

HIGHLIGHTS

First-Generation College Students: Please Share Your Story

Were you the first in your family to attend college? We want to hear from you! Berean Baptist Church wants to celebrate first-generation students; no matter how long ago!

If you were the first in your family to go to college, please share your experience; it could very well encourage someone else.



ATTENTION ALL 2025 GRADS:
BEREAN WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE YOU AND ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!

SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

2025

If you will be graduating in 2025 from any form of school or college, please complete the **Recognition of Graduates' Form** (located in the foyer). Submit the completed form by Sunday, May 18, 2025 to the Scholarship Ministry or church office.

ESSAY CONTEST (OPTIONAL):
Graduates who wish to participate in the essay contest are invited to do so. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

- Elementary Graduates: 50-100 words
- Middle School & Above: 150-250 words

ESSAY TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- A time you were not successful; What did you learn?
- Your academic/career goals
- A person you admire and why?
- Your dream job and why?
- What are you thankful for and why?

Essay contest winners will be chosen at the discretion of the Scholarship Ministry; deadline to submit essays is Sunday, May 18, 2025.

MORE INFORMATION:
Check the church foyer
Reach out to the Scholarship Ministry
Contact the Church Office

Berean's TV Ministry

TUNE IN EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 7:30 A.M.
FOR
BEREAN'S TV MINISTRY ON
XFINITY 66/966 HD/967HD & VERIZON 29/30
& EVERYWHERE ON ROKU, APPLE TV
& PHILLYCAM LIVE TV

PHILADELPHIA PARKS & REC JOB FAIR

**Saturday, April 12, 2025
10AM - 2PM
The Dell Music Center**
2400 Strawberry Mansion Dr, 19132

Get Connected to:

- Seasonal Jobs
- Full-Time Careers
- City Resources And More!

Now Hiring at Parks & Rec:

- Lifeguards
- Seasonal Maintenance Attendants
- Camp Staff
- Youth Employment
- Seasonal Park Rangers And More!

Job Fair Participants:

FOR MORE INFO:
bit.ly/PPRJobs25

Questions? Email: PPR.Training@phila.gov

Birthdays



April 6
Sister Lyric Ellison

April 13
Sister LaKeisha Temple

April 16
Sister Barbara Battle

April 17
Elder Brenda Sackel

April 24
Sister Denise Hood-Smith



BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



BEREAN

Baptist Church

"Where Traditions & Innovations Commune"

PUBLISHER: Volume No. 4 | Issue 1 | Date: April 1, 2025
2425-33 West Indiana Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132-1304
Website: www.bereanphilly.org | Email: bereanvision@yahoo.com
Reverend Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor



He is Risen

Christ Is Risen!

Question: "What is Easter Sunday?"

Answer: There is a lot of confusion regarding what Easter Sunday is all about. For some, Easter Sunday is about the Easter Bunny, colorfully decorated Easter eggs, and Easter egg hunts.

Most people understand that Easter Sunday has something to do with the resurrection of Jesus, but are confused as to how the resurrection is related to the Easter eggs and the Easter bunny.

Biblically speaking, there is absolutely no connection between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the common modern traditions related to Easter Sunday. As a background, please read the article on the origins of Easter. Essentially, what occurred is that in order to make Christianity more attractive to non-Christians, the ancient Roman Catholic Church mixed the celebration of Jesus' resurrection with celebrations that involved spring fertility rituals. These spring fertility rituals are the source of the egg and bunny traditions.

The Bible makes it clear that Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week, Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19). Jesus' resurrection is most worthy of being celebrated (see 1 Corinthians 15). While it is appropriate for Jesus' resurrection to be celebrated on a Sunday, the day on which Jesus' resurrection is celebrated should not be referred to as Easter. Easter has nothing to do with Jesus' resurrection on a Sunday.

IN THIS ISSUE

CHRIST is Risen!.....Front Cover
Days of Lent & Passion/Palm Sunday.....2
Upcoming Events.....3

National Autism Awareness Month.....4
Adult Mental Health Resources.....5
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday.....6

Monthly Hymn/Mission Day/NACA Event.....7
Bible Study & Adult Bible Class Lessons.....8
Second Chance Sunday/Clearing Your Record.....9

Core Commitments.....10
Homeless Outreach, Sick List & Giving.....11
Scholarship Ministry/Birthdays/Job Fair.....12

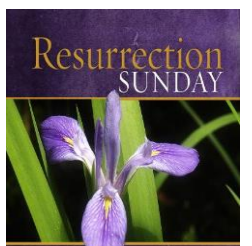
As a result, many Christians feel strongly that the day on which we celebrate Jesus' resurrection should not be referred to as "Easter Sunday." Rather, something like "Resurrection Sunday" would be far more appropriate and biblical. For the Christian, it is unthinkable that we would allow the silliness of Easter eggs and the Easter bunny to be the focus of the day instead of Jesus' resurrection.

By all means, celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Christ's resurrection is something that should be celebrated every day, not just once a year. At the same time, if we choose to celebrate Easter Sunday, we should not allow the fun and games to distract our attention from what the day should truly be all about - the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and that His resurrection demonstrates that, we can indeed be promised an eternal home in Heaven by receiving Jesus as our Savior.

To learn more about how Jesus' death and resurrection provided for our salvation, please read the following article: What does it mean to accept Jesus as your personal Savior?

Easter Sunday Calendar:

- 2025 - April 20th
- 2026 - April 5th
- 2027 - March 28th
- 2028 - April 16th



Article taken from gotquestions.com

The Beginning of the End

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Joel 2:13

Did you ever wonder why we mark ourselves with ashes at the beginning of Lent? It's a reminder that someday our life on earth will come to an end. For some people, the idea of death is so scary that they don't want to think about it at all. But for Christians, death is the gateway to eternal life with Jesus, thanks to his saving death on the cross and his resurrection on Easter.

At the beginning of Lent, we remember that the Holy Spirit and the promise of salvation have been given to us through baptism, and we ask ourselves, "How are we living differently because of that gift?"

Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us on the cross. Help us to give our lives for you this Lent, and always.

May the Lord bless you on your Lenten journey.

Holy Week

Tell Me About Passion or Palm Sunday

Jesus' ride into Jerusalem a week before His crucifixion established the pattern for our observance of this day. (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19). The people of Jerusalem waved palm or olive branches, a symbol of victory, and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Today, in the 21st century, we celebrate Palm Sunday (also called Passion Sunday because it marks Jesus' entry into a week of passionate suffering), in worship services. We pray over palm branches and give them to all persons who worship with us. The branches are meant to call to mind the significance of the events of Holy Week.

The fact that Christianity has a Holy Week is one more thing that makes it different from all other faiths. Christianity is a faith that is built upon real people, real events, and the real Lord who entered history as the Savior of humanity.

We are blessed because we can look far back into history and discover the roots of our Christian faith. Christian faith goes back beyond the first Holy Week, beyond even the accounts of the Old Testament Israelites. Christian faith has its beginnings with God reaching out to us in His decision to create, redeem, and reveal Himself to us.

God created us to be in four-part relationships. We are to be in relationship with God, one another, and the environment. Sin disturbs those relationships. Jesus Christ's death and resurrection provide the only way that those relationships can be eternally mended.

Days of Lent

Dates of Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent last forty days, not counting Sundays. Sundays aren't counted because Sunday always celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death. Even during Lent, Sunday is a "little Easter."

Special Days of Lent

Ash Wednesday
Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

Color for Lent

Purple, a royal color that also signifies penitence and preparation, is used during Lent on cloths for altar, pulpit, lectern and on stoles and banners.

Visuals for Lent

Sometimes shiny objects are removed from the worship area during Lent, and some churches omit flowers. A large rough cross may be used, or a veil placed over the sanctuary cross.



Berean Baptist Church

2425 W Indiana Ave



Let's Do It Again

Please join us as we travel to Sight and Sound Theater for:

"NOAH"

Saturday, June 28, 2025- 11:00 a.m.

Adults- \$200.00 Children- \$195.00

1st Deposit- March 23- \$65.00 March 23- \$50.00

2nd Payment- April 20- \$45.00 April 20- \$50.00

3rd Payment- May 18- \$45.00 May 18- \$50.00

Final Payment- June 8- \$45.00 June 8- \$45.00

" ALL DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE"

Costs include Transportation, Show, Shopping and Dinner at Miller's

Buses leaving Berean Baptist Church- 8:00 a.m. sharp

Contact: Kim Woods 267-333-6065 Grace Allen- Sheppard- 215-432-2499

Payments can be made through Berean's CashApp at [\\$BereanBaptistChurch](#)

Sick & Recovering
"Naked & Ye Clothed Me; I Was Sick & Ye Visited Me"
(Matthew 25:36)

+++++

Sisters:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Eloise Ball | Deac. Annie Jones |
| Bertha Beckham | Eld. Louise Jones |
| Mary Chapman | Deac. Louise Myers |
| Sandra Chestnut | Sharene Richardson |
| Betty Ford (Watch Care) | Delores Withers (Watch Care) |



Nursing & Rehabilitation Center:



Bro. Albert Chambers
Genesis Spring Nursing
& Rehabilitation Center
1113 Easton Road
Room #423A
Willow Grove, PA 19090-1901

Please remember to pray for our sick and recoveries
*Visit*Send Cards*

The Homeless Outreach

(Submitted by Sister Charlene Howard)

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matt. 22:36-38, KJV)

The Outreach Team gathered once again in the Kensington section of Philadelphia in February to provide support to those suffering from drug addiction and homelessness. Upon arriving, they noticed two distinct groups occupied the street - one group was awake and engaged in their daily activities, while another lay fast asleep on the cold concrete sidewalk.

Among those sleeping, one individual had most of their body covered to keep warm. However, one hand protruded from beneath their coat, exposed not only to the cold but also to the eyes of the Outreach Team. The hand was so swollen that it appeared almost unnatural or artificial. It looked as if it had lost its ability to function for even the simplest tasks.

Just as this person's hand may have been altered by misuse, perhaps through repeated injections, many people have also altered the divine purpose that God had for their lives through sin. Yet, just as that injured hand could be restored with care, we too can return to our Heavenly Father's purpose by accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior.



"Let the little children come to me"

MATTHEW 19:14

We invite you and your children, of all ages, to join us,

for Sunday School every Sunday morning @9:00 A.M.

We look forward to seeing you!

"Worship by Giving"

Worship Leader - 8. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. **9.** Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. **10.** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

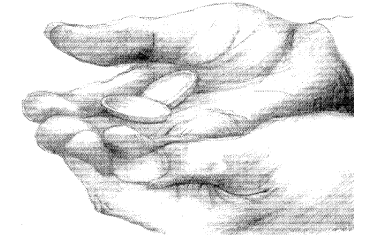
Worship Leader:
"Worship by Giving!"
Congregation:
"Praise the Lord!"

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Congregation:
"Praise the Lord!"

"...she...put in everything - all she had..."

Mark 12:44



Core Commitments



I. Bereanites, start each day the Right Way:

- Commit to personal development by reading one chapter of the Bible every day and every night.
- Listen to fifteen minutes of an inspirational audio/video.
- Reflect on your action steps for that day.



II. Stay Connected:

- Discipleship Training Zoom "Bible Study" on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.
- Discipleship Training "Sunday School" 9:00 A.M.-9:45 A.M.
- Discipleship Training "RightNow Media" our streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible Study videos for you and your family.

rightnow MEDIA | Free Gift for Your Family

III. Commit to planting two seeds Every Day:

- Share your story or the Gospel story with two people every day.
- By texting, emailing, tracts, social media, Berean Newsletters, and by any means necessary = (48 seeds planted every month).
- Proverbs 11:30



IV. Attend weekly service with Guests:

- Invite guests each week by sharing your story or the Gospel story to grow the ministry.
- Make a 52-week commitment.

V. Help new members get started right:

- Help new members plug into Bible Study on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.
- Help new members plug into Sunday School from 9:00 A.M.-9:45 A.M.
- Help new members plug into RightNow Media
- Help new members to share their story or the Gospel story by texting, emailing, tracts, social media, Berean's Newsletter, etc.



VI. Retain membership:

- Pray for the Berean family every day and every night.
- Check-in with other Berean members.
- Show love and encouragement to all your Berean family and guests.
- Follow-up with Berean family and new members.

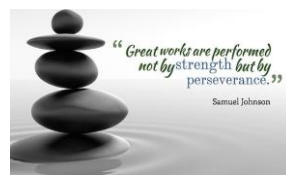


VII. Find a Biblical workout partner:

- Partner with someone who will hold you accountable, motivate you, and help you stretch for more.

VIII. Be here next year if the Lord allows it:

- Commit to the commitments.
- We will see a harvest in you and the ministry.
- Strength & Honor



Submitted by Pastor Couch



Sunday, April 6, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Evangelism)
(Second Chance Month)



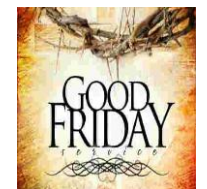
Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Youth & Young Adult Sunday)
(Palm Sunday)
(Baptism, Graduation & Right Hand of Fellowship)



Every Wednesday in April at 6:00 P.M.
(Bible Study on Zoom)



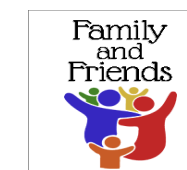
Thursday, April 17, 2025 | Friday, April 18, 2025
(Maundy Thursday) (Good Friday)



Sunday, April 20, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Holy Communion)
(Resurrection Sunday)



Sunday, April 27, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Family Harmony)
(Mission Sunday)
(Second Chance Sunday)
Min. Michelle Harrison, Associate & Guest Preacher
Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church
Philadelphia, PA 19140



"Those who walk with God, always reach their destination!"



The first **National Autism Awareness Month** was declared by the Autism Society in April 1970.

The aim of this month is to educate the public about autism. Autism is a complex mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. Autism can be present from birth or form during early childhood (typically within the first three years). Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no single known cause.

People with autism are classed as having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the terms autism and ASD are often used interchangeably. A wide spectrum disorder, people with Autism have a set of symptoms unique to themselves; no two people are the same.

Whilst no two people with Autism will have the same set of symptoms, there are common characteristics found in those with this complex disability.

Briefly, these characteristics include:

Social Skills - people with autism have problems interacting with others; autistic children do not have adequate playing and talking skills. Mild symptoms on one end of the spectrum may be displayed through clumsy behavior, being out of sync with those around them and inappropriate or offensive comments being made. At the other end of the spectrum, an autistic person may not be interested in others.

Empathy - empathy is the ability to recognize and understand the feelings of another person. People with autism find it harder to show empathy to others although they can be taught to acknowledge other's feelings.

Physical Contact - in some cases, autistic people do not like physical contact such as hugs, tickling or physical play with others.

Sudden Changes to Their Environment - a sudden change in the surrounding environment may affect a person with autism. It could be a loud noise, a change in intensity of lighting or even a change in smell.

Speech - speech can be affected in people with autism. 'Echolalia' is a typical speech symptom of which the person repeats words and phrases that they hear. The speech tone of an autistic person may be monotonous. Where symptoms are more extreme, the person may not speak.



April is National Autism Awareness Month, continued...

The Puzzle Ribbon Is the Symbol For this Event

Changes to Behavior and Routine - people with autism often display repetitive behavior in which they repeat the same action many times over. For example, a person with autism may repeatedly pace around a room in a certain direction. Any change to their behavior or routine can be unsettling for them. This could be a reordering of daily activities, such as when a person brushes their teeth, takes a shower, and has breakfast when they get up in the morning,

Other characteristics of autism include an unpredictable learning rate, obsessions, and physical tics.

Autism Is Widespread, Awareness About This Condition Is Not - In the United States, autism affects 1 in every 110 children. **National Autism Awareness Month** aims to make the public more aware about this widespread disability and the issues which arise in the autism community. As about 1 in 150 people in America have autism; the chances are that you know someone with this disability. A better-informed public will be more empathetic and supportive towards people with autism.

The month of April is backed by the Autism Society of America which undertake a number of activities to raise awareness about autism. The Autism Society has local chapters throughout the United States which hold special events throughout April.

The 'Puzzle Ribbon' is the symbol for Autism Awareness and is promoted by the Autism Society as means of supporting awareness for autism. The Puzzle Ribbon may take the form of a pin attached to clothing, a fridge magnet or a sticker and are available to purchase from the Autism Society website.

The Autism Society of America also run a year-long campaign through their 1 Power 4 Autism initiative, when people are encouraged to hold events to raise awareness and support for those affected by autism.

Philadelphia Sheriff's Office presents
3rd Annual Autism & Neurodiversity
RESOURCE FAIR & FAMILY FUN DAY
Saturday, April 19, 2025
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION BEGINS AT 11:00AM

The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Center
 4200 Wissahickon Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19129

*Info Session *Q&A / Panel Discussion *Resource Tables
 *Moonbounce *Refreshments * First Responder Vehicles
 *Facepaint and more..

For more information contact:
 Darryl Roberts - Assistant Director of Community Outreach
 (215) 683-4827 / darryl.roberts@phila.gov

HIGHLIGHTS

SECOND CHANCE SUNDAY WE ARE A **Second Chance Month partner!**

What You Can Do

- Go to prisonfellowship.org/secondchances and learn how you can participate in Second Chance Month by writing to your representative, posting on social media, organizing an event, and more!
- Consider introducing someone with a criminal record to a person who might be willing to hire them. Or if you own a business, consider giving them an interview.
- Provide practical assistance to help people coming home become independent and successful, such as help finding work-appropriate clothing for a job interview, referrals to potential employers or landlords, and guidance on practical life skills like getting a driver's license or filing taxes.
- Welcome returning citizens into your congregation. Offer fellowship, mentoring, accountability, and an opportunity to exercise their unique gifts in service to the Body of Christ.
- Go to justicedeclaration.org to affirm your commitment to a biblical framework for our justice system. Signing the Justice Declaration will allow Prison Fellowship to provide you updates on justice reforms in your state and at the federal level.

DID YOU KNOW?

- One in 3 American adults—or approximately **70 million people**—has a criminal record.
- There are more than **44,000 documented restrictions** affecting people with a criminal record.
- More than **600,000 people** are released from prison or jail every year.

Office of Reentry Partnerships (ORP) Presents:

ANTHONY POWELL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ART CONTEST

Who Can Participate?

- Justice-impacted persons
- Ages 12 years and older

For any questions, contact us at:
 (215) 683-3370
 ORPArContest@gmail.com

Artwork Requirements

- Must be a painting, drawing, or similar two-dimensional work (digital submissions are **NOT** allowed)
- The art piece must be at least 16"x20" and no larger than 20"x30"

Prizes
 1ST PLACE: \$250
 2ND PLACE: \$100
 3RD PLACE: \$50

REGISTER
bit.ly/4h1zk7u

DEADLINES
 REGISTER BY: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 2025 AT 11:59PM
 You must register to enter into the contest
 SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE: FRIDAY, MAY 16 2025 AT 12PM

The *Anthony Powell Restorative Justice Art Contest*, coordinated by ORP, honors Mr. Powell's commitment to serving justice-impacted individuals.

Participants must create a realistic head-and-shoulders portrait of Mr. Powell using the provided reference images. The artwork should be detailed and accurate, suitable for display as a tribute.

myCLEAN SLATE PA | A project of Community Legal Services

DO YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD? YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CLEAR IT!

Pennsylvania's new Clean Slate law expands record clearing eligibility!

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Many felony convictions can be sealed after: 10 YEARS | Most misdemeanor convictions can be sealed after: 7 YEARS | Summary convictions will be sealed automatically after: 5 YEARS |
|--|--|--|

Most felony and misdemeanor convictions in these categories can be sealed:

- Drug crimes
- Theft crimes, including Retail Theft and Receiving Stolen Property
- Trespass
- Forgery & Fraud crimes, including Access/Devisive Fraud, Bad Checks, ID Theft and Welfare Fraud
- Criminal Mischief
- Conspiracy to commit an eligible crime

Most misdemeanor convictions and all summary convictions can be sealed, including:

- Recklessly Endangering Another Person
- Simple Assault
- DUI
- Disorderly Conduct
- Resisting Arrest
- Harassment
- Terroristic threats
- Possession of an Instrument of a Crime
- Prostitution

LEARN MORE | <https://mycleanslatepa.com/>

What is sealing?

A sealed record cannot be used for employment, housing, or education purposes. A sealed record is not publicly available and should not show up on background checks, except for FBI reports.

How do I seal my record?

Some convictions will be sealed automatically, while others will need a petition to be filed. You may qualify to have the petition filed on your behalf free of charge.

To learn more about the new law and see what is on *your* record free of charge, visit MyCleanSlatePA.com.

myCLEAN SLATE PA | A project of Community Legal Services

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Spring Quarter | March/April/May 2025

The Climax of History

Unit I: Challenges to the Faith

- Mar. 2 - Beware of False Teachers - Jude 1:1-13
- Mar. 9 - Build Up Your Faith - Jude 1:17-25

Unit II: The Revelation of Jesus

- Mar. 16 - Jesus is Coming - II Pet. 3:3-15a
- Mar. 23 - Worship Before the Throne - Rev. 4:1-11
- Mar. 30 - Worthy is the Lamb - Rev. 5:1-5, 11-14
- Apr. 6 - The Great Multitude - Rev. 7:9-17
- Apr. 13 - Babylon is Fallen - Rev. 14:6-13
- Apr. 20 - Jesus Fulfills the Scriptures (Easter)
Luke 24:32-49

Unit III: The Final Victory

- Apr. 27 - The Wedding Feast of the Lamb - Rev. 19:5-10
- May 4 - A New Heaven and a New Earth - Rev. 21:1-8
- May 11 - The Holy New Jerusalem - Rev. 21:9-14, 22-27
- May 18 - The River of Life - Rev. 22:1-9
- May 25 - Come, Lord Jesus - Rev. 22:12-21

Berean Baptist Church
2425-33 W. Indiana Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19132

Prayer, Praise & Study



Every Wednesday on "Zoom"
at 6:00 P.M.

Connect on your Computer or Smartphone for Free:
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84441541339>

Connect via FREE Phone Conference:
Dial: (301) 715-8592, At the prompt, enter
Meeting ID: 84441541339

Join to Study God's Word With Us!

Adult Mental Health Resources

Mental Health has taken our community by storm.
Here are some Resources available to help the Congregation and Community!

Community Behavioral Health

CBH is the city-operated health maintenance organization for persons needing mental health care. Most Medical Assistance patients must call this number first for information and referrals (215) 413-3100, or 1 (888) 545-2600 - Crisis Hotline (215) 686-4420
www.dbhids.org/community-behavioral-health/

Online Mental Health Screening

Through Dept. of Behavioral Health - Free online screening and resources.

Go to healthymindsphilly.org/screening to check it out.



National Suicide Prevention Hotline

24-hour a Day National Hotline. Call 1 (800) 273-8255
or go to website below:
<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA

Organization that develops, promotes, and supports education and advocacy programs and serves children with mental health needs - 1211 Chestnut Street - (800) 688-4226 or (215) 751-1800.
www.mhasp.org

Magellan Behavior Health (Health Partners, KHPE, BCBS)

Call (800) 688-1911 for intake at:

www.magellanofpa.com



BHSI (Behavioral Health System Initiative)

City-funded agency for individuals without health insurance with substance abuse. 801 Market Street, (215) 546-1200. bhsi-dbhids.org



Drug and Alcohol Helpline

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment hotline. Call 1 (800) 662-4357 to find a resource near you.
<http://www.samhsa.gov/>



Nar-Anon

Support for families of addicts. Call 1 (800) 477-6291
<https://www.nar-anon.org/>



Alcoholics Anonymous

Call (215) 923-7900 for information or go to their website below.
www.aasepia.org

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

Support groups for clean addicts and active users. Call 215-NA-WORKS.
<http://www.naworks.org/>



CRISIS TEXT LINE: TEXT "MHFA" TO 741741

Available 24/7, 365 days a year, this organization helps people with mental health challenges by connecting callers with trained crisis volunteers who will provide confidential advice, support, and referrals if needed.
<https://www.crisistextline.org/>

Submitted by Pastor Couch

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

We provide confidential, client-centered advocacy and individualized support while also promoting community empowerment.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT A CHW CAN ASSIST WITH:

- Access to health and mental wellness resources
- Support with utility assistance programs
- Referrals to transportation services
- COVID-19 vaccination and recovery resources
- Connections to Eviction Court resources

The CHW Program is an initiative funded by the CDC and led by the Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity, in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

Sheila Jones
Community Health Worker
SHEILA.JONES2@PHILA.GOV
215-964-8409 (TEXT FRIENDLY; M-F 9AM to 5PM)

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
Philly Counts

GET TO KNOW YOUR PHILLY COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Building bridges between our communities & social services

phila.gov/phillycounts | phillycounts@phila.gov

What is Maundy Thursday?



As a Jew, Jesus celebrated the annual Passover (*pascha*) meal. However, through His sacrificial death, He transformed it once and forever into *His* supper. The bread and juice we eat and drink during Communion and Agape Meal remind us of the new Covenant

provided through the breaking of Jesus' body and shedding of His blood. During the last supper, Jesus washed His disciples' feet and gave a new command or mandate: *Love one another*. Read John 13:1-35, also Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-30. The name "Maundy" comes from the Latin root for *mandate* in remembrance of Jesus' mandate to love one another.

Some Christians celebrate Maundy Thursday in Foot Washing Services in remembrance of the act of humility and love that was demonstrated by our Lord and Savior at the Last Supper. They do this to remember that we too, must have an attitude of service. Jesus taught that strength and life in the Kingdom of God comes not by power, authority or miracle working, but by lowly service to one another.

Tell Me About Good Friday

Jesus was crucified at noon on Good Friday. We might think that the word "Good" refers to the good that God accomplished for us by His Son's death for our sins. But it is more likely that just like the "good" in the phrase 'good-bye' comes from the old greetings, "God be with you," Good Friday comes from the phrase God's Friday.

That particular Friday - *the* turning point in the history of humanity, when God paid the price for our redemption with the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus Christ - that day, more than any other, was God's Day.

On Friday, April 18, 2025, Christians observe Good Friday Services in many churches throughout the world. If you have never participated in a worship service on Good Friday, perhaps you might consider doing so this year.

Wherever you choose to worship, you may prepare by reading the following Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9, and John 18:1-19:42.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FOOT-WASHING

Foot-Washing: Extreme Act of Humility — Jesus Washed His Disciples' Feet —



Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments and taking a towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." John 13:3-17 ESV.

It was the night before Jesus' crucifixion, and he demonstrated an act of extreme humility. He was a Teacher, the Messiah, the Chosen One, God wrapped in human flesh, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, yet He humbled himself and washed His disciples' feet. In modern day times, it would be like a CEO of a major corporation taking out his secretary's trash or like a pilot leaving the cockpit to hand out sodas.

Sources:

"The Lesson of Foot Washing" by Jerold Aust.

Is Your All on the Altar? † Hymn #183

1 You have longed for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed.
But you cannot have rest,
Or be perfectly blest,
Until all on the altar is laid.

Refrain:

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

2 Would you walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
And have peace and contentment always?
You must do His sweet will
To be free from all ill -
On the altar your all you must lay. [Refrain]

3 Oh, we never can know
What the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Till our body and soul
He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid. [Refrain]

4 Who can tell all the love
He will send from above,
And how happy our hearts will be made,
Of the fellowship sweet
We shall share at His feet
When our all on the altar is laid! [Refrain]

Assembly Required

We believe that regular church attendance is important for every Christian because...



It follows the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ.

"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read" (Luke 4:16)



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The Ophelia Moses Missionary Circle Ministry

"Mission Day Service" | Sunday, April 27, 2025



Reverend Michelle Harrison ~ Delivering the Word!

Theme: "Live for Christ" | His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3).

Missionary's Prayer: "Heavenly Father, we dedicate ourselves to your service anew, in the certain knowledge that You will provide everything that we need to live an abundant life."