**April 16, 2023**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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

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[**https://www.youtube.com/@crescentvilleunitedmethodi7688**](https://www.youtube.com/%40crescentvilleunitedmethodi7688)

***“It was still the first day of the week.”*** *It had been a long day. Three days after Jesus was crucified, His followers were learning that something was up—there was talk that Jesus had been raised from the dead! And it was true, some of Jesus’ followers had even encountered the risen Savior—He lives! So that evening, while, except for Thomas, Jesus’ disciples had gathered “behind closed doors,” perhaps wondering, what now? To their amazement, the resurrected Jesus entered where they were, and blessed them. Except for Thomas. Yet even Thomas, after expressing doubt, as he stayed in fellowship with his fellow disciples, came to meet His risen Lord. As you come here today, with your thoughts, and perhaps your doubt, now what? - Pastor Randy*

***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***Second Sunday of Easter* April 16, 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** *1 Peter 1*

 *Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy*

 *he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope,*

 *and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people.*

 *He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away*

 *They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation*

 *which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.*

 **\*Opening Hymn** *“Thine Be the Glory”* # 308

 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory Thou o’er death hast won.
 Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

*Refrain:* Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory Thou o’er death hast won.

 Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
 Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. *R*

 No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife.
 Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan

 to thy home above. *Refrain*

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Almighty and everlasting God, who in the fullness of this day’s mystery has continued the work**

 **of resurrection: Grant that we who have been made Your children may obtain that same peace**

 **which our Lord Jesus Christ left to us when He came to You; Through the same Jesus Christ**

 **our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**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 Giving Song”*

 **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** *“Breath on Me, Breath of God”* [VS. 1-3] # 420

 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,

 that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.

 Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
 until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine,
 till all this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. John 20:19-31*

 ***It was still the first day of the week.*** That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors

 because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said,

 “Peace be with you.” **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples

 saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. **21**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.

 As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” **22**Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive

 the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them,

 they aren’t forgiven.”

**24**Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came.

**25**The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks

 in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

**26**After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors

 were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.”

**27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side.

 No more disbelief. Believe!” **28**Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

**29**Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

**30**Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded

 in this scroll. **31**But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ,

 God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

 **Sermon** *“Now What?”*

 **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** *“**Jesus, United by Thy Grace”* [VS. 1-2, 5,6] # 561

 Jesus, united by Thy grace and each to each endeared,
 with confidence we seek Thy face and know our prayer is heard.

Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid afford, and feel each other's care.

To Thee, inseparably joined, let all our spirits cleave;
O may we all the loving mind that was in Thee receive.

This is the bond of perfectness, Thy spotless charity;
O let us, still we pray, possess the mind that was in Thee.

**\*Benediction**

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

**\*Choral Benediction**  *“Breath on Me, Breath of God”* [VS. 4] # 420

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

**Meet our future Pastor, Brendan Van Gorder**

Pastor Brendan prays for God to bring healing, liberation, and unity. He was born in Ireland, grew up near Harrisburg PA, and attended the University of Pennsylvania for his BA in Political Science and Princeton Theological Seminary for his Masters of Divinity.

Pastor Brendan has done ministry through chaplaincy at Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia and Bordentown Youth Correctional Facility in New Jersey. He has also served as a pastoral minister at St. Paul's Baptist Church in North Philadelphia, and has gotten a ministry grant and helped run a youth program at Calvary United Methodist Church in Flint, Michigan, where his grandparents live. He enjoys building relationships with people and connecting communities. He plays guitar, saxophone, and loves to dance. He is married to Gina, a Philadelphia high school English teacher, and they have a beautiful daughter named Zoramya. He believes Luke 17:21 when it says that the kingdom of God is within us all.

Pastor Brennan will begin his ministry with us on July 2nd. Please pray for our congregation as we move forward with joyful anticipation of these new beginnings.

**Tuesday, April 25th – Women’s Fellowship** will meet at noon to set up for the tea. Please bring your lunch, beverages and desserts will be provided.

**Sunday, April 30th – Tea By The Sea** – Please purchase your tickets from Sue Snyder!

**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

**TEA BY THE SEA Sunday, April 30, 2023 1:00 PM**

Join us for afternoon tea and a presentation by

Sue Snyder featuring swimwear

from 1890 to the 1970’s

Admission $ 10.00 in advance$ 12.00 at the door

Please see Sue Snyder for tickets.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible gives us hope and joy. Spending time in the Bible daily reminds us of the hope and joy we have in Christ. Our perspective shifts from this world to eternal matters.

**April 23, 2023 - Third Sunday of Easter** Luke 24:13-35 - Acts 2:14a, 36-41 - Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 - 1 Peter 1:17-23

**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.*** Studies are showing the positive effects of prayer – both for the individual who prays, and for the recipient of the prayers. Why are our prayers powerful? Because of Jesus!

**Prayer Requests from April 9, 2023**

Prayers for Sue Nolan

Joy - Cocoa's eye is healing well

Dende - continued prayers as she does therapy for her shoulder

Continued prayers for the Keili family - death in the family

Prayers for Sheryl Duke ( Carol Evan's Sister)

Collingwoode is happy to be home from Sierra Leone

Prayers for Omega who cares for a family and their son, and the son is dying.

Prayers for all who are going back to school tomorrow.

Joy for Marina Jean's 16th Birthday

Joy for Tasima Jah -he had a successful eye surgery in Ghana.

Prayers for peace in Israel

Kass Greenlaw is glad to have her son Doug here with her in worship today.

Gene Saloky - Thanks God for answered prayers

Safe travel for all today

Ed Paye - thankful for family & church

**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!

 ***PLEASE prayerfully consider raising your weekly monetary offering to help with our expenses. Unsure if you are able to give more? Try taking a STEP up from your current giving, and if that goes well, take another step – you may find that you can give more than you thought possible***