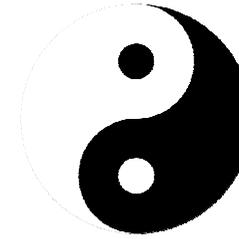


APRIL 2017



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS ...

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. ---Isaiah 35:1-2

“Spring is a time of balance, renewal, and welcoming new life into the world.” I read that in a recent devotional. It sounds kind of tame, reserved and oh so civilized, doesn't it? I like the way Isaiah puts it better: Spring is a time for rejoicing and blossoming and singing. I know I feel like kicking up my heels. I know I'm feeling a desire to blossom (in a pastoral, appropriate kind of way, of course!).

I know ... it wasn't really a bad winter (although March should be ashamed of itself!...seducing us with early promise of Spring only to cruelly throw us back into the worst of the winter). But the themes that seem to be registering on my spiritual radar lately seem to be about tension and balance and perspective. We've talked about it in Bible Study and I've even preached on it. So because our gratification of the end of Winter/beginning of Spring was delayed, the sweet anticipation and consequent appreciation will be even greater. Referring back to the Isaiah verse above, it's not hard to imagine the wonderful contrast between the harshness of the desert compared with the blossoming that comes with the rains. The greater the contrast, the deeper the appreciation and enjoyment can be if we open ourselves to the experience.

Worshiping God With Joy.

Serving Others.

Embracing All.

You might think at this point, I would think biblically – and I did – as I considered the passage found in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...” You get the picture. It occurred to me that this passage has kind of a ‘yin and yang’ thing going which lends a certain insight into what the writer of Ecclesiastes was saying. Here’s a basic definition of ‘yin and yang’: In Chinese philosophy, yin and yang (also yin–yang or yin yang/dark–bright) describe how seemingly opposite or contrary forces may actually be complementary, interconnected, and interdependent in the natural world, and how they may give rise to each other as they interrelate to one another. The bottom line seems to be that together ‘yin and yang’ symbolize harmony, wholeness, completeness, totality.

This is what the writer of Ecclesiastes indicates also There is a ‘yin and yang’ to life itself – a season for everything, ‘a time for every purpose under heaven’ – God’s perfect time, God’s perfect purpose. There is a dark side and a bright side to the things which concern our bodies, our minds, nature, relationships and even our spirituality.

As you read this, we are still in the darkness of Lent. We have still to face the shadow times of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. But how wonderful to know that soon after, the desert of death will blossom and we will rejoice on Easter Sunday. The joy of Easter is so much greater, our appreciation and experience of Easter is so much deeper because we have walked through the valleys of the shadow of death, sadness, and loss into the green pastures where we discover brilliant light, joy and abundance.

It’s almost here – take the time to see and listen – get ready for a profusion of color, light and life to burst forth into the world! Around us the world is exploding in a celebration of new life, and we may miss it if we’re focused on less important things. Here at Ogden, we are also eagerly anticipating the joy of the resurrection life too. Let us focus on the most important thing – a new life in Christ.

Poet Lynn Ungar has a wonderful poem titled "Camas Lilies" in which she writes: "And you -- what of your rushed and / useful life? Imagine setting it all down -- / papers, plans, appointments, everything, / leaving only a note: "Gone to the fields / to be lovely. Be back when I'm through / with blooming."

Spring and the season of Easter is a time to set aside some of our plans – the less important things - and open ourselves to our own blooming. And in our flowering, may we discover an abundance of new gifts – and be inspired to share our gifts in service to others.

And remember, whether we’re experiencing yin or yang, the one thing we’re always experiencing is God’s loving and sustaining presence with us in and throughout all times.

Happy blooming! Happy Easter!!

Pastor Kathi

“I come to the garden alone/While the dew is still on the roses/And the voice I hear falling on my ear/The Son of God discloses./And He walks with me, and He talks with me,/And He tells me I am His own;/And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.” (*In the Garden*)



WORSHIP AT OGDEN - APRIL

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
9:30 a.m.	Chimes Ensemble & Youth Musicians
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music

Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.	Soup and Salad Supper
7:30 p.m.	Communion Service

Sunday, April 16 - Easter

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
9:30 a.m.	Chimes Ensemble & Youth Musicians
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music

Sunday, April 23

9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, April 30

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music



MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 13
SOUP & SALAD SUPPER (6:30 pm)
AND COMMUNION SERVICE (7:30 pm)

Our Maundy Thursday (April 13) event begins with supper at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Narthex with a variety of soups, salad, bread and beverage. Please contact Cynthia O’Gorman (973-665-1694) if you would like to provide a soup, salad, bread or beverage for the event. The supper will be followed by a communion service in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact June in the office at 973-635-5567.



One Great Hour of Sharing

is a Christian effort to empower those in need, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters.

Just a reminder that our One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Mission project will conclude with our church collection and dedication on Palm Sunday, April 9. If you are unable to be there, or forget your offering, please return it any time after that. Envelopes for the offering are still available on the table to the right as you enter the sanctuary.



MONTHLY BIBLE FOCUS/DISCUSSION

Although small, during March our Lenten morning group enjoyed three Tuesdays of discussion about topics dealing with God's gifts and blessings, worry, and trust. We will continue to meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. Currently scheduled dates are **Tuesday, April 25, May 23 and June 27 at 10:30 am in the Library. Please join us.**



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Thank you to our **Chancel (Adult) Choir, Chimers** and our **Youth Musicians** for adding beautifully to recent services. The fun continues in April with a lot of music making, especially for Holy week.

- **Chancel Choir** is set to sing every Sunday this month, with a slightly later call time the Sunday after Easter.
- **Youth Musicians** rehearse after *most* services and are set to add to Palm Sunday and Easter, April 9 and 16.
- As is our usual plan, **Chimes Ensemble** share their talents on the first Sunday of the month. But Chimers will also add to Palm Sunday and Easter.
- On Palm Sunday and Easter worship will be enhanced by french horn and a female vocalist. Maundy Thursday includes clarinet music.

CONCERTS ON MAIN

Many thanks to all who came out and supported our March 24

CONCERT ON MAIN!

Ogden's free music series returns in the fall.

YOUTH and KIDS GROUPS

Spring and summer fellowship events are in the works for our Middle & High School students as well as younger kids. More details will be shared soon.



SAVE THE DATE!

CINCO DE MAYO MAY 5th PICNIC

On Friday, May 5, the Mission & Outreach Committee will sponsor our annual picnic with a Cinco de Mayo flair! More details will be available in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Sophia Hannay at 973-635-0456 or soffmh@gmail.com.



CAMP JOHNSONBURG SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, offers summer programs for children and youth entering 1st through 12th grades. Further information can be found by logging onto www.campjburg.org and clicking on "Summer Camp." Camp scholarships for the children/youth of members are available through Ogden. Please contact Pastor Kathi if you are interested.



APRIL MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH

Our April mission-of-the-month will benefit the *Jersey Battered Women's Shelter*. Jersey Battered Women's Service Inc. in Morris County, NJ is a full-service domestic violence and domestic abuse prevention agency with volunteer opportunities. Their services include a 24-hour hotline; counseling; safe house; transitional living; children's services; life skills education; vocational counseling; batterers' intervention; legal assistance; teen dating violence services; and professional training, education and youth prevention programs.

The Shelter has many needs. Our idea is to throw an "April Showers" themed collection of shower and bathroom (toiletries, hygiene) items for women and children. A list of items needed will be circulated in the near future. As always, the Mission & Outreach Committee appreciates your support of our various missions. We are proud to put our mission values into action as we live out our motto: "*Putting LOVE first in the heart of Chatham.*"

If you have any ideas for future mission projects, or any questions regarding this project, please contact M&O Chair, Sophia Hannay at 973-635-0456, soffmh@gmail.com.



News From Session

At its March meeting, the Session:

- learned of progress on the sale of the Coleman Lot;
- heard about this year's Fishawack Festival, where Ogden has been asked to provide a strawberry festival;
- heard plans for this year's Easter Egg Hunt;
- approved a fundraiser, "March Madness Pizza Party," for the Mothers' Morning Out;
- engaged in a discussion with the Mothers' Morning Out Board.

MINI-PRAYER SHAWLS

A special 'thank you' to Ginnie Trowbridge for using her knitting talent to make mini prayer shawls for our members and visitors. If you haven't yet picked one up, they can be found in the darker of the two baskets on the table to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Share them with your friends or anybody else that can benefit from the blessing of prayer. The note included with the mini prayer shawl reads as follows: "May this pocket-sized prayer shawl: remind you that God loves you; bring you comfort, wrap you in peace, and give you a sense of well-being. May God bless you!" Who wouldn't want such a convenient and thoughtful (not to mention portable) reminder of God's constant presence and care!



Tri-Town 55+ "Rides for Seniors"

Registration is now open and easy for The Tri-Town 55+ Coalition's "Rides for Seniors" program, an on-demand transportation service available to residents of the Chatham and Madison, 65 and older! The Tri-Town 55+ Coalition will subsidize each one-way trip, up to 15 miles, at a cost of only \$5. Riders will be able to travel as far as Morristown, Florham Park, Summit, Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Millburn. This geographical area includes three major local hospitals, as well as many restaurants, retailers and entertainment venues such as The Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn.

For more information about the "Rides for Seniors" program, visit the Tri-Town 55+ Coalition website at www.tritown55plus.org and see our list of frequently asked questions, or email us at Tri-Town55plus@gmail.com. To register for "Ride for Seniors" you can log onto the Tri-Town 55+ Coalition website at www.tritown55plus.org, or call GoGoGrandparent at 1-855-464-6872 and follow the prompts.

Don't miss another great evening performance at the Paper Mill Playhouse or worry about scheduling that doctor's appointment. "Rides for Seniors" will get you there and back quickly, easily and affordably!



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the April birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all!

If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the "Birthday Corner."

Chris Masson	2
Rae Crescas	3
Allan Paradise	4
John O'Gorman	8
Joseph Cullen Tivade	8
Debi Masson	10
Winston Roos	14
Colette Crescas	17
Gianna Parlavecchio	19
Leah Knoll	29
Colton Walter	30



Let Us Pray...

Let us pray for our members...Marcia Casais, Becky Jarvis, Martha Kiff, Alice Loeser, Barbara Molitor

Let us pray for...

Kevin Boettger	nephew of Pat Hammeke
Gina Cocchiaro-Hoang family	friends of Cindy Parlavecchio
Kathy Dixon	sister-in-law of Marcia Casais
Ed Dunn	great-uncle of Casey Molino Dunn
Josh Fernandez	12 year old neighbor of the Roos family
Auriel Gonzales	mother of Sandy Roos
James Guishard	friend of Janice and Balcom Parcels
Paul Horgan	friend of the Crescas family
Marie LaPena	friend of Mariclaire Miller
Darlene LaRue	friend of Allan and Gail Paradise
Patricia Maher	friend of Marcia Casais
Denny Mayer	friend of Marcia Casais
Ron McBride	uncle of Cheryl Conklin
The Mears family	our missionaries in Haiti
Charles Molino	uncle of Casey Molino Dunn
Clark and Jean Paradise	parents of Allan Paradise
Dennis Paradise	brother of Allan Paradise

Steve Raas	friend of Bob and Colette Crescas
The Roche family	neighbors of Marcia Casais
Gloria Rodgers	cousin of Ginnie Trowbridge
Charlie Roussel	son-in-law of June Jeannette
Kathy Scotton and family	friends of the Knolls
Laurie Sheppard	friend of Cindy Parlavecchio
Frank Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Mark Squindo	son of Janice Parcels

Let us pray for those serving our Country...Scott Armstrong, James
Glendening, Morgan Glendening, Robert Traver, Doug Verblaauw.