



WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH UPDATE

April
2019

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From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

Have you ever walked into a conversation at the tail end? You stumble in and everyone's laughing at a punch line that makes no sense without the set-up. Or you come upon a group of people riled up, indignant over some wrong, but you cannot quite make out why everyone is so angry, because you missed the back story. Or, as seems to happen to me all the time, you walk past just as someone says something incredibly, unexplainably *bizarre* and think, "I clearly missed something."

I wonder if that is what Easter Sunday feels like to some. They enter into a group of people absolutely bubbling over with excitement (even pre-dawn and pre-coffee!) and cannot quite figure out why folks keep shouting "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Even if we know the whole story, it's like we're showing up at the tail end of the movie, having missed the drama of the preceding hours, unable to quite enter into the incredible climax at the end.

That's partly why the Church has insisted that we not only celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday but we also walk through the entirety of His Passion from beginning to end. We begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday and enter into the fervor of a people who wanted a King but not a cross, a kingdom but not a commissioning, a leader but not a master. We ask ourselves if we are any different than the crowds waving palms shouting "hosanna" that day; the very ones who would later wave fists and shout "crucify Him."

We travel to the Temple on Monday and watch Jesus overturn tables, chasing out all who would keep *anyone* from His Father. And join Him as He is peppered with questions designed to expose Him as a farce on Tuesday and Wednesday. Then on Thursday we follow Him to the Upper Room and watch Him transform the Passover meal, an annual ritual designed to remind the Jewish people of their slavery to Egypt and deliverance from death through their faith in the blood of a spotless lamb, into a sign pointing directly to His ability to deliver us from slavery to sin through faith in the blood of the spotless Lamb. On that same night we watch in shock and, if we're honest, disgust, as Jesus stoops low to wash the feet of the disciples and then calls all those who follow Him to trace His example, stooping low to touch one another's mess.

On Friday we look on in horror as we see Jesus stumble on the road to Golgotha. We listen and cringe as the hammer hits the nails and He cries out, "Father, forgive them" and breathes His last. We watch the sky turn to darkness, manifesting the dark of our sin, and we leave silent knowing He did it for us. On Saturday we wait in the dark, remembering the events of the entire week.

So that on Easter morning we *know* in the depths of our being that it is GOOD NEWS that He is risen indeed! Friends, this Holy Week let's travel the whole story together. Let's gather to worship and to experience the fullness of Jesus' journey. So we stand ready to shout for joy at the truth of resurrection life on Easter. See you for Holy Week.

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

From Pastor Greg

When in High School, I was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder. The depression is not usually terrible, if I'm honest. There are people who have it much worse. For me, it is not regularly overwhelming. It generally just feels like a perpetual underlying sadness. Like no matter where I go, there's a dark, uncomfortable, mental cloud that pulls at my mind and is constantly present no matter where I am or what I'm doing. It was there on my wedding day. It was there when I bought a house. It was there when I got my new dog. It is there when I go to sleep at night and when I wake up in the morning. It is a deep, dark sadness that continuously impresses itself upon me and never quite seems to match the situation I am in. Yet, it is bearable. I've learned to function efficiently apart from medication – which means mine is not as bad as many others. And I have learned to experience times of genuine joy and happiness. However, the past three weeks, for a totally unknown reason, have contained some of the worst instances of depression I have ever experienced. Perhaps I'm simply a wimp, but it has been agonizing. God has been gracious through it to teach me many things, but the following three have amazed me most. I am yet young, and I am still learning how to suffer well, but perhaps these three things might be a light to those who too are feeling the weight of the darkness particularly at this moment.

1. This World is Broken.

We all *know* this, but these past few weeks have allowed me to *feel* this more than I usually do. Ever since Adam sinned, this world has been cosmically fractured. Creation has been subjected to futility. Because of this, humanity has been plagued with depression, grief, death, cancer, schizophrenia, anxiety, insomnia, ADD, and a million other tribulations that can appear to tirelessly wreak havoc on our ever-weary lives. All of creation is groaning – and we with it. The Psalms know this well. The raw emotion of the poetry expressed in Psalm 73, Psalm 22, or Psalm 88 displays how the darkness of this broken world has threatened to swallow up even the most righteous men. The darkness of this sinfully broken world is no respecter of persons. I am still learning, but God has been merciful to allow me to feel the weight of this world's brokenness. And a deeper understanding of the world's brokenness has driven me to the foot of the cross. Only in Christ will the brokenness of this world ever be eradicated. The gospel of Jesus Christ is our only hope.

2. God is With You.

At times, when I've suffered, it feels as if I am totally alone in my pain. As if God has abandoned me. And it is tempting to, in my sinfulness, question God or begin to get frustrated with Him. The reality is – He owes me nothing. If He were to kill my wife, have my family murdered in front of me, give me cancer, and make me die a slow painful death, He would *not* be cruel. He. Owes. Me. Nothing. I am His creation and He does with me as He pleases. Considering the depth of my sin, it is pure grace that He still allows me to live at all – let alone love me and care for my every need! He is gracious in that, even through torment, He causes fruit in His children to grow. He is not far from us. I think of William Cowper, Charles Spurgeon, John Calvin, and C.S. Lewis who all faced seasons of intense depression. God, in His grace, used their sufferings mightily and was present with them amidst excruciating pain. If you are in Christ, God has not forgotten you. He has not forsaken you. In fact, He has given you His Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to guide you into all truth. You are not alone.

Continued on next page

From Pastor Greg – cont'd

3. God Will Make It Better.

We have it promised to us in the Scriptures that God will heal us. We learn in Isaiah 53 that on the cross Jesus purchased the perfect healing of our physical bodies. However, we have yet to experience the fulness of the benefits of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension. We live caught between the *already* of the cross of Christ and the *not yet* of the new heavens and earth. God has promised you healing, perhaps in this age, perhaps in the age to come, but it is yours in Christ Jesus. The sufferings of this present age are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to come – they are light and momentary. And until the glory comes, our suffering should cause us to yearn for heaven.

In the meantime, do not waste your suffering. Do not waste your cancer. Do not waste your depression. Do not waste your exhaustion. Do not waste your anxiety. Do not waste your grief. Suffering is a scalpel in the hands of a perfect Surgeon – producing perseverance and character. We suffer not as children of wrath, but as beloved children of God, awaiting a sabbath rest. Until then, we do what we can while we wait for God. And soon, after we have suffered a little while, we will for eternity praise Christ unhindered by what ails us in this evil age. Maranatha.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

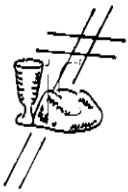
From the Diaconate Board

2019 Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 AM

On this morning we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry, accompanied by shouts of 'Hosanna' which means 'Save us,' as our choir shares their cantata, *The Sacrifice*.



Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 PM

Jesus issued a mandate to His followers: we must love one another as He loves us. And His is a self-sacrificing, other-serving love vividly portrayed both in the washing of feet and the offering of broken body and poured out blood. We will hold a foot washing service for those who wish to participate and all come to His table.



Easter Sunrise Service, April 21 at 6:00 AM

Come to the Upper Pavilion of Negley Park in Lemoyne (park on Cumberland Rd.) in the dark as we await the dawning of light. Through song, prayer, and scripture, we will declare "He is risen indeed!" Dress casually and comfortably – it may be chilly! Then return to WSBC for breakfast.



Easter Service, April 21 at 10:30 AM

The resurrection is not a myth or nice story. It is the historical event that changed *everything*. We gather on this morning to encounter the Risen Savior and to invite Him to change our *everything*.

In my household, there's a very specific progression to the life of a towel. When it's new and fresh and fluffy and smells like springtime flowers, it almost never gets used. It sits neatly folded in the linen closet, waiting for some sort of special towel occasion, like my mother-in-law visiting. Over time, it'll see more use, perhaps becoming a regular on the hanging rack behind the bathroom door.

But there will come a day when it stops being a special-use towel and becomes an everyday towel. Maybe the kids will get their hands on it and use it as a costume. Maybe I'll make a bad laundry decision and accidentally dye it pink. Whatever the cause, even the fanciest towel in my closet will one day become an everyday towel. And when it does, it gets used for everything. It's mopping up spills in the kitchen. It holds the cats while we trim their claws. And one day, it'll clean up oil spills in the garage.

Why am I writing about towels today? That's because the symbol of a deacon is the towel. The symbol comes from Jesus himself, the leader and Messiah who washed his disciples' feet and dried them with a towel. Jesus's example shows us what leadership in the church should look like. In the world of business and politics, leaders are the ones who are served by others the most. In the church, leaders are the ones who serve others the most. You'll see that at our church if you attend just about any event or activity. Pastor Kelly will almost always be there, not always giving orders but always lending a hand.

Last year, the diaconate's schedule was full of big, public activities as we celebrated our church's 60th anniversary. This year, our activities aren't quite so showy, but we're more interested in service than ever. We're diligently using the Benevolence Fund to share the love of Christ with our members and community. We're trying out new ways of serving local families and schools. We're connecting people with small groups so that everybody's needs and concerns are heard.

The symbol of a deacon is the towel, but not the fancy kind of towel that gets hidden in a closet for special occasions. It's the everyday kind of towel, the one that serves consistently and unselfishly—as Jesus taught us.



From the Diaconate Board -cont'd

Benevolence Fund

Do you know about our Benevolence Fund? This fund blesses those both within and beyond our faith community facing financial need. Recently, these monies went toward desperately needed car repairs, a family's first-month's rent, groceries, bus passes for job transportation, electric bills and more. The fund is replenished monthly on the 2nd Sunday by your generous giving. If you or anyone you know need assistance from the fund, connect with Bruce Montgomery (deacon board chair), Greg Hartman (deacon board treasurer), or Pastor Kelly.

BJ's Cards

Would you be willing to allow the deacons to utilize your BJ's membership card when they need to make large food purchases for funeral luncheons, etc? If so, please contact Bruce Montgomery at bruceмонт@comcast.net.

From the Mission Board

Steve Campbell

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, April 8th at 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed.

If you are interested in helping or for further information contact Steve Campbell at: sandgcamp@gmail.com.

WSBC Clothes Closet

The Mission Board is requesting donations of gently-used and new clothes of all sizes and for all ages to be given away via a new clothes closet. Donations may be left in Fellowship Hall on the marked table. More details about the clothes closet will be forthcoming from this newly forming ministry team. Interested in joining? Connect with Dawne Strock at dawne1954@aol.com

America for Christ Offering

Thank you for your gifts to the AFC Offering 2019! With your generosity we surpassed our \$5,000 America for Christ offering goal by nearly \$1,000!

From the Trustee Board

Steve Norford

Easter Offering

This year our Easter Offering will go toward start-up expenses for our Clothes Closet and the purchase of 2 new heat/air conditioning units to supplement our existing system in the sanctuary. We will receive this offering throughout April.

From the Christian Education Board

Judy Brouse and Becky Gentzler

Parents' Night Out



C. E. is hosting another Parents' Night Out on Friday, May 10th from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Our last event hosted 51 kids! Volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed in the kitchen and as support staff in crafts, games, and other activities. Open to all Kids ages 3-12.

Musical Theatre Camp



June 24-28, 2019
Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.
Friday 12:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

THE WIZARD OF OZ by L. Frank Baum is presented by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK. www.tamswitmark.com

There are 36 children who have registered on-line to attend Musical Theatre Camp so far!

There will be opportunities, in a few weeks, for you to volunteer for “Camp” and to donate financially towards supplies for this outreach. Be on the look out for an on-line sign-up.

Thank you for praying for this week as children will have a time daily to hear from God’s Word.

Youth Mission Trip

Our youth will travel to Millersville, MD for a mission trip June 30 - July 6! Donations toward the total cost are welcome.

Upcoming Opportunities

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, April 20**, at Friendly's in Camp Hill. All men are invited!

Ladies Breakfast Fellowship

The next meeting of the Women's Breakfast Fellowship will be at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, April 20**, at Perkins on Erford Road. All women are invited! Please sign up on your Connect Card.

American Baptist Men

of Pennsylvania and Delaware

65th Annual ABMOPAD

Men and Young Men's Retreat

Friday, July 26 – Sunday, July 28, 2019

**Shippensburg University
Shippensburg, PA**

For more information: http://www.abcopad.org/Ministries/AB_Men.aspx

Thrive Conference

JUNE 28-29, 2019

THEME: *'Virtues  Wrapped in Love'*

Colossians 3:12-14 NIV

***Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, PA***

A Conference for women and girls!

Sponsored by: American Baptist Women's Ministries Of Pennsylvania And Delaware

For more information: <http://www.abcopad.org/Ministries/ABWM/Thrive-Conference-2019.aspx>

Special Dates



Birthdays:

2 – Duane Kennedy

Stephanie Strock

5 – Carson Stine

Michael Stine

Dave Sweigard

8 – Millie Hoffman

10 – Pastor Kelly Legg

14 – Rev. Clyde Ross

21 – Keith Steele

28 – Don Butler

29 – Anne Bihl

Linda Fleming

Anniversaries:

14 – Bill & Linda Neubaum

23 – Chuck & Patty McCown

April Meetings

Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on **Monday, April 1**, at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on **Tuesday, April 2**, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-2.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Monday, April 8**, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-2.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on **Tuesday, April 16**, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-2.

Diaconate Board Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet on **Tuesday, April 23**, at 7:00 p.m. in Room G-4.



West Shore Baptist Church

Staff:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 775-8203	Email: pastorkdl@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:	Greg Kabakjian	Church: (717) 761-0942 Cell: (717) 877-6055	Email: gkabakjian@gmail.com
Choir Director:	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: carolsaltzer@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Janet Spriggs	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: j.spriggs@wsbc.org
Organist:	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 635-9602	Email: garystefanic1@comcast.net
Church Sextons:	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo	Church: (717) 761-0942	

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Christian Education Hour— 9:00 AM

Coffee Café —10:00 AM

Worship Service— 10:30 AM

*We seek to be a
L.I.G.H.T.
to our community by:*

Loving God • Inviting Friends • Growing Together • Helping Others • Teaching Truth