



The Beacon

WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

882-9874

www.westcharltonupc.org

April, 2010

Pastoral Reflection

Easter: Covenant, Holiday, Rituals?

Through the ages God has made covenants with God's people, people have made covenants with one another, and commitments to covenants have broken over and over again because of our sinful human nature. There may be "no king in the land" today but the Church is not without a King — His Name is Jesus! The Scripture writers call Him King of kings and Lord of lords and the head of the body, the church. "In My Utmost for His Highest, Oswald Chambers has written 'We will come to Jesus to be our comforter or our sympathizer, but we refrain from approaching Him as our Almighty God.'"

When we are willing to submit to the authority of Jesus, He will lead us by His Spirit to discover our God's will in these challenging days.

John 3:16-21 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Easter is the time for holidays, festivals and a time for giving chocolate Easter eggs. But Easter means much more....Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Christian year.

The Easter story begins with Jesus' last days in Jerusalem before his death. The Easter story includes Maundy Thursday (the Last supper leading to the Eucharist); Good Friday (the day on which Jesus was crucified) and Easter Day (the day on which Jesus came back to life).

It is a sad story because Jesus was killed. But the story has a very happy ending, because Jesus came back to life and visits his friends and followers and then returns to his father in heaven.

The name 'Easter' comes from pagan traditions and they give us the English word "Easter" which comes from the word "Eostre." The Anglo-Saxon word for April was "Eostre-monath" (the month of openings). However, it should be remembered that Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ long before the word "Easter" was used, and the word they used for the celebration was "Pascha," which is derived from and linked to the Jewish festival of Passover.

According to Bede, the English monastic historian, the English word Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon name for the month of April, which was known as "Eostremonath" in the Anglo Saxon tongue and since Pascha was most often celebrated in Eostremonath, the English Christians began calling it "Easter." Bede also notes that the month was named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess Esostre.

Rituals related to the goddess Eostre focus on new beginnings, symbolized by the Easter egg, and fertility, which is symbolized by the hare (or Easter bunny).

The date of Easter moves and Easter is called a moveable feast because the date of Easter changes every year. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from 22 March to 25 April.

The reason for this variation in the date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar (moon) rather than our more well-known solar one.

Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the full Moon (the Paschal Full Moon) after 21 March. If the Full Moon falls on a Sunday then Easter is the next Sunday.

The season of Easter Season begins on Easter Day and lasts 50 days, ending on Pentecost.

Easter and Passover always fall close to each other but they are not always at exactly the same time. For many centuries before Jesus' birth, the Jewish people had their own special spring festival, called Passover (Pesach). Passover commemorates the time when God rescued the people of Israel from slavery and Moses led them out of Egypt. It is the Israelite's liberation from Egypt that led to the beginning of Judaism.

Jesus, a Jew, was crucified during Passover time and it is said that the Last Supper was a Passover seder (a ritual meal that commemorates the Biblical accounting of the Jews escape from Egyptian slavery). It is Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection that led to the start of Christianity.

Both Easter and Passover revolve around the idea of rebirth. Jesus is resurrected, or born again, and the slaves are reborn into freedom. Both festivals draw in the idea of birth or rebirth with Easter eggs and the hard-boiled eggs served on Passover.

In many European languages the name Easter comes from the word Passover (Pascha in Greek and Latin, Pasqua in Italian, Paques in French, and Pascua in Spanish).

In some parts of England Eggs are still forbidden food during Lent, making them a welcome return to the menu on Easter Day.

For Christians the custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead and believe that, through his resurrection, he defeated death and sin and offers new and eternal life for all people.

The first eggs given at Easter were bird's eggs and they were painted in bright colors to give them further meaning as a gift. We still paint bird eggs today but usually only chicken eggs.

An Anglo-Saxon legend tells how the Saxon goddess Eostre found a wounded bird and transformed it into a hare, so that it could survive the winter. The hare found it could lay eggs, so it decorated these each spring and left them as offering to the goddess.

There are many Easter Customs involving eggs:

Pace Eggs are hard boiled eggs with patterned shells, they are traditional in northern parts of England at Easter, with local variants in the name, such as Paste Eggs. The name Pace Egg is derived from Pesach (Passover).

The background color is provided by onion skins with designs created by leaves and flowers placed next to the shell. All kinds of fun are had with the hard-boiled decorated pace eggs.

Decorating and coloring eggs for Easter was a common custom in England in the middle ages. Eggs were brightly colored to mimic the new, fresh colors of spring. The practice of decorating eggs was made even more famous by King Edward I of England who ordered 450 eggs to be gold-leafed and colored for Easter gifts.

Egg rolling is very popular in England and is an Easter Monday sport. Hard-boiled eggs are rolled down a hill.

Customs differ from place to place. The winner's egg may be the one that rolls the farthest, survives the most rolls, or is rolled between two pegs.

Some people were brought up to believe egg rolling represented the rolling of the stone from the tomb of Jesus.

Another activity that takes place on Easter Day is the playing of a game with the eggs known as "jarping." It's a bit like playing conkers, with players tapping their opponents' eggs until one breaks. The winner goes through to the next round, and so on until there is only one egg left unbroken. A good hit by a jarper is called a "dunch."

The game is popular in County Durham, where it is played on Easter Sunday.

Foods that are traditionally eaten at Easter time:

Hot Cross Buns are traditionally served on Good Friday. A Hot Cross Bun is rich, spiced tea cake.

Easter day, like Christmas day, is also associated with special food. Boiled eggs are traditionally served at breakfast. Roast lamb, which is the main dish at Jewish Passover, is the traditional meat for the main meal on Easter Day. Simnel cake is baked for tea. The Simnel cake is a fruit cake with a flat layer of marzipan (sugar almond paste) on top and decorated with 11 marzipan balls representing the 12 apostles minus Judas, who betrayed Christ. Originally the simnel cake was a gift to mothers on Mothering Sunday in Mid Lent.

Easter Biscuits are sometimes called "Cakes," and are eaten on Easter Sunday. They contain spices, currants and sometimes grated lemon rind.

What's included in you families celebrations of Easter?

Will your Easter preparations and celebrations include worship and thanksgiving?

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE at WCUPC:

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service 6:30 pm

Good Friday Service 7 pm

Sunrise Worship Service 7 am

Breakfast following early worship

Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 am

Jesus Christ is Risen Indeed!

April Ushers

Rebecca Wood

Elizabeth Wood Pustolka

Ruth Mathias

Holly McConchie



April

Lay Worship Leaders

2 Helen and John King
Holly McConchie

Good Friday

4 Helen King

Easter

11 Sharon Bellamy
18 Aileen Donnan
25 Marcia Page

Greeters:

Jean and George Weed



Rummage Sale

Our annual rummage sale will be held April 23 and 24. Beginning on Sunday April 11 you may bring items and place them on the south side of the dining room. (Please don't bring items before Sunday April 11 as the space is needed for other purposes.) On Monday April 12 and Tuesday April 13 someone will be there from 10—12 AM to receive items. **Please NO TVS OR COMPUTERS.** Pricing will take place on Wednesday, April 21 starting at 9 AM.

Ruth Mathias, Chairman, would appreciate volunteers. Call her at 212-2449 with any questions

The Women's Association is collecting Hygiene Kits for Church World Service to be delivered to Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady before April 23. Each kit should be packed in a one-gallon plastic zip lock bag and include the following:

- One hand towel 16" X 28" (or so, no finger towels or bath towels)
- One wash cloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush in original packaging
- Six standard size Band-aids

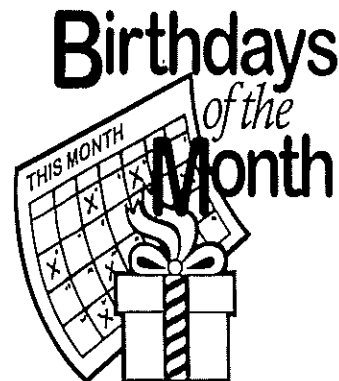
Please bring kits to church by April 18 for delivery to Union Presbyterian during that week. The kits will be sent to people affected by natural disasters or displaced by war. Monetary contributions can be made also to purchase kits and cover shipping costs. The cost for a kit is \$10 plus 2\$ for shipping. Speak to Jean Weed or Helen King if you would like to contribute this way.

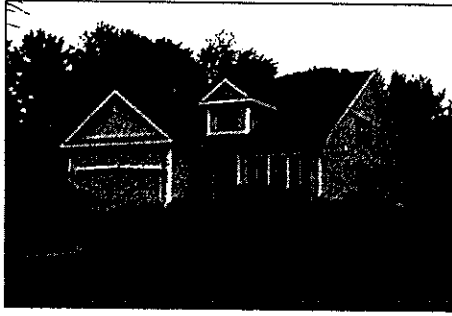
The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Albany Presbytery will be at Valatie on April 8 for 9:30-12. If you would like to attend call Barbara Cervenka 882-6676 or Helen King 384-1327 to arrange to share a ride. All women are invited.

Happy Birthday to the following church members who have birthdays in April:

Michelle Bombard, 5th
John Pierce, 6th
Paul Tyler, 12th
Lolly Arnold, 14th
Linda McConchie, 16th
Henry Machbar, 16th

David Arnold, 17h
Jeremy Mathias, 19th
Susan Manell, 20th
Kathy Kindl, 20th
Bill Quandt, 27th
Will Quandt, 27th





Schenectady Community Home, Inc.
Joan Nicole Prince Home

22 Glenview Drive
PO Box 2122
Scotia, NY 12302-0122
Phone: 518-346-5471
www.joannicoleprincehome.org

Volunteers Needed

Compassionate and caring individuals needed to assist with resident caregiving in a beautiful homelike environment.

The Joan Nicole Prince Home, a community home for the terminally ill, is looking for individuals wishing to “make a difference” by caring for people who lack the support and options to remain at home during their final days. Volunteers are needed to help provide care to two residents in their last months of life.

Training and ongoing support is provided.

**If interested, attend a
1-Hour Information Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 14th
2:00 PM or 7:00 PM**

22 Glenview Drive, Scotia

An 8-Hour Training will be offered in May

For more information,
E-mail: volcoorjnp@nycap.rr.com or call: 346-5471.



SPRING GATHERING PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ALBANY PRESBYTERY

When: Thursday, April 8, 2010 - 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

* 10:30 - Registration & Fellowship time

* 1:00 pm - Speaker

Where: First Presbyterian Church in Valatie
3212 Church Street

Program: Jenny Lee, the Synod of the Northeast participant in the 2008 Global Exchange to Eastern Europe and a Racial Ethnic Member at Large on the Churchwide Coordinating Team will speak on her experiences in Eastern Europe

General information:

- * Refreshments are provided during registration.
- * Bring a lunch. Beverage and dessert are provided.
- * Registration fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the door.
- * Fair Trade coffee, tea and cocoa will be for sale
- * non-wool worsted yarn will be collected for *Warm Up America*
- * bring old *Horizon's* magazines and Bible Studies to pass on
- * Freewill offering will go to Roma Basket Project and to the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany Scholarship Fund for Synod Events.

For questions, contact:

*Jo-Ann Baccari at 792-0937 or jannbacc@aol.com

*Betty Deitz at 456-4193 or adeitz@nycap.rr.com

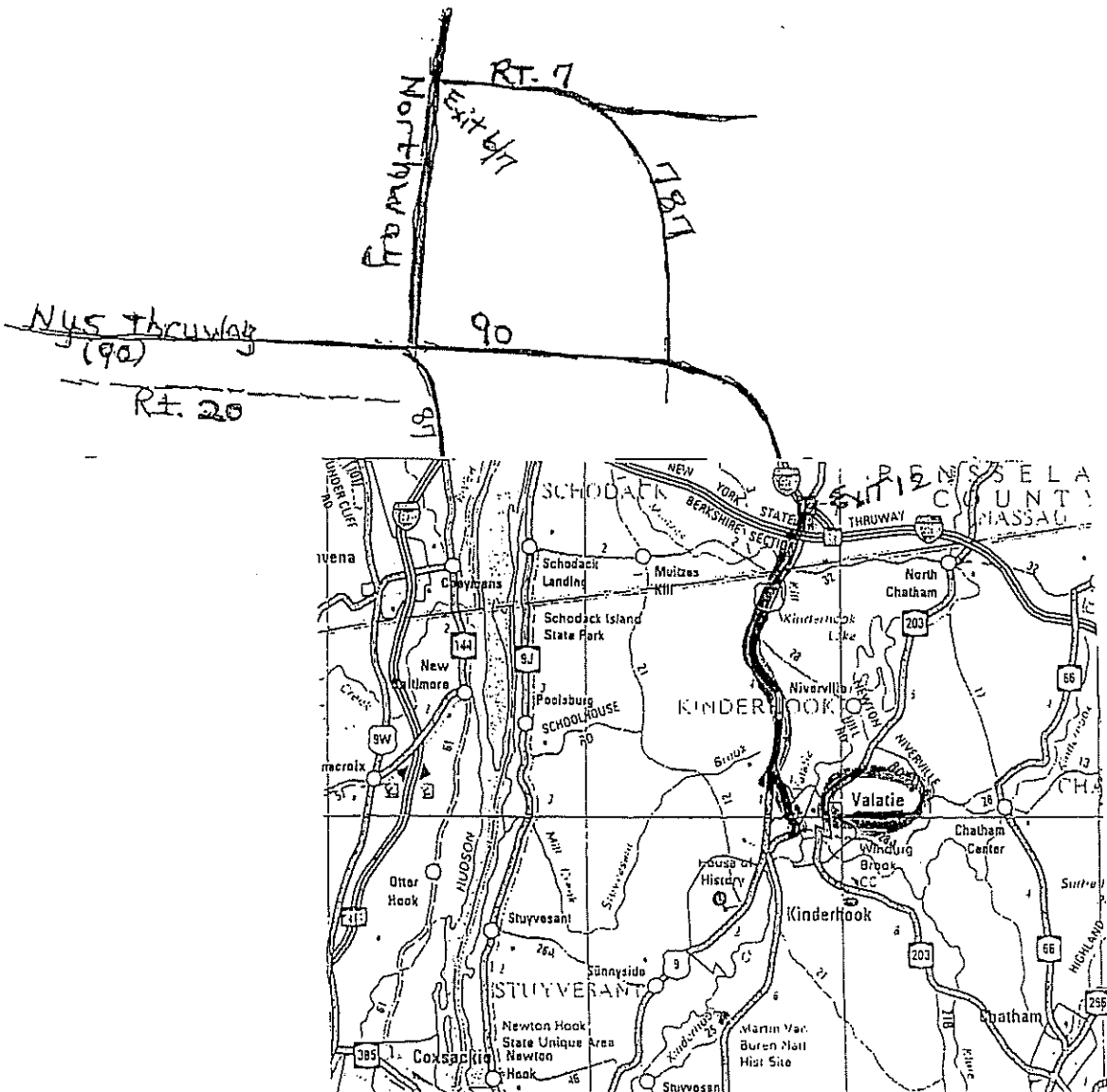
From the north: Take I-87 south to exit 6/7 onto route 7 east toward Troy. Turn south onto 787 and continue to the exit onto I-90 east toward Boston. (stay in left hand lane of exit ramp and move left to get onto I-90 at end of ramp) Follow I-90 to exit 12 (last exit before the thruway toll). Turn right onto Route 9 south and continue six miles to the round-about.

Stay in the left lane entering the circle and take the third exit onto Route 9. Continue south past Mario's TruValue on the right and get in the left turn lane just past Cumberland Farms. Turn left toward Chatham/Route 203 onto Main Street Valatie. Take the second left onto Church Street. The church is on the right soon after reaching the top of the hill. Parking is in the lot behind the adjacent house and can be reached by the driveway between the house and church or by circling the church and coming in off William Street.

From the west, take the thruway to exit 24 onto I-90 east or continue on the thruway to exit 21A onto the Berkshire spur toward Boston and take exit B-1. Turn left onto Route 9 south and follow the directions for those from the north.

From the east of I-87, take route 4 south through Troy and pick up I-90 at exit 9 in Rensselaer or follow route 4 into East Greenbush and turn left onto route 9 south and follow the above instructions to the church.

From the south, take the Thruway north to exit 21A onto the Berkshire Spur toward Massachusetts. Take exit B-1 and turn left onto Route 9 south.



Rummage Sale

Fri. April 23, 9-5

Sat. April 24, 9-2

Household items, clothes, books,
toys, treasures and MUCH more...

Chicken BBQ

-Takeout Only-

Fri. April 23, 3-6:30



**West Charlton United
Presbyterian Church**

Corner of Routes 67 & 147

APRIL 2010

1st-6:30PM-Maundy Thursday Supper Service with Communion

2nd-7:00PM-Good Friday Service

4th-EASTER SUNDAY-COMMUNION

7:00AM-Sunrise Service followed by Easter Breakfast

9:00AM-Choir Practice

9:30AM-Adult Bible Study

10:30AM-Worship Service, Sunday School & Child Care

7th-7:00PM-Deacon's meet

8th-6-8PM-WORK NIGHT

9:30-12PM-Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women at Valatie

12th & 13th-Bring your rummage sale items to the dining room.

11th-9:00AM-Choir practice

9:30AM-Adult Bible Study

10:30AM-Worship Service, Sunday School & Child Care

11:30AM-Fellowship Hour-

13th-9:30AM-Louise Smith circle meets

18th- 9:00AM-Choir practice

9:30AM-Adult Bible Study

10:30AM-Worship Service with Sunday School & Child Care

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

20th-7:00PM-Session meets

21st-9-?AM-pricing items for Rummage Sale

7:00PM-Helen Killough circle meets

23rd-9-5-Rummage Sale

3-6:30PM-Chicken BarBQ

24th-9-2-Rummage Sale

25th- 9:00AM-Choir practice

9:30AM-Adult Bible Study

10:30AM-Worship Service with Sunday School & Child Care