

# HOLMES HERALD

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

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Please join us on  
Sunday mornings for...

March 2026



**Adult Sunday School : 9:15 AM**

**Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM**

**Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM**



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

You, your family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend our Holy Week and Easter worship celebrations.

A Maundy Thursday pot luck supper will be held on April 2nd at 5:30pm in Morrison Hall; participants are asked to bring a simple pot luck item to share that serves 6-8 people, plus your own tableware. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. At 7:00pm there will be a church service in Morrison Hall, with communion.

On *Good Friday*, April 3rd, we will have our traditional worship at 1:00 PM. This is a solemn and reflective worship.

On *Easter morning*, April 5th, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection with worship at 10:30 AM.

Please use some of the precious gift of "time" given to you by God, to deepen your personal faith and to thank God for the blessing and sacrifice of his son, Jesus Christ.



## Daylight Saving Time Begins

Spring Daylight Saving Time begins on March 8th. The spring time change means that we lose an hour of sleep because we turn our clocks forward an hour at bedtime on Saturday night. We want you in worship on time on March 8th, so make sure your clocks are changed when you retire on Saturday, March 7th.



## Love conquers all

The season, which starts on Ash Wednesday, begins a 40-day journey ending on Easter. The six Sundays in Lent, which aren't counted in the 40-day figure, provide powerful pictures of Jesus at work. In each of them, we see the Savior waging war against all those who were opposed to him and against everything that might threaten our faith. He battles the devil and his temptations (Matthew 4:1-11; the Pharisees and their man-made rules (John 9:1-39), and even his own disciples when they didn't understand the cross (Mark 8:31-38).

At the same time, we see our Savior fighting for people. He defeats the doubts of Nicodemus (John 3:1-17), the fears of the woman at the well (John 4:5-26), and the spiritual blindness of the human heart (John 9:1-39).

What drives him to do such things? Love! Love for his Father and his Word, love for his followers and their faith, love for all. Love leads Jesus to weep at the grave of Lazarus just before he overcomes the power of death (John 11:17-27,38-45). Love leads Jesus to lament over Jerusalem as he rides through the city, prepared to die for those who did not love him (Luke 20:9-19).

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

By the time Christians reach the end of Lent, we have not only witnessed Jesus' battles but also his bitter suffering. Many churches make use of midweek devotions to recount the Passion History. As we are reminded of the unjust brutality, what do we see at the heart of the story?

In one sense, Jesus' "passion" relates to what he "suffered" (in Latin, *passio* means "to suffer or endure"). But in a greater sense, what we witness at the end of Lent is the compassionate love of Christ on full display. Lenten hymns and hymn writers love to make the connection: "What Wondrous Love Is This". Samuel Crossman's poem calls us to consider it: "My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be". Paul Gerhard puts the truth in concrete terms: "Your cords of love, my Savior, bind me to you forever; I am no longer mine", and in the third stanza of their hymn "O Church Arise," Keith and Kristyn Getty summarize the connection in the simplest, most straightforward terms: "Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet."

Each spring, while the world imagines a sentimental Valentine's kind of love, Lent teaches the truths of God's sacrificial and redeeming love in Jesus. "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:9,10).

(continued on page 3)



## Love changes lives

During Lent, Christians witness the love of the Savior. They also have a unique opportunity to reflect that love in their relationships with God and their neighbor. As Isaac Watts put it, "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all". The personal application of Lent's lessons was a driving force behind many of the customs and habits associated with the season.

From early on, the observance of the Lenten season focused on self-examination, self-denial, and self-reflection. Lent was used by the early Christian church as an intensive study session for catechism students. Often Christians paired spiritual discipline with physical discipline. They imitated Jesus' wilderness fasting with selective fasting of their own.

But over time, good habits became bad habits, as people focused on what and when they could eat instead of why they were choosing not to eat. Abstaining from sweets or alcohol, Wednesday soup suppers, Friday fish fries—even the famous McDonald's sandwich—all owed their existence to Lent, even when the spiritual reasons for them were long forgotten. While many people learned to observe Lent, they certainly didn't learn to love it!

Is it possible for us to fall in love with Lent again? Only by returning to the heart of the message will we regain the meaning of Lent. This is what we discover in a season of repentance. As we hear God's message of pardon and absolution set forth in the gospel of our Savior, we also hear his call to continually grow in repentance and faith: "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1 John 4:11,12).

Perhaps it's a season that we learn to love. The stories are serious, and the hymns may be somber, but in Lent we see and share the love of God in Christ.

Author: Mark W. Tiefel

### A Lenten Prayer

Eternal God, we thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son to be our Savior. We thank You that through Jesus Christ, You have given us a model for what it looks like to put Your love into action. So, as we move through this season of Lent, we pray that You make us instruments of Your love.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries in March:

Happy Birthday to....

- 6 Sandy Levine  
9 Conner McCullough



Happy Anniversary to...

- 15 Julie & Kevin Reeder

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support ministries of disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and urban and rural community development throughout the United States and the world. These gifts support:



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,  
Self-Development of People, and  
The Presbyterian Hunger Program.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 29th.



Milk and juice cartons  
needed

Debbie Oliver is requesting milk and juice cartons to transport flowers to our church family and friends. If you have clean cartons to

donate, please place them in the music room. This is an ongoing need.

## Easter Egg Hunt News



The annual Holmes Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 28th, 2026, at 11 am. This event is for all children from Pre-K to 5th grade. Weather pending, after the Egg Hunt, children can sit on the front steps to hear a brief story about Easter.

### Candy Donations

We are now collecting candy donations for the Holmes Easter Egg Hunt. A basket has been placed in the narthex. We are asking for individually wrapped candy. Donations for candy will be collected through Sunday, March 22nd, 2026.

Thank you for your generosity, in advance, for making this annual community event possible.

### Holmes Easter Egg Hunt Needs Helpers

Weather permitting, we hope to hold the Holmes Easter Egg Hunt, on Saturday, March 28th, 2026. However, we are asking for some volunteers, who would be willing to help hand out light refreshments, and flyers about our church, and cleaning up the church after the event. If you are willing to help in any way, please see Becky Kalbach and let her know.

### Easter Egg Filling

We will be filling Easter Eggs on Sunday, March 22nd, 2026. We will meet for Pizza Dinner starting at 4:30 and promptly filling Easter Eggs by 5:15 pm. If you are willing to help the Youth Group in this very large undertaking, please let Mark or Becky know. Thank you.

**\*\*\*Please note that this is a date change from the previously reported March 15th.**

## If God Had Voicemail

Have you ever wondered what would happen if God used voicemail to handle all our prayers?

Let's imagine it for a moment.

I had just finished gossiping and wanted to confess, so I got ready to pray—or rather, to “call.” Immediately, a voice answered:

“You’ve reached the throne room of Heaven, the Prayer Department. All of our representatives are currently assisting other callers. Your call is important to us, and we want to help you. Please stay on the line, and your request will be answered in the order it was received.”

Soft music plays. Then another message comes on:

“Listen carefully to the following options and press the appropriate number.

Press 1 for prayer for a loved one.

Press 2 for prayer for your church.

Press 3 to give thanks.

Press 4 to confess sins.

Press 5 for salvation.

Press 6 for physical needs.

To repeat this menu, press 9.”

Since I had a sin to confess, I pressed 4.

Another voice responded cheerfully:

“We’re so glad to help you with your confession of sins. Please select from the following options:

If you cursed, press 1.

If you yelled at your spouse or another family member, press 2.

If you gossiped, press 3...”

The list went on and on.

About then I decided to hang up and keep on gossiping. But then I remembered what the Bible says about God and how he attends to our needs. He doesn’t route our prayers through a heavenly call center or put us on hold. We don’t get busy signals, menus or automated voices.

Instead, our Father listens instantly, personally, and lovingly. Instead of a voice mail system, he says, “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:24, KJV)

# YOUTH NEWS

The Holmes Youth Group will be very busy with the upcoming soup luncheon on February 28th, 2026. We hope you all will come out for a delicious bowl of soup or chili, lovingly created by one of the Holmes congregation's top-notch culinarians.

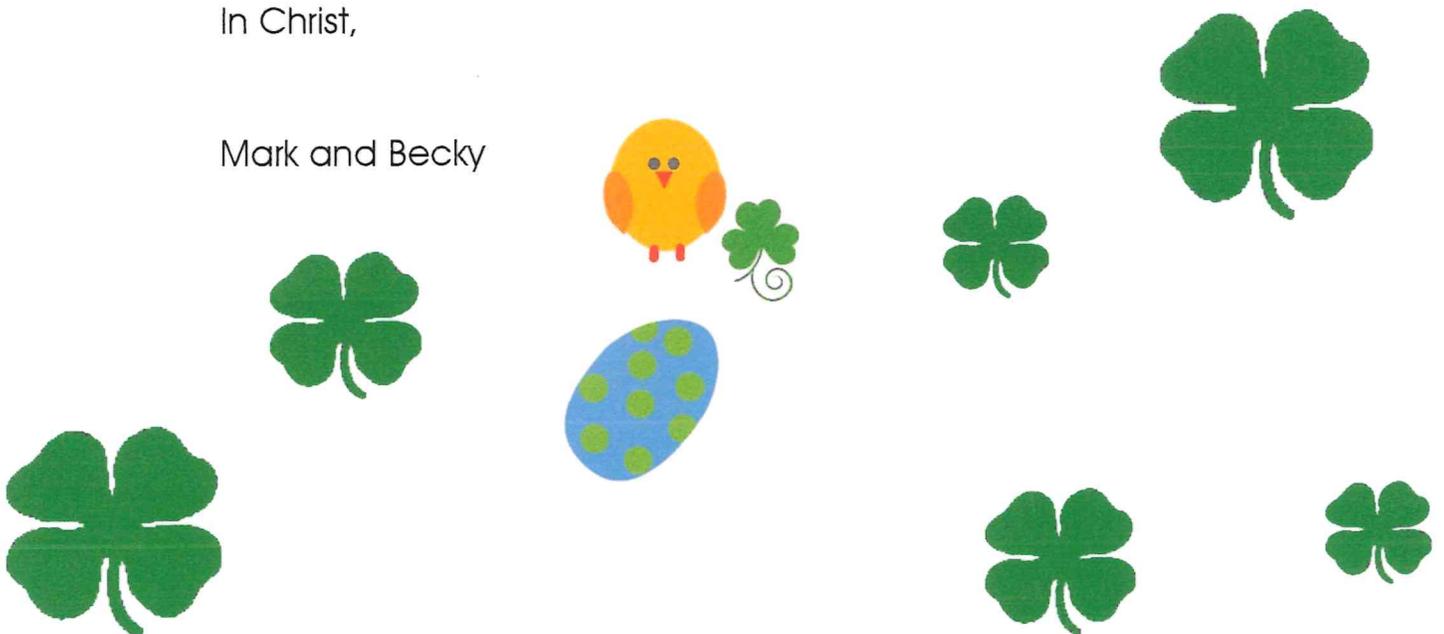
If that's not enough, we will be filling Easter Eggs on March 22nd, in preparation for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th, at 11am. Our Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, which is solely based on answering questions from the students knowledge of the events from Palm Sunday to Easter) will be held on Sunday, March 29th at 5:30 pm.

Our weekly discussions will now be dedicated to the ministry of Jesus and His disciples; the miracles He performed, the rapturous crowd reception on Palm Sunday, His death on the cross, and culminating with His glorious resurrection. Certainly, the greatest story ever told!

Please continue to keep our group in prayer as we strive to teach God's Word to the next generation of young believers.

In Christ,

Mark and Becky



# MARCH

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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