

April 2022

The Growing Edge

Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren | 219 Hummel St. Harrisburg, PA 17104



A Prayer for April

Written by Devin Dixon-Rosario

Dear God

As the earth returns to us what was lost in the winter,
help us to acknowledge your way of seasons.

Throughout our lives, we all experience a time of cold;
darkness; frostbite on our finger and toes. It is in these
times that we must hold steady as our faith in you shall
not be moved. As our skies turn blue and our days grow
brighter, be with us in transition, humble us and keep us
peaceful amidst change.

“For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

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Pastors Corner

Written by Pastor Lexi Aligarbes

1 Peter 1:3– “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

The Easter season is upon us. In just a few short weeks we will have the opportunity to celebrate Christ’s resurrection. As our different ministry teams have met in preparation for all that this time brings, I can’t help but to have a new perspective on the idea of resurrection.

Our Spiritual Life Team and deacons are “resurrecting” our traditional Lovefeast service. It will be the first time since the pandemic where we can gather to reflect, eat, partake in footwashing, and communion, all inside our church building. Our Special Services Team is “resurrecting” our Easter breakfast, the first big Sunday meal we will have as a congregation inside. However, in thinking about resurrection, and in the realities of us planning for our Lovefeast, Easter breakfast, and even Easter Sunday service, it is clear that although we are bringing these things back, they will look different than what they were before. There are exciting changes that will be present. We have called new deacons from our congregation who will be serving during our Lovefeast time. We have new musical gifts from many different members of our faith community that will continue to be shared in the services leading up to Easter. And yet, there are also differences that are not as exciting. Some of the faces we normally see in the Fellowship Hall kitchen on Easter morning may not be there. Our Easter Sunday service won’t necessarily have every element that it may have had in the past. So although we may be resurrecting some of our congregational traditions during this Easter season, this resurrection is bringing forth something new.



Lexi Aligarbes

Co-Pastor

The idea of resurrection and newness however, comes from our readings of the scriptures. Turning to 1 Peter 1:3, it reminds us that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ we are given the opportunity for a new birth, to be something different. In order to celebrate new life we have to allow other things to die. Yet, what makes our newness in Christ different from other promises of new, is that our newness instills within us a living hope. So even though things pass, what God makes new can be more vibrant and life giving.

My prayer then, as we reflect on the meaning of Easter, the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, that we as a congregation will work with God to reveal the vibrant newness that is being created out of our resurrection.

A Church In Conversation

I preached recently on the fact that we have been a church in transition for quite some time, and even recalled these exact words coming from our former Senior Pastor year after year. "We are a church in transition." As I have thought about this more, it strikes me how important it has become, and will continue to be, for us all to remain in conversation as we continue to pursue what God has in store for this faith community. Let us embrace the identity of a Church in Conversation.

To this point, we have begun a new time together this past month that we are calling sermon talk back time. This is a time directly following our worship service where all who attend have the opportunity to converse around the morning scripture and proclamation. The early Anabaptists and Pietists believed that it was everyone's responsibility to know God's word and that the Spirit reveals what God has in store to all people, not just a select few. This is broadly understood under the description The Priesthood of All Believers, something to which the Church of the Brethren at large and our faith community specifically still adhere. We are embodying this practice weekly. Instead of one of our staff speaking and everyone listening and then going home, we invite everyone to bring their own experience and knowledge to the table as we learn from one another. If you haven't yet chosen to stay after service, I want to invite you to join the conversation!

In the month of May, we are planning to hold another intentional conversation around the church's mission statement. This will be in the World Cafe format which was used this past fall for a different conversation which ensures that all have the opportunity to share without feeling the need to speak in front of the entire group. The church's mission statement has been a source of pride for me personally over my time here as I have seen God use it to form us into what God wants us to be. It is important to periodically look at this to be sure it still serves us in pushing into the future the Lord has in store for us. Unlike our former World Cafe, this event will not be one where any decisions are made, rather it will just be a safe space to have important, if not difficult, conversations about the future of the church. As details for this come forth, I again invite you to come, participate and join the conversation.



Josiah Ludwick

Co-Pastor

For us to be a Church in Conversation, it requires all of us to have our voices heard. Not just staff, not just team leaders, not just newcomers, not just long-timers... everyone's voice is needed. In addition to these events, Pastor Lexi and my doors are always open and we are happy to converse around the direction God is leading us. Participate in Talk Backs from time to time. Make plans to attend the World Cafe Event around the church's Mission Statement in May. Join the conversation!!!

Our Community Ministries

bcmPEACE

"Serving Allison Hill in becoming a safer, healthier community empowered by God's peace."

Get Connected!

- Make sure you are receiving our monthly Newsletter
- Donate your unwanted clothes to Community Aid using our partner number #10018
- Come take a tour of the space and community
- Become a Board Member
- Become a Mentor
- So many more opportunities!

Add it to the Calendar

- May 1st – Mental Health Fair
- May 4th – Trivia Night to support Highmark Walk
- May 21st – Highmark Walk for A Healthier Community
- June 19th – 23rd – Vacation Bible School
- September 8th (TBD) – Be The Peace Banquet
- November 6th – Bowl-a-thon

What's Happening?

Agape Satyagraha participants are continuing to go through the program while graduates continue in conversations around Mental Health and it's intersections (race, gender, sexuality, etc). Both have been participating in community artwork!



We have a new **Computer Class** graduate! Congratulations to Miss Jackie who has completed the program and recieved a desktop computer!



Pathway to Prosperity is getting a new look! We will be creating a "free store" that gives out hygenine products, and clothes to those who come through our Pathway to Prosperity program. There will als be space for children and a welcome meeting and office space for our Pathway Guide to mentor and direct participants.



Our **Wellness Hub** is impacting the lives of an average 130 households each week! We are excited to open the doors back up and offer a short service and a bible study!



2022 **BCMPEACE X HIGHMARK WALK**

CREATING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

MAY 21, 2022



Want to be a part of creating a safer, healthier community empowered by God's Peace?

WALK WITH US.

Register, Join or Create a Team, Access Resources, and Donate at www.bcmpeace.org

Make sure you are keeping up with all things bcmPEACE by checking out our website www.bcmpeace.org! Also if you are not already receiving our Monthly newsletter, we would love for you to sign up for our mailing list. Thank you for your continued support as we continue to serve Allison Hill in becoming a safer, healthier, community empowered by God's Peace!



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/www.bcmpeace.org



Faith and Justice Corner

What IS the relationship between faith & justice?

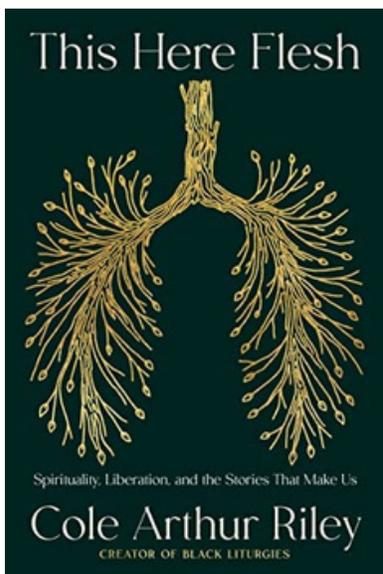
Devin Dixon-Rosario



Our faith relates to justice in many ways. God calls us as brothers and sisters in Christ to be humble peacemakers “Learn to **do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice** to the fatherless, and please the widow's cause,” (Isaiah 1:17). In our journey to be more like Jesus, we have a duty to stand fearlessly for those whom suffer from oppression. We are called to be friends and allies to those who are condemned by others due to false pretenses or prejudice. The honor to be a true disciple of Jesus is one that we were **all** awarded in his transition to death for our everlasting life, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or orientation. Working with On Earth Peace as the LGBTQ+ Justice Organizer, I am equipped with knowledge and allyship forged by Jesus' love to open doors of compassion and empathy for those otherwise deemed undeserving.

How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1



This Here Flesh by Cole Arthur Riley

I was so excited to read this book as I fell in love with the Black Liturgists Instagram page run by Riley. This read as an extension of the space that Riley constructed in safety particularly for Black women. I am in constant awe of the effortless flow of contemplative worship with our personal realities. It has caused me to think about the way we connect with our bodies and what it means to both give and receive dignity and care. I am in the midst of finishing but recommend this book to any woman, particularly way sisters of color who wish to understand themselves and their connection to their faith on a deeper level. - *Alyssa Parker, bcmPEACE*

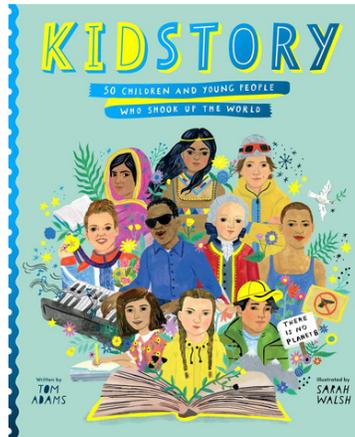
The Youth Corner

Social Justice Library Book of the Month!

Kidstory
50 CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO SHOOK UP
THE WORLD

WRITTEN BY TOM ADAMS

ILLUSTRATED BY SARAH WALSH



This children's book is about 50 different kids who changed the world. The children mentioned in this book have had to make difficult choices in order to survive. In reading this book, determine what kind of child you are!

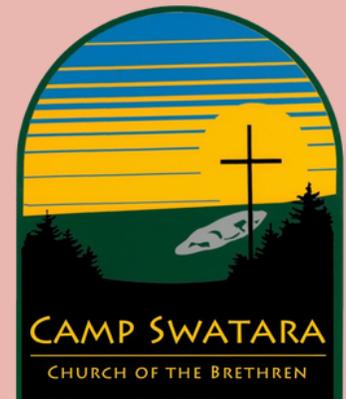
Memorable Quote: "If children are given an opportunity, they for sure can contribute to making this world a better place." Thandiwe Chama



Want to go to
camp?!

Registration is beginning for
summer camps of all ages in
June and July!

If you need help with
registration or costs, please
email Alyssa Parker at
brethren.com.min@gmail.com.



Make sure you come out and join us every other Sunday for Youth Group (grades 6–12)!

April 10th, 24th May 8th, 22nd June 5th, 19th

Congregational News and Announcements

"The church is more than just a community of believers. It's a family united by their love for Christ."

Sunday Bible Study

Same Purpose, Different Format



Sunday bible study has returned in the form of a "talk back" immediately following service. This will include going deeper into scripture and discussing the sermon. There will be a primary class available for that age range as well as the Young Disciples continuing past its normal time to accommodate childcare.

Mid-week Meditations

Join Pastor Lexi for a morning meditation every Wednesday at 9am! We will be highlighting different forms of spiritual practices, prayer, and meditation. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Want to Help?

Sign Up to volunteer in April for some important worship roles! We love having different people volunteer to have these leadership roles. You all are AMAZING!

check what you would be interested in and return the office via hard copy or email

3 ___ Welcome Table ___ Zoom and Video
___ Scripture Reading ___ Announcements
___ Time for Young Disciples

10 ___ Welcome Table ___ Zoom and Video
___ Scripture Reading ___ Announcements
___ Time for Young Disciples

17 ___ Welcome Table ___ Zoom and Video
___ Scripture Reading ___ Announcements
___ Time for Young Disciples

24 ___ Welcome Table ___ Zoom and Video
___ Scripture Reading ___ Announcements
___ Time for Young Disciples



Praise Reports

- For Dianne Negley's sister-in-law, Susanne Funk. She has been hospitalized for several weeks and is to be moved to a care facility that accepts ventilators
- For Bill Holland as he recovers from surgery.

Prayer Requests

- For Dianne Negley's sister-in-law, Susanne Funk. She has been hospitalized for several weeks and is to be moved to a care facility that accepts ventilators
- For Bill Holland as he recovers from surgery.

More Announcements

Upcoming Conferences

- National Young Adult Conference – May 27–30
 - "I Am Because We Are" (Romans 12:5)
 - Register NOW at www.brethren.org/yya/yac/
- Annual Conference – July 10–14
 - "Embracing One Another As Christ Embraces Us" (Romans 15:7)
 - Registration Opens March 1st at www.brethren.org/ac2022/
- National Youth Conference – July 23 – 28
 - "Foundational" (Colossians 2:5–7)
 - Register NOW at www.brethren.org/nyc/registration/



Lenten & Easter

Advent Devotionals from Brethren Press are available now. You can either see Woodrow Ziegler on a Sunday morning or contact the church office and we will get a copy in your hands. This daily devotional for the Lenten Season was written by Walt Wiltschek and can be obtained for \$8. Get yours while they last!

Atlantic Northeast District Lenten Bible Study will take place weekly on Wednesdays during Lent at 6:30. To register, Go to: www.ane-cob.org

Love Feast will take place in person on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 6:30pm. We are still determining whether this will be outdoors at Reservoir Park or here at First Church in the Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned for details

Resurrection Sunday will be celebrated on April 17 and will begin with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9am. Our Resurrection Celebration Service will begin around 10am. Please make plans to attend this wonderful day of fellowship and celebration

FLOWER ORDERS

Find Easter flower forms in your email/ on our welcome table.

MICHELLE'S

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
AT OFFICE@HBGFIRSTCOB.ORG
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

April 3rd	April 10th	April 17th	April 24th
Name:	Name:	Name:	Name:
In Honor/Memory of (Circle one)			
Color(s)	Color(s)	Color(s)	Color(s)
Give to:	Give to:	Give to:	Give to:

A P R I L

To place an order for the 5th Sunday,
Please do so on the back of this paper. Be sure to include all
details necessary. Thank you!



ALL-CHURCH CLEANING DAY

On **April 23, 2022**, the Building Resources Team has planned an all-church cleaning day. Before the pandemic, these cleaning days were semi-annual affairs – one in the spring and one in the fall. COVID changed that schedule, just as it changed virtually every aspect of our lives. But now we are getting back to our former routines.

Structurally, we try to get started around 8:30 AM.

Donuts and coffee provided! As are cleaning supplies. We have an outside team that, among other things, cleans up the parking lots, performs maintenance on the fence back by the garage, and weeds if necessary. The indoor work consists mainly of washing the pews and cleaning the kitchen. Other jobs may pop up.

We try to end by noon. We worship in a large, old building and it requires occasional special TLC. Many hands make light work. All-church Cleaning Day is also an opportunity for newcomers to the congregation and old hands to get to know each other a little better.

Please put April 23 in your calendar as we focus on spring housecleaning our church building!

Thanks in advance..

Even More Announcements

Mark Your Calendars!

On May 14th, 2022 the ANE District Urban Initiative team will be hosting the event, The Church: Alive to Thrive. This will be a time of worship, testimonial, and fellowship with other urban congregations in the ANE District. Stay tuned for more information about this event and for registration details.

NEW RESEARCH BRIEFING & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
APRIL 6
START 3 PM
LAST GIRL FIRST!
PROSTITUTION AT THE INTERSECTION OF SEX, RACE, & CLASS-BASED OPPRESSIONS
NETWORKING RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
HOSTED BY NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
RES: RESCUE FREEDOM
Embassy of Sweden Washington
World Without Exploitation
AMBASSADEUR DE LA PAIX AUX ETATS UNIS

JANUARY 2022 • VOLUME 1

LOVE ME, TOO

Stories from the LGBTQ+ community
By Devin Dixon-Rosario



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "COME OUT"?

DEVIN DIXON-ROSARIO

Coming out requires strength, love, and self-acceptance. In a world divided by race, ethnicity, socioeconomics, and much more; as people struggle with division among sexual orientations. There is a myriad of things to consider when making the decision to come out such as taking safety precautions, being prepared for potential consequences, allowing time for your parent or guardian to adjust, and more. In this edition of *Love me, too*, we will read first-hand accounts of the stories of beauty, heartbreak, and endurance in the LGBTQ+ community.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- PERSONAL ACCOUNTS
- ADVICE
- RESOURCES

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Hello church family! I am coming very close to the completion of the first edition of my newsletter supporting the LGBTQ+ community. If you would be interested in being on the mailing list, please contact me at devindfcob@gmail.com or check your email for a google form.

Devin Dixon-Rosario
LGBTQ+ Justice Organizer OEP

Field research in 50 countries found prostitution most negatively impacts women and girls from minority communities. In the US, the legacy of racism manifests itself in inter-generational prostitution and a disproportionate impact on Black women and youth.

At this event, lived experience experts will reflect on CAP's findings and the implications for U.S. policy. Policy recommendations relate to providing victims with greater access to justice, dignity, and autonomy.

Join the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International) and the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) for a hybrid event on Wednesday,

April 6, 2022.

3:00–4:30 PM EST

if you have something you want included in the Growing Edge, please send the material in to the office by April 18th

April Birthdays & Anniversaries!



Happy Anniversary!

April 2nd Jim & Betty Ann Funk
 April 5th Jennifer & Roger Dixon, Jr.



April 5th	Roger Cooley
April 6th	Mary Lytle
April 13th	Sharon Hunn
	Ann Van Dyke
April 14th	Christopher Bullock
April 15th	Sharon Lee Smith
	Lisa Rhoades
April 19th	Crystal Joseph
	Leah J. Hileman
April 20th	Diana Rhoades
April 22nd	Nye'Erin Bullock
April 23rd	Remi Senaike
April 26th	Kiersten Reeser
	Rachel Welty
April 27th	Stefan Belle
April 30th	Alianalis Cruz
	Aliano Cruz (2013)



April ANE District Prayer Calendar

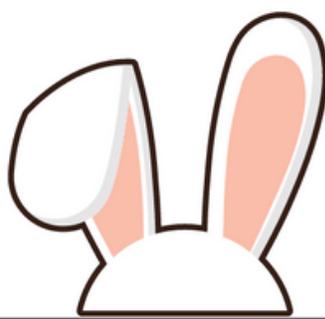
Pray for this Church

This Church is Praying for Us

2 Apr 23	Lancaster (Lanancaster, PA)	Springfield (Coopersburg, PA)
9 Apr 23	Skeppack (Collegeville, PA)	Long Run (Lehighton, PA)
16 Apr 23	Little Swatara (Bethel, PA)	East Fairview (Manheim, PA)
23 Apr 23	Schuylkill (Pine Grove, PA)	Annville (Annville, PA)
30 Apr 23	Palmyra (Palmyra, PA)	Hatfield (Hatfield, PA)



EASTER



FLOWERS



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS PRICING HAS RECENTLY CHANGED

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 | HYACINTH (6" POT) __BLUE __WHITE __YELLOW __PURPLE | \$10.00 EACH \$_____ |
| 2 | DAFFODIL (6" POT) __YELLOW | \$10.00 EACH \$_____ |
| 3 | TULIP (6" POT) __YELLOW __MISC __RED __PINK | \$10.00 EACH \$_____ |
| 4 | LILIES (6" POT) __WHITE | \$10.00 EACH \$_____ |
| 5 | CALLA LILY (4 1/2" POT) __WHITE | \$10.00 EACH \$_____ |
| 6 | HYDRANGEA (3 BLOOM) __PINK & BLUE | \$30.00 EACH \$_____ |
| 7 | AZALEA (1 GALLON POT) __PINK __RED | \$30.00 EACH \$_____ |

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 17TH, 2022

ORDER DUE BY: MONDAY, APRIL 11TH

A p r i l

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 + YOUNG ADULTS	4	5 + MCT MEETING	6	7	8	9
10 + PALM SUNDAY + YOUTH GROUP	11 + BCMPEACE BOARD MEETING	12	13	14 + MAUDY THURSDAY/LOVE FEAST	15 + GOOD FRIDAY	16
17 + EASTER SUNDAY	18	19	20	21	22 + EARTH DAY!	23 + CHURCH WORKDAY
24 + YOUNG ADULTS	25	26	27	28	29	30

INDOOR AND ZOOM WORSHIP AT 10AM

STAFF MEETING @ 12:30PM

AGAPE SATYAGRAHA @ 5PM
COMPUTER CLASS @ 10:30AM & 2:30PM

PASTOR JOSIAH'S DAY OFF

WELLNESS HUB @10AM

MIDWEEK MEDITATIONS @9AM

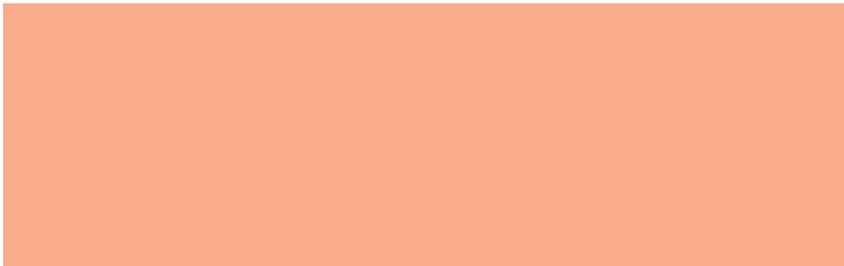
PASTOR LEXI'S DAY OFF

JANE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY @6:30PM

Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren
219 Hummel Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104-3399
Phone: 717-234-0415
E-mail: office@hbgfirstcob.org
Website: www.hbgfirstcob.org

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



March 2022

The Growing Edge

The monthly newsletter of the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren

Josiah Ludwick, HFCoB Co-Pastor

Lexi Aligarbes, HFCoB Co-Pastor

Alyssa Parker, bcmPEACE
Operations Manager

Devin Dixon-Rosario, HFCoB
Administrative Assistant

Marvin Blenkle, Brethren Volunteer
Service

Our Staff

“ We are called to be a Christ-centered multi-cultural community in the inner city, sharing the love, healing, peace and justice of Christ. ”



The Growing Edge is a publication of Harrisburg First Church of The Brethren for our members, friends, and neighbors.