from the neighborhood commented how thankful they were for the Holmes Egg Hunt and how they look forward to it each year. Again, thank you to all of you who made this event possible.



Birthdays and Anniversaries in April:

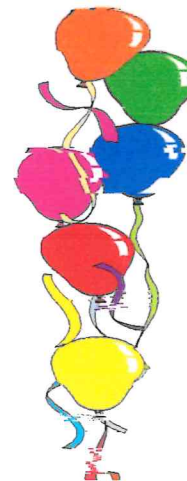
Happy Birthday to..

23 Leeann McCullough

Happy Anniversary to...

8 Larry & Linda Gloner

9 Carol & Angelo LoCastro



An Easter Prayer



We thank Thee for the beauty of this day, for the glorious message that all nature proclaims: the Easter lilies with their waxen throats eloquently

singing the good news; the birds, so early this morning, impatient to begin their song; every flowering tree, shrub, and flaming bush, a living proclamation from Thee. O open our hearts that we may hear it too!

In thy presence, restore our faith, our hope, our joy. Grant to our spirits refreshment, rest, and peace. Maintain within our hearts an unruffled calm, and unbroken serenity that no storms of life shall ever be able to take from us



Compassion Flower Sale Needs YOU!

As many of you know the Compassion Flower Sale will take place on Saturday, May 2nd. We need MANY HELPERS to make this event possible. From the night before: getting the flower orders ready, to the morning of: setting up tables, taking flowers out, baked goods out, to manning the many tables, to taking down the tables and clean up after the event.

If you can help with any of these areas please let Ed Taylor, Dyan White, Elaine Van Geyten, or Becky Kalbach know.

Easter Bible Verses

During this Eastertide, please meditate on these enriching verses of the Bible to deepen and strengthen your faith:

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Revelation 5: 12-13

(continued on page 6)

Let us prepare our hearts for worship



Our congregation is often described as warm and friendly. We enjoyed greeting each other on Sunday mornings and extend those greetings to members, friends, and guests. How to maintain this meaningful interaction and “prepare our hearts for worship”?

Worship should be entered into with reverence and respect. By that we should demonstrate a quiet demeanor, allowing for personal and collective reflection. Our service allows ample time to greet each other before worship, and during the formal greetings of friendship. Respectful attention to congregational announcements is important, and a cue that we are entering into a time of worship. If you haven't already silenced your phone, this is the time to do so. Please refrain from using these devices during worship.

During the prelude, we are given a very important opportunity to “prepare our hearts”. A time to silently gather our thoughts turning them to God in prayer, or letting go of the demands of our daily lives. This is not the time to continue a previous conversation or begin a new one. It is the way we can individually and collectively begin our worship. If you arrive after the service has begun, (during or after the announcements) please do so with minimal disruption.

In addition to our warm fellowship, we do enthusiastically participate together with singing, praying, and following all aspects of the service. Personal communication, however, needs to be limited and whispered if necessary.

True worship is described as “in spirit”, engaging the whole heart. We need to demonstrate reverence and respect in our conduct, to encourage others, as well as ourselves, to truly worship our Triune God.

Monthly Communion Schedule

At their last Session meeting in March, the Elders approved the schedule for monthly communion. The following is a listing of all communion dates for 2026 (previously scheduled and newly scheduled):



April 2nd-Maundy Thursday communion

October 4th-World Communion Sunday

May 24th-Pentecost

November 29th-Advent communion

June 14th-Flag Day (newly added)

December 24th-Christmas Eve

July 5th-newly added

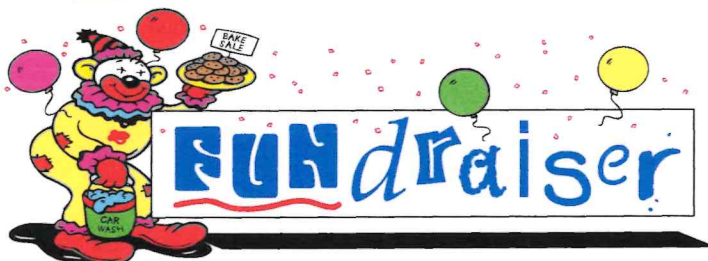
August 2nd-Summer communion

September 6th-newly added

COMPASSION BAKE/FLOWER SALE

It is that time of year again when we raise money to sponsor our four children through Compassion International. The goal of Compassion is to make a difference in the lives of these children by continuing to bring the hope and love of Jesus to them by providing healthcare, food, recreational activities and Christ-centered guidance. The children we support are: Josias from Burkina Faso in Africa, Natoli from Ethiopia, Marcos from Brazil and Hurgen from Haiti. It has been through the faithful and generous support of the Holmes Church family that we have had the opportunity to show compassion for these children.

During our worship service on **Compassion Sunday, February 15th**, you heard more about our children and what your support means to them. Our yearly Flower and Hoagie fundraiser to support this sponsorship will be held on Saturday, **May 2nd (raindate May 9th), from 10 AM to 2 PM. Hoagies will be available for pick up from 12-2pm and flowers will be available for pick up between 10am and 2pm.**



Following Christ's Example of Humble Service



On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples' feet and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head

as well (see John 13:1-16).

Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15, NKJV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ's command and his example of humility, service and love.

YOUTH NEWS

Happy Easter to all of our friends of the Holmes Youth Group! We pray that you all are given renewed hope and joy through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his death on the cross, for those who believe, we have everlasting life. What a precious gift!

March had the youth group busy with helping to fill 3000 Easter Eggs. Then they also braved the chilly temperatures to help put the eggs on the church campus for our annual Easter Egg Hunt which was held on Saturday, March 28th, 2026. We appreciate all their help they continue to give to Holmes Church

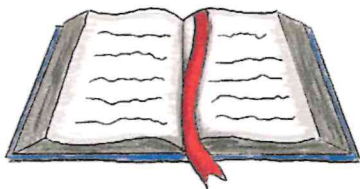
Bible lessons this Lenten season focused on Jesus's ministry - leading up to his arrest, death, and triumphant resurrection on the cross. This is always an important opportunity to discuss and illustrate not only the unjust and horrific suffering, but also the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ to our young people..

The Holmes Youth Group looks forward to helping the church with the upcoming Compassion Sale in May.

Again, thank you to all who support this important ministry in so many ways and we are so grateful!

God Bless-
Mark and Becky

EASTER
CHANGES EVERYTHING



Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Isaiah 40:9

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this Kind of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting door; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the Kind of glory. Psalm 24:7-10

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Isaiah 40:4-5

I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die... John 11:25-26

Prayers



God of life and breath,
Thank you for this new day. Before the noise and responsibilities begin,
help me pause and remember that I am yours. Fill this day with your
peace. Guide my steps. Help me show up with kindness and courage.
And when I forget to breathe, remind me again. Amen

God of the evening,
As this day comes to a close, I release what I carried today into your care. For what went well, I
give thanks. For what was difficult, I ask your peace. Hold me through the night. Renew my
strength, and help me rest in your presence. Amen.

God of stillness,
Slow my racing thoughts and quiet the worries that fill my mind. Help me release what I cannot
control and rest in the knowledge that you are already here. In this moment, let me breathe
deeply and trust that your love surrounds me. Amen.

Holy one,
Quiet my mind, settle my body, and help me rest for a moment. You know what fills my heart and
mind-my joys, my anxieties, and all I'm carrying. Provide what I need today-even the things I don't
have words for.

Breath Prayers

Breath Prayer 1
Breathe in: Be still
Breathe out: Trust God.
Pause for a moment today.
Let your heart rest.

Breath Prayer 2
Breathe in: God is here
Breathe out: I am not alone
Take a slow breath
God is already present

Breath Prayer 3
Breathe in: Into your care...
Breathe out: I release this day.
Whatever today holds,

Breath Prayer 4
Breathe in: God of peace...
Breathe out: Calm my heart.
Even in busy moments,
peace can begin with a breath.

Breath Prayer 5
Breathe in: Fill me with peace.
Breathe out: Let worry go.
What you release, God receives.



APRIL

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Mar 2026</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">May 2026</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1 4:00 PM Crew 143 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday Dinner 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service  Maundy Thursday	3 1:00 PM Good Friday Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting  GOOD FRIDAY	4
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																											
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																											
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																											
29	30	31																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
					1	2																																																																																											
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																											
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																											
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																											
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																											
31																																																																																																	
5 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 	6 8:00 AM OTHG 12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM NA Meeting	7 9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing 6:30 PM Daisy Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 4:00 PM Crew 143	9 7:00 PM Men's Support Group	10 8:00 PM AA Meeting	11																																																																																											
12 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	13 8:00 AM OTHG 12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM NA Meeting 7:00 PM Session/Deacons	14 9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 4:00 PM Crew 143	16 7:00 PM Men's Support Group	17 8:00 PM AA Meeting	18																																																																																											
19 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	20 8:00 AM OTHG 12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM NA Meeting	21 9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing 6:30 PM Daisy Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 4:00 PM Crew 143	23 7:00 PM Men's Support Group	24 8:00 PM AA Meeting	25																																																																																											
26 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	27 8:00 AM OTHG 12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM NA Meeting	28 9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29 4:00 PM Crew 143	30 7:00 PM Men's Support Group																																																																																													