

# 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 2026 GRADS:**  
BEREAN WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE YOU AND ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!

**FINALLY FINISHED**

## SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

**2026**

If you will be graduating in 2026 from any form of school or college, please complete the **Recognition of Graduates' Form** (located in the foyer). Submit the completed form by Sunday, June 14, 2026, to the Scholarship Ministry or the 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?

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

Essay contest winners will be chosen at the discretion of the Scholarship Ministry; deadline to submit essays is Sunday, June 14, 2026.

## 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

8:39 • 81%  
nogunzone https://gotund.me/te0269d60... more  
9 hours ago

resources.westphilly • Follow  
Joe • More & More

**PHILADELPHIA'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL REENTRY Job Fair**  
Wed. April 29, 2026  
10am-2pm  
**LOCATION:**  
Howard Gittis Student Activity Center/Rm. 200  
1755 N. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Phila. PA 19122  
\*Corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Montgomery Ave.  
Enter Building from the Middle of the Block

- If you are a **formerly incarcerated** citizen, this job fair is especially for you!
- Come dressed to impress and bring copies of your resume.
- Come prepared to meet with many eager second chance employers!

**JOB SEEKER REGISTRATION:**  
This is a FREE public event, open to all adult job seekers. Walk-ins welcome, but registration is strongly encouraged:  
<https://bit.ly/ReentryJobFair2026>

Questions? Contact  
Rev. Mike Robinson  
215-204-0677  
Temple University  
Workforce Skills Center

339 • 3 • 57 • 688  
resources.westphilly I hear you... you want... more

# 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, 2026  
2425-33 West Indiana Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132-1304  
Website: [www.bereanphilly.org](http://www.bereanphilly.org) | Email: [bereanvision@yahoo.com](mailto:bereanvision@yahoo.com)  
Reverend Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor



## 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.

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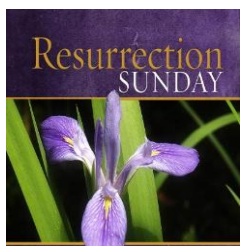
As a result, many Christians feel strongly that the day on which we celebrate Jesus' resurrection should not be referred to as "Easter Sunday." Rather, something like "Resurrection Sunday" would be far more appropriate and biblical. For the Christian, it is unthinkable that we would allow the silliness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

2026 - April 5<sup>th</sup>  
2027 - March 28<sup>th</sup>  
2028 - April 16<sup>th</sup>



Article taken from [gotquestions.com](http://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.*

## 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.



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

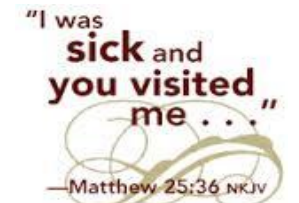
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### Sisters:

Eloise Ball	Mother Effie Gamble
Mary Chapman	Eld. Louise Jones
Sandra Chestnut	Deac. Louise Myers
Deac. Olivia Collins (Watch Care)	Jannie Powell
Mother Hazel Drayton	Sharene Richardson
Bertha Edwards (Watch Care)	Selena C. Scott
Betty Ford (Watch Care)	Delores Withers (Watch Care)

### Brother:

Dea. Joseph L. Davis, Sr.



### 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\*\*

### "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.

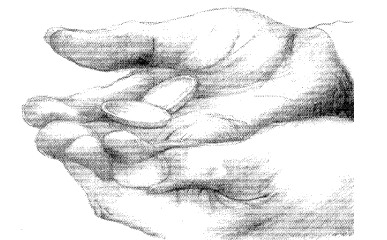
**Worship Leader:**  
"Worship by Giving!"  
**Congregation:**  
"Praise the Lord!"

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**Congregation:**  
"Praise the Lord!"

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

Mark 12:44



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



"Let the little children come to me..."

MATTHEW 19:14

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

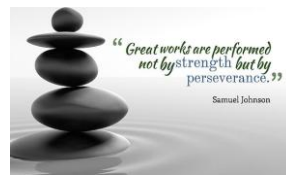
**for Sunday School every Sunday morning @9:00 A.M.**

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## 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.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 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.
- COME JOIN OUR  
BIBLE  
Study
- 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

GOD is  
SO GOOD!

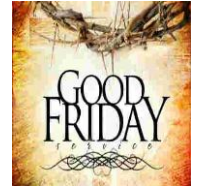
UPcoming  
EVENTS



Thursday, April 2, 2026 | Friday, April 3, 2026  
(Maundy Thursday) (Good Friday)



Sunday, April 5, 2026, 10:00 A.M.  
(Focus on Evangelism)  
(Second Chance Month | Resurrection Sunday)



Christ  
is  
Risen!

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 10:00 A.M.  
(Youth & Young Adult Sunday)



SECOND  
CHANCE



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



Sunday, April 19, 2026, 10:00 A.M.  
(Holy Communion)



Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon  
(State-of-the Arts Community Forum at Berean)

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 10:00 A.M.  
(Focus on Family Harmony)  
(Mission Sunday)



10:00 A.M. ~ Pastor Couch Delivering the Word  
2:00 P.M. ~ Dr. Terrence D. Griffith, Guest Preacher  
First African Baptist Church  
Sharon Hill, PA



“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,

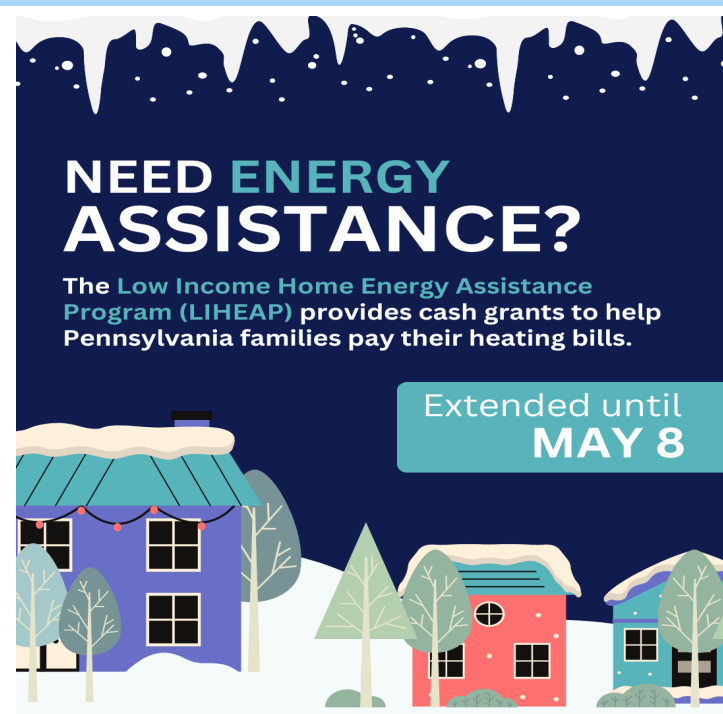
Other characteristics of autism include an unpredictable learning rate, obsessions, and physical tics.

**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.



## SECOND CHANCE SUNDAY

WE ARE A Second Chance Month partner!



### DID YOU KNOW?

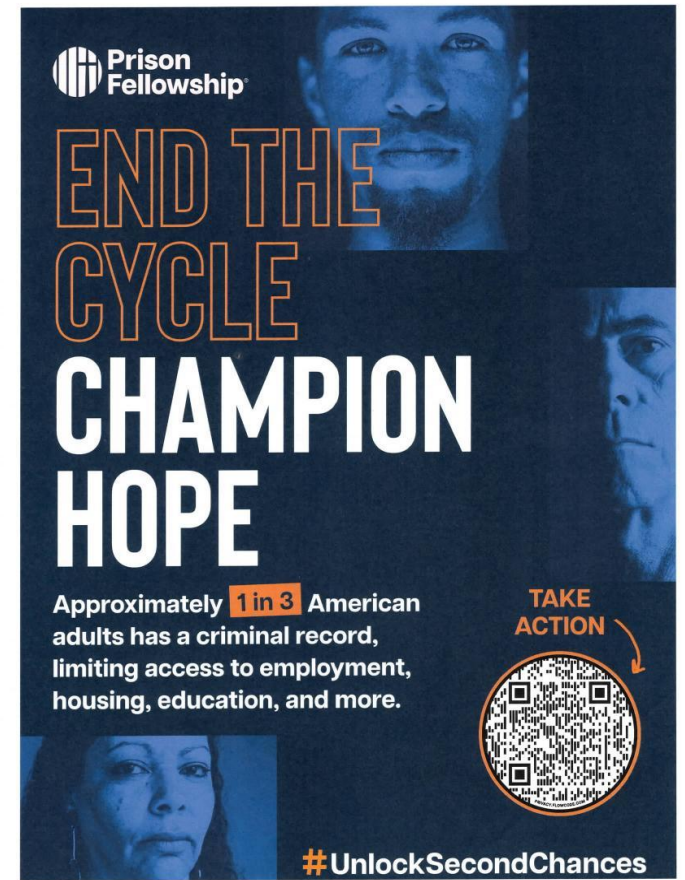
One in 3 American adults—or approximately **70 million people**—has a criminal record.

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.

### What You Can Do

- 01 Go to [prisonfellowship.org/secondchances](https://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!
- 02 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.
- 03 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.
- 04 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.
- 05 Go to [justicedeclaration.org](https://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.



## Prison Fellowship History and Purpose

In the United States, one in three American adults has a **criminal record**, which limits their access to education, jobs, housing, and other things necessary for a productive life. Even after they have completed their sentences and have been released from prison, these men and women face more than 48,000 documented legal restrictions in addition to widespread social stigma. This is sometimes called the "second prison."

Prison Fellowship founded Second Chance Month in 2017 to raise awareness and improve perceptions of people with a criminal record, encourage second-chance opportunities, and drive momentum for policy change throughout the country. The nonprofit designated April as Second Chance Month for several reasons, including the following:

## Prison Fellowship History and purpose, con't.

- The United States Department of Justice recognizes National Reentry Week, during April.
- Prison Fellowship had previously held Second Chance 5K races in April.
- The anniversary of the federal Second Chance Act is during April.
- April marks the anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship.
- The Easter season focuses on the message of Christ's atoning sacrifice and themes of redemption and second chances, although Second Chance Month is not a movement restricted to the faith community.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

**Spring Quarter | March/April/May 2026**

**God's Wrath Satisfied in Christ**

**Unit 1: God's Wrath on Sin**

- Mar. 1 - The Dross of Unrighteousness - Ezek. 22:17-31
- Mar. 8 - The Way of the Lord is Just - Ezek. 33:12-20
- Mar. 15 - God's Wrath Revealed - Rom. 1:18-23

**Unit 2: God's Wrath Poured Out**

- Mar. 22 - Jesus Prepared for Death - Mark 14:32-52
- Mar. 29 - Jesus Bears God's Wrath - Mark 15:16-39
- Apr. 5 - Jesus Overcomes the Grave (Easter) - Mark 16:1-8
- Apr. 12 - The Destruction of False Teachers - 2 Pet. 2:1-10a
- Apr. 19 - The Deception of False Teachers - 1 Pet. 2:10b-22

**Unit 3: God's Wrath Satisfied**

- Apr. 26 - God's Righteous Judgment - Rom. 2:1-16
- May 3 - Righteousness Through Faith - Rom. 3:21-31
- May 10 - Saved from Wrath - Rom. 5:1-11
- May 17 - The Second Adam - Rom. 5:12-21
- May 24 - The End of the Law - Rom. 10:1-13
- May 31 - Christ's Sacrifice Once for All - Heb 10:1-10

**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/86840810473>  
 Connect via FREE Phone Conference:  
 Dial: (301) 715-8592, At the prompt, enter Meeting ID: 86840810473

**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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.mhasp.org)

**Magellan Behavior Health (Health Partners, KHPE, BCBS)**

Call (800) 688-1911 for intake at:

[www.magellanofpa.com](http://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](http://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](http://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

**Prison Fellowship**  
 Seek justice. Love mercy. Restore hope.

**Why do we advocate for criminal justice reform?**

In America, 1 in 3 adults has a criminal record, and they face nearly 44,000 thousand barriers that limit their ability to fully reintegrate and thrive in society. According to a survey by the Barna Group, 89% of practicing Christians believe that once a person has completed their punishment, they deserve a second chance. We advocate for justice that restores, an approach to criminal justice that recognizes the value and potential of every person.

**Prison Fellowship's advocacy work focuses on three key areas:**

- Accountability and restoration through proportional punishment
- A constructive corrections culture that is consistent with productive life in society
- Second chances which allow people with a criminal record to fulfill their God-given potential

**How do we advance justice that restores?**

- Raise awareness about the barriers faced by people with a criminal record and the need for second chances
- Mobilize Christians to impact culture and advocate for justice reforms
- Equip policymakers at the federal and state level with solutions that promote public safety and restoration
- Engage churches and communities to pursue a more restorative approach to justice

**WHAT HAS PRISON FELLOWSHIP ADVOCATED FOR IN THE PAST?**

We have helped advance and pass numerous bipartisan bills, such as the First Step Act (2018) and the Federal Prison Oversight Act (2024), in addition to hundreds of state reforms, that have become law.

**How can you get involved and join the movement?**

- Visit the Justice Action Center and send a letter to your lawmaker, asking them to support values-based criminal justice reform: [www.prisonfellowship.org/actioncenter](http://www.prisonfellowship.org/actioncenter)
- Apply to become a Justice Ambassador and use your voice to inspire the Church, change the culture, and advance justice that restores: [www.prisonfellowship.org/justiceambassador](http://www.prisonfellowship.org/justiceambassador)
- Sign up to learn more about opportunities to stay informed and take action: [www.prisonfellowship.org/advocate](http://www.prisonfellowship.org/advocate)

Follow us at @JusticeReform on X

## 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 3, 2026, 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.

## There Is a Fountain † Hymn #84

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains: Lose all their guilty stains,  
Lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there may I, though vile as he,  
Wash all my sins away: Wash all my sins away,  
Wash all my sins away;  
And there may I, though vile as he,  
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power,  
Till all the ransomed ones of God  
Be saved, to sin no more: Be saved, to sin no more,  
Be saved, to sin no more;  
Till all the ransomed ones of God,  
Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die: And shall be till I die,  
And shall be till I die;  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die.

When this poor lispng, stammering tongue  
Lies silent in the grave,  
Then in a nobler, sweeter song,  
I'll sing Thy power to save: I'll sing Thy power to save,  
I'll sing Thy power to save;  
Then in a nobler, sweeter song,  
I'll sing Thy power to save.

## 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 26, 2026  
2026, 10:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.



**Dr. Terrence D. Griffith ~ 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."