



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April Newsletter
2024


2618 New Albany Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

covenantpreschurch.org



Message from Pastor Bob

What a wonderful time Spring is! All around us are signs of change, signs of new life, signs of new beginnings.

Isn't that why we celebrate Jesus' resurrection?

Indeed, the heart of our faith is that with God all things are possible. Everything that we thought was dead can live again.

Yes! Easter is far more than the dead Jesus becoming the risen Christ, Easter is our assurance that with God on our side, we ourselves can do amazing things.

Isn't that what we as Covenant Presbyterian Church want to be? I mean, our very name says it all: Covenant.

A Covenant is an agreement, in our case an agreement between God and us. Over 60 years ago, a group of dedicated Christians decided that God was making a Covenant with them to start a new church here in

Cinnaminson, a church that would proclaim God's message of hope, love, and resurrection in this community. For over 60 years, we have been doing so.

But what does that mean for us today?

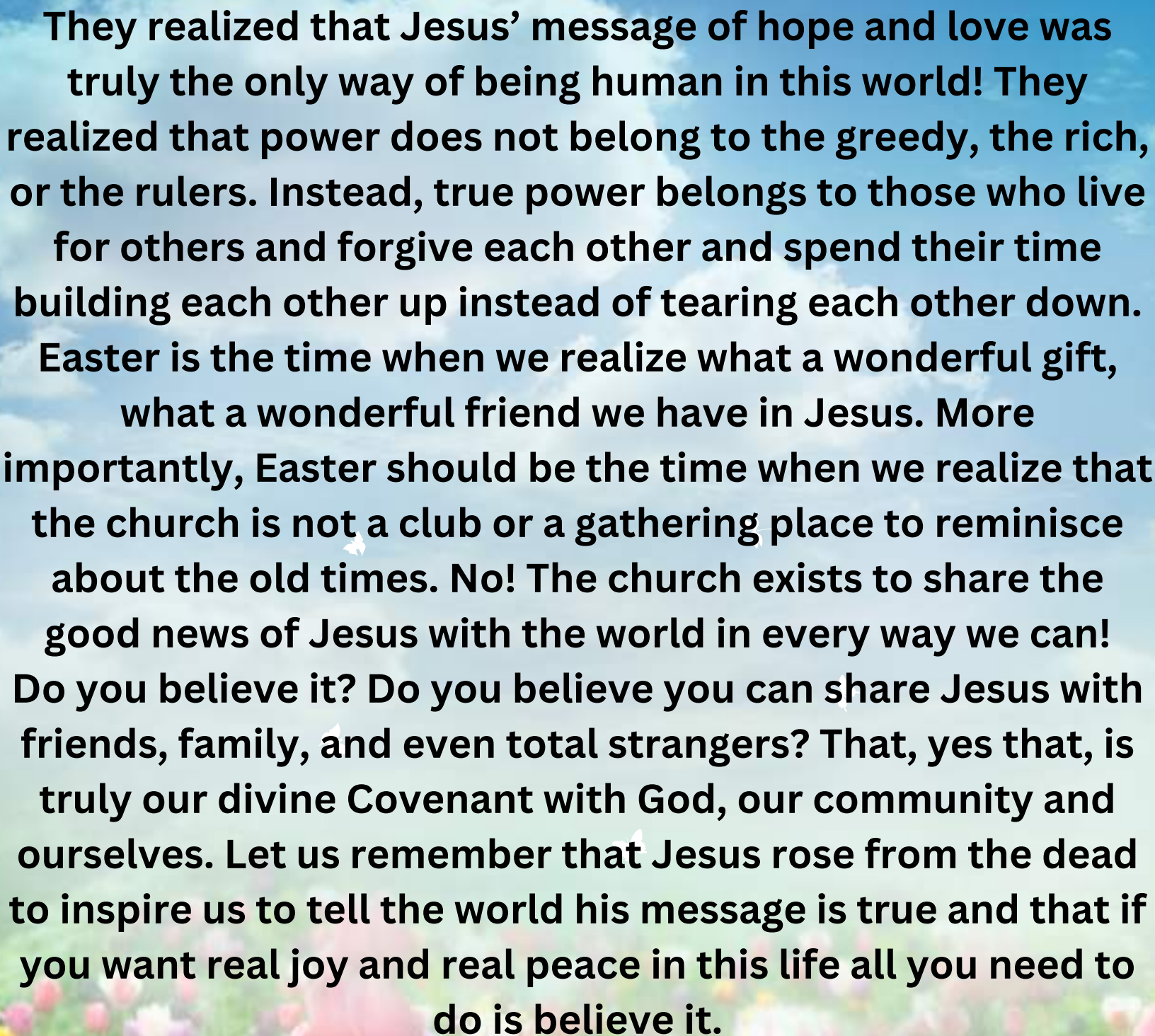


Many look around our beautiful sanctuary and mourn what was. They see the shadows of dozens and dozens of people who used to gather with us every Sunday.

Perhaps Jesus' followers felt the same way on that Saturday after Jesus was removed from the cross and laid in his tomb. Perhaps some of you feel that all we have to look forward to is the day the last note will be played on the organ and the last "Amen" will be spoken from the pulpit.

Certainly that is a possibility. If trends continue, most churches like ours will be out of business in a few short years.

But my question to you is, does it have to be that way? The core of our faith is that Jesus was dead. But God raised him to new life, a new beginning. Suddenly his small group of followers realized that everything Jesus was teaching them about life and living was true!



They realized that Jesus' message of hope and love was truly the only way of being human in this world! They realized that power does not belong to the greedy, the rich, or the rulers. Instead, true power belongs to those who live for others and forgive each other and spend their time building each other up instead of tearing each other down. Easter is the time when we realize what a wonderful gift, what a wonderful friend we have in Jesus. More importantly, Easter should be the time when we realize that the church is not a club or a gathering place to reminisce about the old times. No! The church exists to share the good news of Jesus with the world in every way we can! Do you believe it? Do you believe you can share Jesus with friends, family, and even total strangers? That, yes that, is truly our divine Covenant with God, our community and ourselves. Let us remember that Jesus rose from the dead to inspire us to tell the world his message is true and that if you want real joy and real peace in this life all you need to do is believe it.

Let us covenant together once again to spread the love of Jesus all over our community and show the world the Christ is alive today, tomorrow and forever!

Rev. Dr. Robert Higgs

Message from Session

Every month is full of "national" days and April is no exception. Some are silly, such as April Fool's day, national zipper day, hamster day, one cent day. Some are food days, national chocolate mousse day (one I can get behind!), peanut butter and jelly day, eggs benedict day, jelly bean day. But many are great reminders of the wonders of our world, all given to us by a loving God to take care of and enjoy - find a rainbow day, look up at the sky day, earth day, nature day, arbor day. This month find the beauty of that rainbow after the storm, smell the spring flowers popping up, look for other planets in the night sky, watch the robins building their nests, and give thanks to our God for this beautiful earth He created just for us.

Nancy Perritt
Elder

SCHEDULE

Greeters/Ushers

4/7: Nancy Perritt and Carol Ortlip

4/14: Mandy Rosica and Steve Salmon

4/21: Linda Ballenger and Barbara Seither

4/28: Bonnie Cain and Treva Grunigen



Chancel

Karen Schwartz



Refreshments

4/7: Pat Rothenhofer

4/14: Cynthia Joffe

4/21: Carol Ortlip

4/28: Mary Lou Newborg



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

4/2: Cherie Raymond

4/16: Grace Hafner

4/18: Kelly Higgs

4/18: Etna Kessler

4/23: Dot Sakaguchi

4/24: Zack Rosica

4/20: Laurisa Duba

4/30: Stephen Mulville, Jr.



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

4/5: Rosalie & Bill Belcher

4/20: B. Ann & Dave DuBois

4/24: Nancy & Chuck Perritt

4/29: Sandi & Roy Pascone

MUSIC

Covenant's bell choir rehearses on Mondays at 7 PM. All are welcome to ring!

Covenant's chancel choir will be singing throughout the month of April. All are welcome to sing! Rehearsals take place after worship services in the choir room.



Choral Anthems

- 4/7: Ride On, King Jesus, arr. Kern
- 4/14: An Irish Blessing, by Lightfoot
- 4/21: Praise to the Spirit, arr. Hopson
- 4/28: Marchin' on Up, arr. Hayes

JOIN MUSIC DIRECTORS
DIANA DOHRMANN AND
GREG DIBONA FOR A



PIANO DUET CONCERT



MAY 19 2024, 3PM



A DONATION BASED BENEFIT
CONCERT



Calvary Presbyterian Church
300 Fourth Street
Riverton, NJ 08077

Covenant is now offering Daily Prayer videos narrated by our new Pastor, Bob! This is a wonderful way to begin each day in prayer. If you are not receiving them, please notify Bob, or Greg and you will be placed on the email list.



The Bible Study will be located in the lounge on Mondays at 11AM. All are welcome!

SOUP SALE!

The next soup sale will be Sunday, April 14th. If you are willing to make some soup for our next sale, please contact Mary Lou at 609-417-5639. Thank you!

A Message from the Mission Committee

Every month we make donations to 3 different charitable organizations to help them in their mission to serve people in need. We would like to share information regarding these organizations with you each month in the Newsletter. This month we feature Coates Ministries which is based in Iowa.

Randy, Becky, Nicole, and Joel Coates moved from Atlanta Georgia to follow God's call on their lives to advance the kingdom of God in East Africa by taking the gospel to those who haven't heard.

The Coates family partners alongside Kenyans to reach the unreached people of East Africa. Along with Pastor Dr. Francis Kamau, Randy associate pastors a church in Nairobi that has grown to over 1,200 people and his wife, Becky, serves as the children's ministry director to 200 kids weekly.

Coates Ministries also extends the love of Jesus into Kibera Slum, the largest slum in Africa. Here, they do one on one outreach, visit mothers and children, share Jesus' love and lay hands on the sick. Their ministry also partners with an organization to drill freshwater wells for the people of Turkana, a semi nomadic people in the remote areas outside of Nairobi. In these villages, they also share the gospel of Jesus to the unreached, set up camp in the villages to get to know the people, pray for them and help them establish churches. Over 40 churches have been established because of this outreach.

We continue to support organizations like Coates Ministries who are doing wonderful things in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Mary Lou Newborg
Chair**

SUNDAY School

**Calling all children ages 4 and above!
Join us for Sunday school on the
following dates! April 21st and May 19th.**



Christian Caring Center

**Non-perishable items may be brought the
first Sunday of the month and placed in the
narthex. Thank you for your continued
generosity.**

Bible Study with Bob

**Join Bob for Bible Study on
Wednesday April 10 at 7PM. A
link will be send via email.**

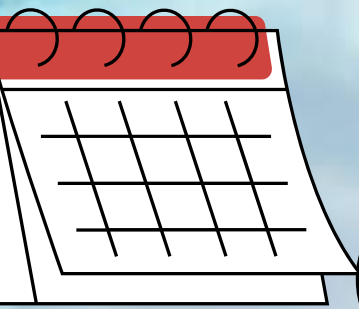
Your Participation



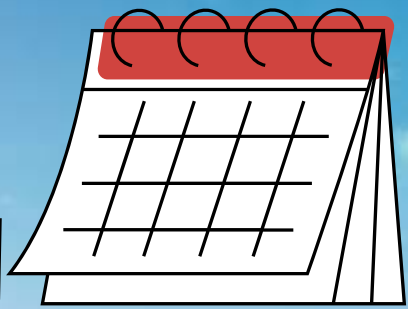
is Needed!

**Members are invited to participate in
our services. Please contact Bonnie
Cain or Greg DiBona if you are
interested in reading scripture or
leading our worship services. We are
also in need of more volunteers to
operate the camera and soundboard.
Please contact the church office if you
are interested.**





Mark Your Calendars!



**Here are some upcoming events
from the Fellowship Committee!**

5/17/2024- Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall

6/9/2024- Church Brunch in Fellowship Hall

9/15/2024- Church Brunch in Fellowship Hall

**10/26/2024- Fall Tea and basket raffle in
Fellowship Hall**

**12/7/2024- Cookies and milk with Santa in
Fellowship Hall**

March Highlights

Lenten Soup Supper





Easter Cantata



Thank you to all who participated in the Easter Cantata!



In Loving Memory



Elizabeth C. Graham



September 11, 1933 - March 7, 2024

Elizabeth “Betty” Graham. (nee Cooper), age 90, of Moorestown, N.J., passed away on March 7, 2024 at The Evergreens. She was born on September 11, 1933, in Philadelphia, PA to Walter and Adelaide (Smyton) Cooper. 🦋



Betty grew up in Philadelphia enjoying many summers visiting Bridgeton & Vineland, NJ with her cousins from her mother’s family side, the Smyton’s & Callahan’s. She often reflected on her fond memories of escaping city life to play and roam freely on the farms enjoying the countryside. She graduated from John Bartram High School in Southwest Philadelphia in 1952.



She met her husband, Robert W.M. Graham, while working as the secretary to the Dean of the Veterinary School at the University of Pennsylvania and they married on August 4, 1956. They eventually settled in Cinnaminson where Bob opened his veterinary practice the Cinnaminson Animal Hospital. Betty supported and helped Bob run the practice for nearly 40 years. They raised their family first in Cinnaminson then moving to Moorestown in Betty's dream Victorian home in 1974. After becoming empty nesters, they moved to Riverton where they especially enjoyed the 4th of July festivities and hosting their annual BBQ.

Throughout their marriage they enjoyed many great adventures together including skiing, cycling, Irish Ceilidh dancing and a great deal of travel throughout the United States, the British Isles and Europe. Betty was passionate about antiques, her menagerie of animals and loved the music of her ancestors, enjoying all forms of Celtic music, especially Bob's bagpipes!

After Bob's death in 2000, she moved to Delanco and became active member of the Newton's Landing community. She continued to enjoy travel to many corners of the world with family and friends. At 86, she finally made it to New Zealand and Australia which was a lifelong aspiration.

An active member of Covenant Presbyterian church in Cinnaminson since 1960, Betty was involved in Vacation Bible School, Sunday school, women's auxiliaries, bible studies, and various committees throughout the years. She participated in many organizations including Newcomers, Junior Woman's Club, the Woman's Club and Questers. When her daughters became Girl Scouts, she was a Leader. Later in life, serving breakfasts to the homeless at New Visions Camden brought her great joy.

Betty is survived by her loving children, W. Robb Graham and his wife Donna of Moorestown, NJ, Courtney Graham and her husband Ralph Woollaston of Lewisville, NC, and Julia Slater and her husband Craig of Moorestown, NJ. Also surviving are her grandchildren Patrick, Kayla, Caitlyn, Robert, Kristen, Graham, Brodie & Elizabeth Skye, great-grandchildren Kyleigh, Holden, Luca, Finley, Olivia, Miles & Violet and many dear friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with her family on Friday, April 5, 2024 from 10:15 to 11:00 AM, followed by her Funeral service at 11:00 AM at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2618 New Albany Road, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Covenant Presbyterian Church to maintain the Memorial Garden.