**April 30, 2023**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Rev. Randy M. Brubaker, Pastor**

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*In Psalm 119:105, the psalmist declares that God’s Word “is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” As we look to God’s Word, the Bible, we realize the truth of these words. Today we welcome Chris Zawodniak, a member of Gideons International, to speak on the importance of the Bible. We also take time today to present Bibles to the members of our Confirmation Class as they continue learning to be “doers of the Word” (James 1). – Pastor Randy*

***TODAY’S GUEST*** - "**Chris Zawodniak** became a member of the Gideons International 30 years ago in 1993 while he was serving on active military duty with the United States Air Force.  He currently works for the Air Force as a civilian at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.  Chris lives in Morrisville, Pennsylvania with his wife Margaret, a registered nurse who is a in the Gideon Auxiliary, along with his daughters Sarah and Rebecca who are college students set to graduate in two weeks at Rider University.  The Zawodniak Family are members of Morrisville Baptist Church."

***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***Fourth Sunday of Easter* April 30, 2023**

**Welcome**

 Chorus of Welcome *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family, the family of God.

 **\*Call to Worship** *Psalm 19*

 *The law of the Lord is perfect; it gives new strength. The commands of the Lord are trustworthy,*

 *giving wisdom to those who lack it. The laws of the Lord are right, and those who obey them are happy.*

 *The commands of the Lord are just and give understanding to the mind. Reverence for the Lord*

 *is good; it will continue forever. The judgments of the Lord are just; they are always fair.*

 *They are more desirable than the finest gold; they are sweeter than the purest honey.*

 **\*Opening Hymn** *“Thy Word Is a Lamp”* # 601

 *Refrain:* Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

 Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

 When I feel afraid, and think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me,

 nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

 And I will not forget Your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.

 Jesus, be my Guide and hold me to Your side, and I will love You to the end.  *Refrain*

 **Opening Prayer**

**Almighty God, by whose law we are governed and by whose grace we are saved:**

**As Your Word is a Lamp unto our feet and a Light unto our path, lighten our way,**

**we pray, so that we will walk toward You in all we do. Amen.**

**Children’s Message** *Bible presentations to our Confirmands*

**Joys & Concerns………………….……..*Gathered Prayer…………………………The Lord’s Prayer***

*Our Father, who art in heaven,**hallowed be Thy name;**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**against us. And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Gifts and Offerings

 Offertory *“The B-I-B-L-E”* Go Fish

 **Doxology** *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”* # 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Offertory Prayer**

**\*Hymn** *“Break Thou the Bread of Life”* # 599

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord; my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. John 1:1-18*

 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. **2**The Word

 was with God in the beginning. **3**Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word

 nothing came into being. What came into being **4**through the Word was life, and the life was the light

 for all people. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light.

 **6**A man named John was sent from God. **7**He came as a witness to testify concerning the light,

 so that through him everyone would believe in the light. **8**He himself wasn’t the light, but his mission

 was to testify concerning the light. **9**The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.
**10**The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn’t recognize

 the light. **11**The light came to his own people, and his own people didn’t welcome him.

**12**But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become

 God’s children, **13** born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.
**14**The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that

 of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. **15**John testified about him, crying out, “This is the one

 of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.’”

**16**From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; **17** as the Law was given through Moses,

 so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. **18**No one has ever seen God.

 God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has made God known.

 **Sermon** *Chris Zawodniak--The Gideons International*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

 I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

 the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

 and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

 from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *“Wonderful Words of Life”* # 600

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;

 let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;

 words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

 *Refrain*: Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

 Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

 Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;

 sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;

 all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. *Refrain*

 Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;

 offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;

 Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. *Refrain*

**\*Benediction**

***Quiet Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer***

**\*Choral Benediction**  *“O Word of God Incarnate* [VS. 3] # 598

The Scripture is a banner before God’s host unfurled;

it is a shining beacon above the darkling world.

It is the chart and compass that o’er life’s surging tide,

mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to You, O Christ, will guide.

**Sunday, June 4th** – Our current confirmation class will be confirmed during worship. We will have a potluck luncheon after worship.

**Sunday, June 25th** – This will be Pastor Randy’s last Sunday as our Pastor. After worship a Retirement Party for Pastor Randy will be held at The Philadelphia Protestant Home. More details to follow later.

**Sunday July 9th – Friday July 14th** - **MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP** “The Go Tour”

 Performances Friday July 14th and Sunday July 16th

**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.*** Prayer makes a difference. God’s power is seen when his people join together in prayer for one another. God hears the prayers of his people and he has the power to work mightily in any given situation.

**Prayer Requests from April 23, 2023**

Carol Evans - prayers for a procedure she is having on Tuesday.

Kathy Lynch - joy to join us for worship, unspoken prayer requests

Farol - prayers as she pursues her Bachelor Degree, she is willing to help the elderly.

Dende - Prayers for her new client family, their teenage daughter was killed on Saturday.

Linda - feeling down and needs prayers for healing

Haylee and her family, her step-father, David died this week.

Ms V is having open heart surgery this week.

Walt Shields - recovering from shingles

Kass Greenlaw great grandson Calloway Ashton celebrated his first Holy Communion

Marjorie Sinclair celebrated her 8th birthday this week.

For Haiti - amid a profound political crisis, Haiti remains gripped by vicious gangs who dominate daily life

 through their warfare, sieges, and extortion. Prayers for Jean & Lovens Bernard and their

 family in Haiti.

Ed Paye - prayers for Ed & Ethel's wedding preparations

Martha Korto - prayers as she begins cancer treatments.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Patsy Coyne Scott Meyer

Sana Aman Rev. Khan Bob Patterson

Eva Baumgartel Martha & Wondor Korto Sylvia Spotts

Zilpha & James Browne Marva Christian Stefanescu

Dorothy Buzzard Kayla Mc Manus Suzzanne Turner

Caroline (Rose Burghaze daughter) Betty Sauerwald & Family

 Pastor Brendan Van Gorder

Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace.

Prayers for our city and end to violence .

Prayers for peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our Church!

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible encourages us to follow Jesus. As we read the words of Jesus, He reminds us that we need to follow Him.

**May 7, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

John 14:1-14 - Acts 7:55-60 - Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 - 1 Peter 2:2-10

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

 1 Marge Rosenkaimer {100} (CUMC) 17 Olive Hanson (CUMC)

 2 Wes Jeitner (FMUMC) 20 Linda Galen (FMUMC)

 4 Pat Wright (FMUMC) 21 Annie Freeman (CUMC)

 6 Sasha Hanson (CUMC) 24 Mohamed Jabati (CUMC)

13 Kathy Lynch (CUMC) 29 Wadiya Korpoi (CUMC)

14 Dorothy Buzzard (CUMC) 29 Kayla McManus(CUMC)

Is there anyone else celebrating a birthday in May?

Celebrants: We thank God for the gift of life.

**People: We thank God for you whose birthdays we celebrate this May!**

Celebrants: Life is precious.

**People:** **We are grateful for all of you. May God bless you in this time and throughout all your days.**

***All: We are glad that God has brought us together in this world. We are enriched by those who come into our lives, our families, our church, and our community. May we always be open to seeing God in others. May we always follow God’s leading into the future.***

Celebrants: Thanks be To God for the gift of life.

**People: Thanks be to God for the gift of life. Amen.**