



**PARK UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PARK & READ
2024**



**Church
ANNIVERSARY**

*Happy 129th Anniversary
Park United Presbyterian Church*

April 19th, 1895—2024



RENEWED ENERGY

As I sit here trying to think of something to write about our church's history, I can only think of how I am feeling. Is it just me or has anyone else felt a renewed spiritual energy in the past few months?

Hearing there was no Interim Pastor available may have raised concerns, however we have been rewarded with a rich tapestry of spiritual nourishment tailored to meet the unique needs of our church family. What strikes me the most has been the speakers' messages that seem to align perfectly with the current situation and collective journey of our church. Whether it be words of comfort during times of uncertainty, messages of empowerment to inspire action, or calls for unity and compassion in the face of division, each sermon has provided the exact sustenance our souls have yearned for.

Members and friends seem genuinely excited and eager to attend. Attendance is up in our worship service. Attendance is up in our Sunday school classes. The Lenten Bible study, facilitated by Elder Larry Meeder, has seen the largest participation in years.

As we look to the future of our church, I am filled with optimism and excitement. The vibrant energy that is soaring through the church serves as a beacon of hope, guiding us forward on our collective journey of faith. ~Stacy Sieminski



To Know Christ and Make Him Known



- 8—Andy Bonzo
- 10—Chris Toth
- 16—Amy Quickle
- 26—Rebecca Barnes
- 26—Richard Gullo



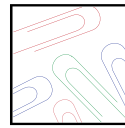
28—Stefanie & Jacob Maykuth



Flower— Daisy
 Birthstone— Diamond
 Zodiac—Aries/Taurus

April is World Health Awareness Month
Stress Awareness
Autism Awareness

- 1—April Fools' Day
- 2—National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day
- 6—Walk to Work Day
- 8—Solar Eclipse
- 9—National Mature Women's Day
- 11—National Pet Day
- 12—National Grilled Cheese Day
- 15—Patriot's Day
- 17—Administrative Professional Day
- 18—Tax Day
- 22—Earth Day
- 23—National Picnic Day
- 26—Arbor Day
- 28—National Super Hero Day
- 30—National Honesty Day



FROM THE
**CHURCH
 OFFICE**

**Secretary/Treasurer
 Office Days and Hours**

Monday & Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



Deadline for information,
 for worship service is due
 the Monday before Sunday
 Worship Service.
 Deadline for the Park & Read is
 the 3rd Sunday of the month.
(April 21)



Kathy Brown

100 Burgess Drive
 New Haven Bldg. #258
 Zelienople, PA 16063
 724-452-2871

Judy Lutz

Cranberry Place #104D
 5 Saint Francis Way
 Cranberry Twp., PA 16066



**Congratulations to
 Christopher Taylor and Liz Moser**
 on their recent engagement.
 He proposed on March 25!
 Let the wedding plans begin!

April 22nd



April 15th





*We wanted to share something
exciting with you.*

Did you know that the more engagements our Facebook page receives, such as likes, shares, and comments, the more visible we become on the internet?

Similarly, when you visit our website and spend time exploring its content, it helps increase our online presence.

By liking our Facebook page and checking out our website, you're not only staying connected with us but also helping us reach more people in our community and beyond. Your support online plays a vital role in spreading our message of love and faith.

Thank you for being part of our digital community
and for your continued support
both online and offline!



WEBSITE
parkup.org

FACEBOOK
Park United Presbyterian Church



As we continue to grow and adapt in our journey together here at Park, we're excited to embrace the changing times and expand our outreach efforts. We believe that each congregant brings valuable insights and experiences to the table, regardless of age or background.

We warmly invite you to join us in this exciting endeavor, whether it's lending your wisdom to help with our Church History book, Facebook page or website, or participating in our outreach initiatives. Your involvement and guidance are incredibly valuable as we navigate these changes together.

Our worship services encompass a blend of elements. While the music style may vary, the essence of worship remains the same – it's about coming together in community, connecting with each other, and lifting our hearts in praise and prayer. Every voice adds to the tapestry of worship, and we cherish the diversity of expression within our congregation.

Thank you for being an integral part of our church family and for your willingness to journey with us as we continue to grow and evolve together.

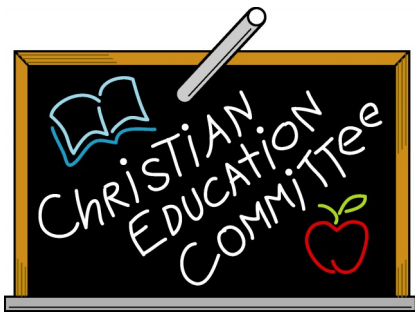


Life's not easy,

but there's a motor called HEART;

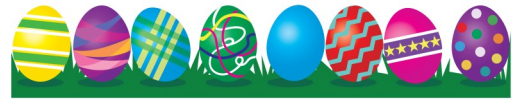
an insurance called FAITH;

and a driver named GOD.



Lenten Bible Study: Update

Wishing Larry a swift recovery and hoping he can smoothly navigate his way back. Whenever he's ready, he would like to finish the Lenten Bible study. This may not be until the end of April or sometime in May. We will provide details as we hear updates on his progress.



The Easter Egg Hunt was another success!

Festivities were held indoors due to the weather being still a bit cold. The children enjoyed racing to find eggs in only seconds.

Thank you to the CE Committee for organizing this annual Palm Sunday event.



How Gratitude Changes Everything

Instead of saying, "I have to", start your day with, "I get to!"

- I get to exercise.
- I get to see my friends and family.
- I get to tell someone I love them.
- I get to eat good food.
- I get to work and earn money.
- I get to experience new things.
- I get to make someone's day better.

It's all about perspective.



ALEXA GILSON—CHAIRPERSON

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9th at
7:00 PM in Park Hall.

KEEP KIDS SAFE

Pennsylvania Clearances

Ministers, Sunday school teachers, nursery attendants, youth leaders, camp counselors and workers, and others with possible contact with children, youth and vulnerable adults should have clearances from the state. If you and/or your church staff/volunteers did these clearances in **2019**, they will need to be renewed in **2024** as the five-year window for these documents has expired.



**THERE'S A
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS
FOR YOU!**

10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. each week

Teacher: Alexa Gilson

Class: Preschool and Kindergarten

Teacher: Alice Anger

Class: 1st grade and up

Teacher: Larry Meeder

Class: All adults

Teacher: Group effort

Class: Sunday Crew (fellowship & devotional)

PARK RANGERS

Please see our GroupMe and Facebook page for more details, or contact Alexa (asue0312@gmail.com, 724-996-3892) to join or help out!



HELEN TAYLOR—CHAIRPERSON

There is an Outreach Fund if you can give beyond your tithe and have a heart for missions, make check payable to Park Church and clearly note "Outreach Fund"

APRIL Food Cupboard Needs: Pop Tarts or Cereal

SOUTHWEST BUTLER FOOD CUPBOARD

Hi friends. Everyone knows the price of food has increased at the grocery stores. This is bad news for food pantries as our donations have really declined.

If you can we would love some help for them. You can order directly from Amazon and items will be delivered to the Food Cupboard. How easy is that!!! Here is the updated Amazon wish list :

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3UYZ09ZFK7LE...>

Women's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to help prepare and serve the Men & Boys' Good Friday Breakfast.

There was 74 in attendance and ten women in the kitchen. We collected \$646.00 and expenses were \$224.09.

Thank you for your support of our mission projects! Your generosity is truly making a difference, not only in our community but also beyond its borders. With your help, we're able to empower the women of our church to support other vital mission projects, both locally and globally. Your contributions are invaluable in spreading love, compassion, and hope to those in need. Thank you for being a part of this meaningful journey with us!



Saturday, May 4th

from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**you are cordially invited to Park Church
Women's Spring Tea Party
in Park Hall**

Savor delectable delights bursting with flavor, tantalizing tiers of pastries, coupled with aromatic blends of fine teas, each cup a journey of comforting warmth and soothing flavors.

There will be a fashion show, where creativity knows no bounds. It will be a captivating, delightful affair that promised an unforgettable experience.

It's an event not to be missed!



BLESSED!

When I woke up this morning
I asked myself, "What is life about?"
I found the answers in my room...
The fan said, "Be Cool."
The roof said, "Aim High."
The window said, "See the world!"
The clock said, "Every minute is precious."
The mirror said, "Reflect before you act."
The calendar said, "Be up to date."
The door said, "Push hard for your goals."
The floor said, "Kneel down and pray
and be thankful for what you have."



Hospitality Sign-Up

Our hospitality ministry is aiming to foster warmth and connection within our community by sharing snacks alongside coffee or tea on Sundays. We believe this simple gesture can provide a space for meaningful conversations and opportunities to get to know each other better.

To make this possible, we kindly ask volunteers to sign up on our calendar to bring a snack on a designated Sunday. Your contribution whether home-made or store-bought will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.



Puzzles, puzzles, puzzles....

Help cure the winter blues by building Puzzles. Located on two book shelves in the lower level of the church building. Any questions call Carol Meeder.



Books, books, books....

Located in Park Hall are 3 book cases full of Christian themed books, bibles, etc. Feel free to borrow as many as you want and return when you are finished.



Bring the Change BE the Change!

Your change makes a difference. Container located on the hospitality counter in the back of the church.



Chancel Flowers

There is a calendar on the bulletin board. Anyone can sign up for a special Sunday.

Please provide the following information:

- 1) Message that will be placed in the bulletin
- 2) Whether the flower arrangements will be taken home or donated to shut ins

Options for ordering flowers:

- 1) Call Kocher's Florist, 724-625-1200 (254 Mars Valencia. Rd. Mars, Pa.16046) and order your own flowers, payable by Credit Card. They will deliver and display.
- 2) Purchase your own flower arrangements & bring to church on the Sunday you signed up.

Should you have any questions please call Bonnie Lukee at 412-400-2711.



THE PRAYER CHAIN WARRIOR TEAM

If you, a loved one, or a friend would like to have prayers, we have a network of faithful warriors eager to pray for those needs. Our prayer chain has both a telephone and email network of warriors.

To add a prayer request, or to be added or removed from the email network as a prayer warrior, please contact Alice Anger 724-816-4977 or via email at kanger00@aol.com.

To add a prayer request, or to be added or removed from the telephone network as a prayer warrior, please contact Bonnie Lukee at [\(412\) 400-2711](tel:412-400-2711). Please remember that all prayers that go through the email and phone networks are confidential.



LISA HUFF & JACK MCMICHAEL

Next Worship Committee meeting is
Monday, April 1st at 6:00 PM in Park Hall.

As we gather each week to worship and grow in our faith, let's remember the joy and fulfillment we find in Jesus Christ. His love has the power to transform lives and relationships. Let's not keep this gift to ourselves! Take a moment each week throughout April to reach out to friends, family, and neighbors, inviting them to experience the warmth of our fellowship and the peace that comes from knowing Him. Together, let's spread the message of hope and love. Your invitation might just change someone's life forever. Let's share the joy of knowing Jesus and the blessings of community.



April 7th

Elder Allen Kitchen

April 14th

Elder Brian Graff

April 21st - Communion

Rev. Connie Frierson

April 28th

Elder Ron McKissick



**Enjoy a movie marathon while
anticipating the beauty of
spring blossoms.**

I Can Only Imagine (2018) – growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Arthur. Years later, Bart's troubled childhood and mended relationship with his dad inspired him to write the hit song "I Can Only Imagine" as singer of the Christian band MercyMe. Find out how the band got its name.

Jesus Revolution (2023) – In the 1970's, Greg Laurie and a sea of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation. Inadvertently, Laurie meets a charismatic street preacher and a pastor who open the doors to a church to a stream of wandering youth. What unfolds is a counterculture movement that becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history.

Dog Gone (2023) – based on a true story, this feel-good movie tells the story of faith and hope as a father-son duo team up to find Gonker – their medication-dependent pooch, who goes AWOL along the Appalachian Trail.

Father Stu (2022) – starring Mark Walberg, this film follows the spiritual journey of former boxer-turned-priest, Stuart Long. It's based on a true story, and while it's raunchy at times, it's about finding your calling even under the worst circumstances.

The Hill (2023) – the true story of Rickey Hill, the son of a traveling pastor who overcomes physical obstacles to pursue his dream of playing baseball in the major leagues.





LARRY MEEDER—CHAIRPERSON

LEVITES

Do you have a free Tuesday every now and then to come out and help with small jobs around the church? The Levites would appreciate any help you can give.

There is a Building Fund if you can give beyond your tithe for the upkeep and improvements to the Buildings and Grounds, make check payable to Park Church and clearly note “Building Fund”.



If you take beverages into the pews, please have a lid on. If you happen to spill, please let someone know. We have maintenance forms in the back of the church to complete and put in the Building & Grounds folder on the wall. Thank you!



WALT SIEMINSKI—CHAIRPERSON



**Tuesday, May 14th
at 7:00 PM**

Elders—packets are available the Sunday prior to the meeting in your folder or emailed. Please read the packet prior to the meeting.



BARRY STICKEL—CHAIRPERSON

March Giving: \$11,713.60

March Expenses: \$ 7,476.74

Average Attendance for March: 62

Ways to Give

1. Online at parkup.org—Home page, scroll to the bottom, click the ticker tape that says “Click to Donate”.
2. Use assigned Offering envelopes & give through the offering plates at church.
3. Mail your giving to the church appropriately marked.
4. Set up a bill pay through your bank and have the bank mail your donation to the church.
5. Use the mailbox on the outside of the church near the office doors and physically drop your offering in the mailbox.



PER CAPITA for 2024 \$44.20

Please make check payable to Park U. P. Church and place in offering plate. A designated envelope is in your offering envelope box or use one of your own, clearly marked.

Congregations (through their sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member — per capita apportionment — to their respective presbyteries.

The per capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation’s presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year.

Pay now through November 2024.

4.8.2024!

Once in a generation event!

**The ONLY Solar Eclipse
in the next 20 years!**



The Monday, April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT.

The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.

Erie, Pennsylvania

Duration of totality 3 minutes, 43 seconds

Partial eclipse begins 2:02 p.m. EDT

Total eclipse begins 3:16 p.m. EDT

Partial eclipse ends 4:30 p.m. EDT



“APRIL FOOL’S DAY”

vs.

“APRIL FOOLS’ DAY”

Don't get fooled! The correct way to write this day is “April Fools’ Day.” It’s been April Fools’ Day since the 1800s. Why? If you know your apostrophes, then you know that putting the apostrophe after an S means it’s plural. There isn’t just one fool on this day; there are many pranksters running around!



**From the Latin word aperio, “to open” (bud),
because plants begin to grow during this month.**

April Fools’ Day and the Vernal Equinox

The timing of April Fools’ Day is suspiciously close to the Vernal Equinox – this year it was on March 19.

It is the time of year when Mother Nature is known to play tricks on us all with unpredictable changes to the weather, including:

- In 1923, temperatures reach -34 degrees Fahrenheit in Bergland, Michigan.
- In 1960, up to 10 inches of heavy snow fell in eastern South Dakota causing some highways to close due to difficulty plowing the heavy snow.
- In 1997, a blizzard from Maryland to Maine resulted in power outages and roads impassable. East Jewett, New York recorded 37 inches and 25.4 inches fell in Boston, Massachusetts.



Potato Chip Chocolate Chip Cookies

(The Pioneer Woman)

- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 4 cups crushed potato chips (8 ounces), such as Lay's

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment.

In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream together the butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the vanilla and eggs and beat on medium speed until just combined. Add the flour, baking soda and salt, then mix on low speed until just combined. Stir in the chocolate chips and 2 cups of the crushed potato chips. Put the remaining 2 cups crushed potato chips in a shallow bowl.

Roll the dough into 2-inch balls, then roll them in the remaining potato chips so they are completely coated. Place the cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets and bake until golden, 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



Chocolate Pecan Crispy Treats

(The Pioneer Woman)

- 4 tablespoons salted butter, plus extra for greasing pan
- 10 ounces large marshmallows
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup chocolate-hazelnut spread
- 5 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 6 cups crisped rice cereal
- 1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped

Thoroughly grease a 9-by-11-inch pan and set aside.

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the marshmallows and salt and stir until melted. Halfway through the melting process, add the chocolate-hazelnut spread and stir until smooth.

Meanwhile, melt the semisweet chocolate over a double boiler until smooth. Remove from the heat and let it cool quite a bit.

Add the crisped rice cereal to a large bowl and fold in the marshmallow/chocolate-hazelnut mixture. When it's almost all combined, add the mini marshmallows and continue folding until everything's combined.

Immediately press the mixture into the prepared pan. Sprinkle with half the pecans. Drizzle the chocolate in zigzags all over the top of the treats. Sprinkle the remaining pecans on top. Allow to set, then cut into squares.



submitted by: Judy Lutz