

HOLMES HERALD

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

Pulpit Supply:

Dr. J. William Carpenter
610-529-6276

Email: pastorjwc1@gmail.com

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

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*Please join us on
Sunday mornings for...*

May 2024

Adult Forum:

9:15 AM

Children's Sunday School:

10:30 AM

Traditional worship service:

10:30 AM



Sunday, May 12th, is Mother's Day. Holmes Church is grateful for the opportunity to support the mother's role in the family unit and recognizes the

women of our congregation as one of our greatest treasures.

We are thankful for their faith, strength, and leadership and recognize the important contributions made by the women of this congregation. Please join us in the Social Hall for a Mother's Day Luncheon after worship on May 12th to celebrate the women of our church.

Our summer worship and Sunday School schedule begins Sunday, June 2nd and continues through September 1st. **Worship** begins at **10:00 AM**

instead of 10:30 AM. Worship will resume at 10:30am on September 8th. Children's programming is available during worship for students K-5.



It's Spring and that can only mean one thing...Graduation! If you have a graduate you wish to have recognized in the newsletter, please submit all information to the church office by May 27th.



What is Pentecost and Its Significance?

By Kurt Selles

(Submitted by Becky Kalbach)

What is Pentecost?

Today, when people think of Pentecost they usually think of the Christian holiday that occurs in late spring. But have you ever wondered where the name "Pentecost" comes from? The name itself comes from the Greek root word for "five," penta, which means "fiftieth." Although it's traditionally thought of as a strictly Christian holiday or high-point in the Christian liturgical year, Pentecost has its roots in Judaism. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel celebrated the "Festival of Weeks" exactly fifty days (seven weeks and one day) after Passover, their most important religious festival of the year.

Essentially, the Festival of Weeks, or Shavuot, was a harvest festival. In Israel, grain was harvested twice annually: wheat in the spring and the rest of the harvest in the fall. With the spring harvest, the Hebrews celebrated the Festival of Weeks. Although the Festival of Weeks did not have quite the same level of importance as Passover, it was, nevertheless, a time of joy and celebration. Work ceased and pilgrims journeyed to Jerusalem carrying with them the first sheaves of the wheat harvest for an offering to celebrate God's provision of food.

In the early chapters of the book of Acts, the celebration of Pentecost takes a distinctly Christian turn. We read about the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, where we find Jesus' disciples and 120 other of his followers, including his mother, Mary, along with some of his brothers, all huddled in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. They are hiding out for fear of local religious authorities, but they're also waiting for something that Jesus, their beloved teacher and leader, has promised them, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, a sound like a violent wind fills the room where the disciples are hunkered down and tongues of fire seem strangely to hover over their heads. Even stranger, those gathered in the room miraculously begin to speak in the languages of the wide variety of pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Weeks. Some of these pilgrims, seeing this strange sight, ask, "Are these scruffy fishermen drunk?" Then the Apostle Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, rejects the explanation of drunkenness for this miraculous event and preaches one of the most powerful and important sermons in the entire New Testament.

Peter points to the prophet Joel's words in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-32) promising an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all of God's people, which fulfills a promise that Jesus had made. This Jesus, whom you crucified, Peter informs the crowd, is the Messiah, the Christ, God's promised Savior who conquered sin and death. When the crowd hears Peter's piercing words, many are "cut to the heart," and ask, "What should we do?" Peter calls on them to repent and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Many in the crowd do, and three thousand are baptized on Pentecost.

(Continued on Page 3)



What is the significance of Pentecost?

In short, Pentecost, though originally a Hebrew religious festival, is a watershed moment in God's plan of salvation. For all who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, the following are three hugely significant and timeless truths of Pentecost.

Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit reminds and assures us that Jesus keeps his promises. Now, when old and young, women and men, and people from every other race and ethnicity, as well as every walk of life, claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they receive new life through the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus and assures us deep in our hearts that we belong to God and that nothing will ever separate us from his love.

Pentecost also marks the birthday of the church. In the Old Testament, God's people consisted only of Israel. Pentecost heals the divisions and animosity of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), where because of pride and arrogance, people were divided by language and race. At Pentecost, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, people from every tongue, race, and nation are brought together in Jesus Christ. God has reconciled us individually to himself through his son Jesus, and through him we have been made one body in the church.

Finally, Pentecost reminds us of the church's primary purpose: to share the love of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Throughout the remaining chapters of the book of Acts, we see the Apostles and all of Jesus' followers continue his mission to proclaim God's love. Significantly, Acts' open-ended conclusion clearly indicates the church's mission to proclaim the gospel is to continue until Jesus comes again. When the church shares the love of Jesus in word and deed, it carries out God's purpose and plan to redeem and restore our fallen world.

We will be observing Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th, 2024 (with communion). We are asking all people wear red that Sunday to observe Pentecost.



The joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

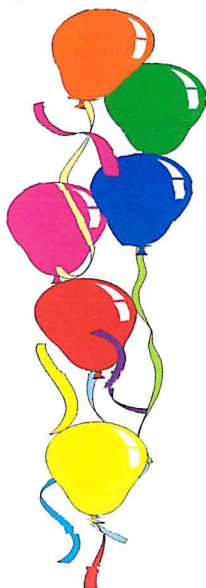
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to...

- 2 Mrs. Debbie Oliver
- 3 Ms. Suzie Waldie

Happy Anniversary to...

- 7 Lisa and Ed Taylor
- 13 Debbie and Joseph Lucas
- 24 Christine and James Morrison



50 days after Easter (Resurrection Sunday) the Christian Church observes Pentecost. Please join us as we celebrate the Birthday of the church with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on May 19th.



On May 2nd, 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). A prayer list will be provided.



Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family. Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.

We remember

MEMORIAL DAY



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

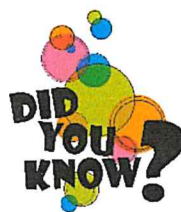
Holmes church is grateful for the sacrifices made by our military and their families to keep us safe and maintain our freedoms. We remember those who gave their lives for this cause and pray for the families and friends they have left behind.



This year the Deacons are focusing their Mother's Day mission on the residents of Mothers' Home. Mothers' Home is a residential shelter in Darby which houses up to 28 women during their pregnancy and the first 6 months after their babies are born. The facility provides hope and support for young adult women who choose life for their unborn child despite rejection, abandonment, and ongoing obstacles. The goal is for the residents to become independent young women and caring mothers. This is achieved through counseling, classes and various support services. Collection will start on April 14th and end on May 5th.



Our Compassion Sale to raise funds for Hurgen, Marcos, Natoli and Josias will be held this Saturday, May 4th (raindate May 11th) from 9am-2pm. The Compassion program changes the lives of these children by providing clothes, food, Bible teaching, healthcare and screenings, and tuition/education. There are so many ways to help sponsor these children by purchasing flowers, hoagies, baking or donating baked goods and/or use your time to set up/break down tables, help in the kitchen or man a table. It takes a village to support these children so please pray for great weather and a good turnout.



Borrowed Thoughts submitted by Angelo LoCastro

Presidents

John Tyler had 15 children

Andrew Jackson thought the world was flat.

Ulysses S Grant had the boyhood nickname Useless

George Washington was deathly afraid of being buried alive

Abraham Lincoln had nervous breakdown in 1836

Woodrow Wilson was the only president who had a PhD

Theodore Roosevelt wrote 37 books

Jimmy Carter was a speed reader - 2000 words per minute

Ronald Reagan once wore a nazi uniform while filming a movie.

Gerald Ford was once a male model.

Throughout our country's history our elected officials have done normal things smart things and ridiculous things. Our expectations will always be -to do the right thing, act with honor, and represent our county at a high level.

What forgiveness is — and is not



Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start and a new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the canceling of a debt.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

YOUTH NEWS

After an extremely busy March, the Holmes Youth Group had a very quiet April for a nice change. A large group of us did go out to Nifty Fifty's to celebrate Evelyn's birthday. I would say, we all had a nice time. We do look forward to helping with the Compassion Project Flower Sale upcoming on Saturday, May 4th, 2024 at 9 am. We hope to see everyone there.

Focus on our Bible topic this month was what happened to Jesus after his resurrection and what Jesus' disciples did to continue Jesus' ministry. It is interesting to note that many youth do not realize that most of the disciples were sadly martyred.

We thank all of you who uphold this ministry in prayer and who pray for our youth. School/society/social media is quite difficult... more than most know.. especially for our young people.

In Christ,

Mark and Becky



MAY

Holmes Presbyterian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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