



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

APRIL, 2022

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Easter alone stands out as the most holy Christian day of the year. Even though Christmas is more celebrated in many respects, Easter seems to have the most meaning because it was the fulfillment of not only a prophecy but also the triumph of good over evil and the conquering of death. It is no wonder there are both religious and secular symbols for Easter.

The symbol of the cross, whether pre-resurrection or post-resurrection, captures the very essence of the season. It depicts Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, placed in the tomb, and resurrected three days later. The faith of all mankind is captured in the scenario of the cross and not far behind that is the significance of the empty tomb which symbolizes the mystery of the resurrection. When God in performed the deed, no man thought possible it brought hope and re-birth to those that were called "the way." Also significant is the paschal candle that is oftentimes marked with a cross or with the Greek letters of Alpha and Omega representing the beginning and the end. Light is always burning, and God is always at the beginning and the end and in the middle of everything we have and are. There is also the lamb symbolizing Jesus himself. As the Son of God came to earth, He came as the paschal lamb in human form. Many congregations will have a big feast of lamb sometime during the Easter season to commemorate Jesus as the one that takes away the sins of the world.

Easter, in its very name, implies estrus, fertility or birth. In Germanic times this was the celebration that ended winter and brought about the hope of newness and regeneration. On the more secular side are some of the symbols that have become at least quasi-religious. Baby chicks commonly found this time of year at any feed and farm store symbolize the hatching of an egg, combing new life and fertility and the advent of spring and Easter.

No picture of Easter is complete without the bunny rabbit. Rabbits symbolize not only softness and tenderness but also fertility. The legend of the Easter Bunny started with the idea that rabbits would carry baskets full of eggs to share. As that tale came down in history it evolved to the modern-day Easter Bunny and all of those chocolate treats, we see in Easter baskets. Easter eggs themselves are a symbol of fertility. As eggs must be cracked open for a new life to emerge, God opened Jesus' tomb so that He could emerge after being resurrected. The Easter eggs became a symbol for both the tomb and for the resurrection of Jesus.

As you see these everyday items as well as those in sanctuaries, remember that Easter is about death, but only as it is necessary for birth and new life to come. It is in God's plan, and He gives us many symbols that we might know and see the glory of His plan. On this Easter morning, when we celebrate the greatest hope of all and hear those words "Christ is Risen!" with faith-filled hearts we can confidently reply, "He has risen indeed!"



## BOOK CLUB

This month we are reading “The Quilter's Daughter” by Wanda E. Brunstetter. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> book in the Daughters Of Lancaster County series. We have Abby Miller who runs a quilt shop and is engaged to a wonderful Amish man. But she must attend to her mother who is in need and leave that all behind for a few months. She keeps having a nightmare of being in a fire and about a kitten who needs to be rescued. She works hard for everyone else but never considers the things she herself desires. Tragedy strikes and it shatters her world. Can God make anything good come out of her life? Read this book and come find out with us at Book Club!

In May we will be reading the 3<sup>rd</sup> book in the series “The Bishop's Daughter”. You won't want to miss the conclusion of this trilogy.

We are changing the way we do Book Club. From now on we meet once a month, on the first Monday at 3:00 pm. Please read the entire book before you come and be prepared to ask questions for all of us to answer. We are all leading the book from now on, and all will participate as much as we can. Please order your book from Amazon, or wherever you buy your books.

Our next meeting is Monday, Apr. 4, at 3:00 pm in the church library.

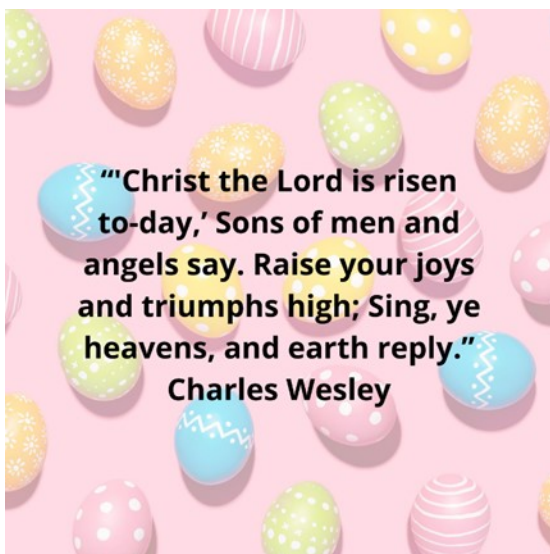
## CHOIR NEWS

(April 2022)



Spring is finally here!! With it comes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. The choir is busy this month with appropriate music for the season. Some upcoming anthems are “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and “Because He Lives.” Pastor Alan and Roger have been working on getting our sound system fixed on Facebook. Keep your fingers crossed! See you on Sunday, and wear a mask PLEASE!

Keep in Tune,  
Jaquae



### A JOYFUL NOISE

Again, we keep hoping to start up the chimes but still we wait. We need more people so if you're thinking about joining us, please give me a call. I'd love to hear from you! They say all good things are worth waiting for!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,

Jaquae



## OUTREACH

By: Sue Cowell



On March 12, Prilli Andrews, Shirley Lewis, and I attended a workshop on the upcoming Shoe Box Ministry. It was a very interesting meeting. We learned that in 2021, 10,565,155 shoe boxes were delivered throughout the world. 9,127,591 came from the U.S. Florida and Porta Rico provided 625,975 and Hardy, Highland, and Glade counties in Florida provided 10,489 of those.

We had a zoom conversation with Maricela Gonzalez from Nicaragua. She is a Shoe Box warrior there. She is one of the leaders who distributes the boxes to children and also follow-up with them as they give their lives to the Lord. She has worked with about 100 children but could reach out to another 200 if the opportunity arrives through "Operation Christmas Child." Maricela says that for every 100 shoe boxes received, about 20 will come to the Lord.

There is a training session for those who wish to pursue this Greatest Book Program. The booklet used for training cost \$6. If you would like to contribute toward the training book or help with shipping the boxes, mark your check to shipping or training booklets

We learned that the shoeboxes provided by Samaritans Purse cost \$25 for 50. Regular shoeboxes can be used. It was suggested that race tracks, games boards, and doll houses could be drawn in the Samaritan Purse boxes before they are folded in boxes. Ideas were also given for decorating an ordinary box with stickers, wrapping paper, and border paper. There was a time for decorating the boxes after the luncheon.

We usually start stressing the collection of things for the boxes around August or September for preparation of sending in November. It's not too early to start looking around for things to put in the boxes. One group always try to put in some shirts, shorts, etc. as well as toys, combs, toothbrushes, hair accessories, soap and wash cloths, coloring books, crayons, pencils, (and sharpeners). Remember NO toothpaste, candy, gum, war-related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items or aerosol cans. For more information, go to [samaritansprse.org/occ](http://samaritansprse.org/occ).

Remember we support the New Testament Church by dedicating donations the last Sunday of each month. The latest newsletter from them showed They served 3,408 meals; Housed 71; provided 52 food baskets, and had a miscellaneous outreach to 12 households. You may put your donations in the mission box in the center hallway. On dedication Sunday you can put your items in the grocery basket. Continue to pray to this mission and for our church to be able to help others.

APRIL 2022



## **Regularly Scheduled Events**

Sunday School	09:00 a.m.	Every Sunday—Library Teacher—Ron Colwell
Bible Study	11:00 a.m.	Every Tuesday—Library Teacher—Ron Colwell
News and Prayer	10:00 a.m.	Facebook Live Every Wednesday Pastor Alan Brown
Choir	6:00 p.m.	Every Wednesday—Choir Room Music Director—Jaquae Sands
Food Pantry & Sebring Mission		Last Sunday of each month (Drop off items in Hallway)

## **Additional Scheduled Events for APRIL 2022**

**NO CHURCH BOARD MEETING IN APRIL  
NO FELLOWSHIP DINNER IN APRIL**

**Please be sure the reserve a spot for Maundy Thursday service.**

4/09/2022	8:00 am	Saturday Men's Breakfast
4/09/2022		Elders Meeting following Breakfast
4/10/2022	10:30 am	Palm Sunday—Palms/palm fronds will grace the sanctuary.
4/14/2022	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service Don't Miss this Special time with Rev. Peggy Davis and Rev. Rich Campton presiding over this Holy Event. Dinner will be supplied; however, reservations are required, please be sure to place your name on the reservation list which is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Service will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
4/17/2022	10:30	EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

**Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!  
He is risen indeed!**





# Life Begins Again in April

by Lenore Hetrick

Life begins again – in April!  
How this dead earth comes to flower!  
How the dry boughs wake and quicken  
In this blooming, springtime hour!

Life begins again – in April!  
And the bird is on the wing,  
Brooks are flowing, breezes tender  
In a rhapsody of spring.

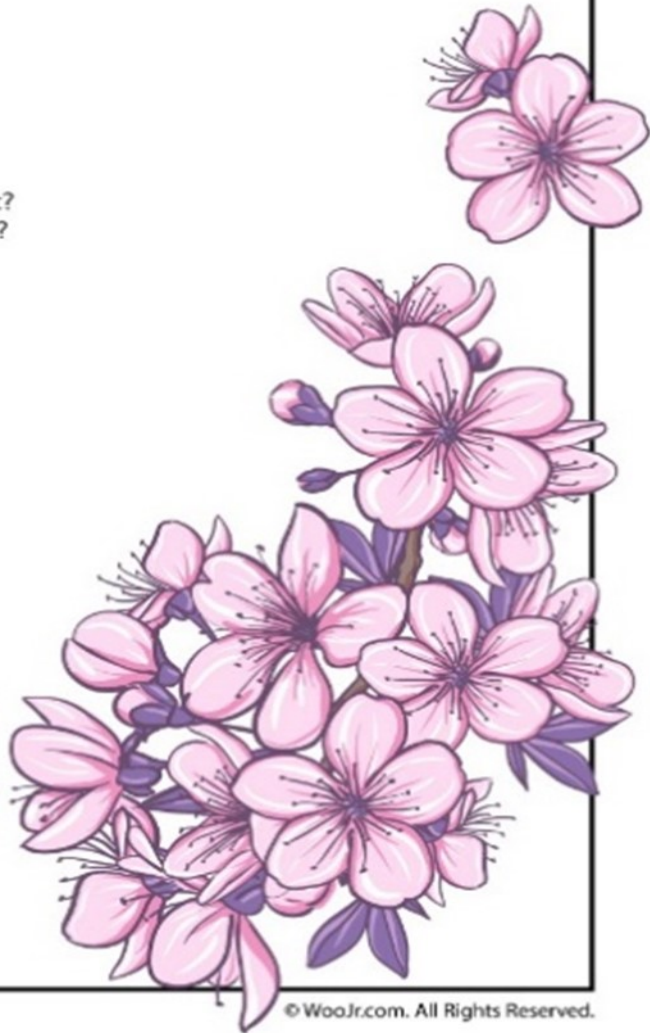
Where's the heart that can be downcast?  
Where's the eye that does not brighten?  
Behold the world so fresh and new  
As the dark skies part and lighten!

Those who sorrow shall take comfort,  
Those who droop shall smile again.  
April brings a message clearly  
To the weariest of men.

Yesterday may lie in ruins,  
All the past be dead and drear.  
Just forget that! Skies are bright blue!  
It's the springtime of the year.

It is April! Nature's own month!  
It is April! Heaven's season!  
April – flowering – stirring – blooming!  
Quite beyond man's meager reason.

Life begins again – in April!  
Hill and valley reel with living.  
To all things new life she brings  
With joyous fervor in her giving.



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## Celebrate Our Savior

On Easter morn, we celebrate our Savior;  
Whatever people seek in Him, they find.  
In history, there has never been another  
So holy, sacrificial, good and kind.

His resurrection makes us all immortal;  
In heaven, we'll be together with our King.  
Eternally we'll share in all His blessings;  
Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is everything!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## Rich's Corner

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to everyone who participated and supported the DOC men's Haystack Dinner March 25<sup>th</sup>. This venture netted us \$899.00 thanks to generous donations and the subsequent donations for the desserts on Sunday after service. Also thanks to Richard Neff, and our faithful kitchen crew who put the meal together, all servers and cleaning angels. The meal was enjoyed by many.

Our next men's breakfast will be Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:am with an elders meeting following breakfast.

Our 2022 Annual Congregation meeting on 3/27/22 was eventful in that the 2022 budget, the by-laws changes and officers were adopted. Ballot results are noted below as reported by Board Secretary, Sandra Laufer.

A total of 21 ballots were counted from the meeting.  
There were no ballots mailed or emailed to the office.

Line Item	Yes	No	Abstain
2022 Budget	18	2	1
Amended and Restated By-Laws	20	1	
Board of Directors Chair Richard Campton Treasurer—Linda Lusier Secretary- Sandra Laufer Historian-Teresa Williams	21		
Financial Secretary Written in—Ann Holly	18		
ELDERS Ross Fadely Gary Kincaid	20		1
DEACONS Terry Lahr (server until become a member)	20		1



## Worship/Education/Fellowship Committee Report

April - what a lovely month - the birds are singing, blossoms are appearing, we have a full church calendar with "the moveable feast" on the 17th. (Did someone say IRS? - can't forget that!) The first meeting I have on my calendar is for April 3<sup>rd</sup> - a quick meeting of the Worship/Christian Education/Membership. Next is the Men's Breakfast (the 9<sup>th</sup>) and the Elders will be meeting afterward.

**Palm Sunday** is on the 10th - palms/palm fronds will grace the sanctuary. The choir always has special music and certainly this Sunday's rendition will be special indeed. Make sure you fill out the forms if you want to remember a loved one or just want to help grace the altar for Easter Sunday.

**Maundy Thursday** is in the following week (14th). There will be a light supper provided during the service with Pastors Peggy Davis and Rich Campton guiding us through this holy event. **Reservations required so be sure to get your name on the list to attend: 6 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!** Easter Sunday is the 17th, and we will not be having a Fellowship Meal, so please make sure you come to the **Maundy Thursday** service. Flowers will be ordered for the sanctuary. Be sure to pick yours up after the service.

For many, this is a time to say a fond farewell. Some of our beloved snowbirds have already left. Traveling mercies for all. Please keep-in-touch and give us a return date. We will be anxiously awaiting your return in the fall.

Blessings to all.

*Ann*