

The Challenger

Heidelberg United Church of Christ
... A Faith Community with a Place for YOU
1101 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440

Telephone: (215) 368-0442
Website: www.heidelbergucc.org

From Pastor Marianne



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It was good to see the wonderful representation from Heidelberg for our Wednesday night Lenten Services. Thank you everyone who brought goodies for fellowship and to those who set up and cleaned up. Thank you also to Women's Fellowship for making the soup for Maundy Thursday.

Once again, we will have our Taize Service Thursday evening beginning with a light supper of soup and bread. Last year we began at 6:00 PM, but this year we will begin at 6:30 PM. This will be a communion service and some Emmanuel E.C. members will be joining us again. Thank you in advance to the choir, to Al for being our Cantor, to Ashley and Donna for playing the flute, and to Justin for playing the sax. Thank you also to Cindra and Glenn for setting up the candles and backdrops and to hospitality for setting up and cleaning up.



Good Friday will begin with a prayer vigil. There are ½ hour time slots for individuals or families to be in prayer in the sanctuary. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex if you have not already and would like to participate. We will also have worship in the evening at 7:30 PM, and Emmanuel E.C. will be joining us for that as well.

Easter Sunday we will have our traditional two services at 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM, with special music from Erin and a special treat from our confirmands Justin and Julia at the 10:45 AM service.

Patty from Liberty Ministries picked up the pew Bibles to be repurposed for prison ministry. I wish everyone could have witnessed the joy she shared receiving such a generous gift that is so vital for the women who are incarcerated. We have now received enough donations to have a large print Bible in every pew. Some members had not previously seen the numbering system which starts over where the New Testament begins. However, we as a society restarted our calendars with the event of Jesus Christ giving us the gift of everlasting life when He died for our sins and rose from the dead. Having the page numbers start at the number one in the New Testament is just another way of reminding us that Jesus fulfilled the writings of the Old Testament and that we now have received the gift of eternal life when Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. It's a new beginning and the large print Bibles reflect that newness.

I have a concern regarding an article that was published in last month's newsletter. I would like to address that issue with some scripture.

(Continued on next page)

The New Testament records more than 10 occasions on which the ministry of Jesus took place in the



synagogue. The Gospels record that "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues." Yet the Christian reader rarely ponders the significance of such an apparently common structure so central in Jesus' ministry. The synagogue provided a ready platform for the teaching of Jesus and later the apostle Paul. In that way, it proved to be a significant part of God's preparing exactly the right cultural practices for his Son's ministry. But more than that, Jesus, his disciples, and Paul (as well as most early Jewish followers of Jesus) went to the synagogue to worship. The synagogue was not simply a place to share God's Word, but also an important part of the Jewish people's relationship to God. It might surprise modern Christians to discover that many church practices are based on synagogue customs that Jesus followed. Understanding the synagogue and its place in Jesus' life and teaching is an important step in hearing His message in the cultural context in which God placed it. Our Christian equivalent of the synagogue is the church. Although we are really referring to the body of Christ, the people, when we refer to the church, the building we meet in is an integral part of our worship experience in which we give thanks to God. When we abide by God's law to "keep the Sabbath Holy" (Exodus 20:8), we are showing God that we really do love Him. ("If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15) I have a genuine concern for our members who have fallen away from worship. Hebrews Chapter 10:24-25 reminds us, "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." It's true that we don't "have to come to church". Church - gathering to worship God together- should be something we do with joy because we recognize all the wonderful and glorious gifts God has given us. It would be a tragedy to wait until we lose something precious like our eye sight, or our ability to breathe or walk or hear, or even worse, a loved one, to help us realize the amazing gifts we

have received from God. We as humans are a wonderful mix of the physical, emotional, and spiritual. Just as we need physical food to keep going, we also need spiritual food. When we neglect the spiritual food, we will see the results in our emotional well-being. There is something meaningful about gathering together as Christians. It's why we're called "The Body of Christ". It's not something we do on our own in our own little corner. It's something we do in community. Yes, we can worship God out in nature. But when we come together, we are participating in the life of our church as the family of God. We come to support each other in times of celebration and sorrow. We grow in our faith and our understanding of who we are and how we fit into God's plan, especially God's plan of salvation. It's a place where we can become reenergized because the spark in us is being rekindled on a regular basis. This past week, I was burning some things in our outdoor fireplace on our porch and John had burned a lot of tree branches that had fallen down. There were a lot of hot coals burning on the hearth of the fireplace, so I did not have to ignite my contributions and start from scratch. The hot coals did it for me. But it was a slightly windy day, and some of the hot embers blew out onto the porch and they immediately lost their spark; their glow; their fire. If you have not been to church for a while and it feels like you have lost the spark in your life, the doors of the church are open and you are always welcome to be rekindled. We need each other – especially when there is so much evil happening in the world. We need to come together to be a force of good and to pray against humanity's sinful nature. Easter is a great time to renew your faith. Any time is a good time, but Easter's resurrection message reminds us of the value of life and our life as we are connected to our Creator.



Re-ignite the spark – come to church!

(Continued on next page)

Our adult Sunday School class has been reflecting on the writings in "The Imitation of Christ" written by Thomas A' Kempis as we practiced the discipline of silence. It was an EXTREMELY meaningful time for me to walk with you on this journey while we reflected on Jesus' time alone in the wilderness.

Once again, it is an honor and privilege to serve the members and friends of Heidelberg.

Peace, Love, and Joy To All,



Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger

Stewardship Update

- Curt Michener

The Stewardship Committee has been busy planning missions for HUCC. The last two deliveries of items from our food cupboard went to Manna on Main St., and we had a fruitful mission to Old First Church in Philadelphia. The congregation has just contributed to Our Church's Wider Mission. We plan to serve a meal at Manna on Main St. during the summer months, so the youth of our congregation can participate. One idea has been floated for a mission: We could plan a mission to help seniors in our church family who may need a little help around the house. If you have a candidate, or would like to join us in such an effort, please contact a Stewardship Committee member. We would love to have you join us in such an effort. Thank you.



All about the Easter Story:

1. He prophesied Jesus would arrive on a donkey in Jerusalem. (Zechariah 9:9)
2. He betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:14-15)
3. Person first to see Jesus alive after the Resurrection. (John 20:18)
4. At the Ascension, they told people Jesus would come back the way he left. (Acts 1:10-11)
5. I was sent from heaven to help Christians remember the things Jesus taught. (John 14:26)

(Answers on page 9)

Old First Church Mission

- Peggy Michener & Ashley Paskill

On Friday, February 9, 2018, the Stewardship Team of J.J. Paskill, Ashley Paskill, Jerry Watson, Nancy Kohler, Peggy Michener, Barb Clipsham, and Curt Michener once again ventured to Philadelphia to serve a meal to homeless men at Old First Church at 4th and Race St. We prepared a meal of barbequed chicken, boiled potatoes, string beans, and coleslaw (prepared by Becky Burger), plus 100 cupcakes prepared by Annette Watson, Janet Mackey, Barb Clipsham, and Rose and Kevin Kriebel. The approximately twenty-five men were very appreciative for the meal and the opportunity to talk and laugh with the people from Heidelberg. This is a mission we have been participating in for about four years or more. The men appreciate the meals provided by local congregations and the Church welcomes our efforts. God willing we will continue this rewarding mission.



Thank you to all who donated food, clothing, and/or time to make this trip possible. It was successful. Those who went got so much out of the experience as well.



- William R. Cunningham

Saturday Evening Bible Study

For several weeks, we will be conducting a Bible Study at Heidelberg Church. The initial topic is "Who is God." This is a kind of pilot program to see how an extra Bible study is received. We will evaluate what the Bible reveals about God, what we have learned from our own experiences with Him, and try to understand how He interacts with us in the world we live in. Some questions raised are: Why does God allow evil? If God is so powerful and loves us, then why do bad things happen to us? What will God do for me today? What do I have to do to be saved....really? What does God want from me? The list goes on.

When: Saturday evenings at 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM, with another half hour reserved for questions and deep discussion. **The first class will be April 7, 2018.** Invite your neighbors and friends to come out. Bring your questions and insight!

Sunday School – Lessons from Zephaniah

We will examine the book of Zephaniah for a few weeks to learn how God operates within the actions of people by evaluating the circumstances behind the fall of Israel (the northern Kingdom) and the reign of King Josiah along with his father and Grandfather. Zephaniah has only 3 chapters, but they are loaded with insight that we can use in our everyday lives. This series of classes will begin **Sunday April 8 at 9:30 AM.** Contact Reggie if you have any questions (rcunningham@heidelbergucc.org). Also feel free to request a topic of study for future classes.

Sunday Sermons

Learn from Pastor Marianne's Sunday Sermons via video recordings. We record the sermons on Sunday mornings and post those recordings on the church's YouTube channel and the website. Go to www.heidelbergucc.org to view the sermon videos and learn more. There is a link to the YouTube channel on the website. We now have a new camera to hopefully improve the quality of the videos.



If you would like to be on the team to do the recordings some Sundays, then please see Fred Capanna or Reggie to volunteer! **The youth are welcome to participate!**

- Jerry Yarbrough

Save the Date: Saturday, May 12th, 2018

This year will be our 19th year golfing to raise money for our VBS Program. Many members of our church participate by either golfing, sponsoring a hole, or giving your support in other ways is helping our VBS. So everyone get in shape, prepare your teams and sign up to play May 12th at Mainland Golf Course. A Sign-Up sheet will appear soon in Narthex. Looking forward to seeing all our teams from last year come back, and some new teams as well. If you may have lost a golf ball last year, this is your chance to find it. See you May 12th.

Flea Market

- Jerry Yarbrough

Save the Date: Saturday, May 26th, 2018

On Saturday, May 26th, we will be holding our 25th annual Flea Market. Technically it was last year but due to poor field conditions we had to cancel our Flea Market. So clean out your storage and get ready to let your stuff be someone else's treasure.

Car Show

- Jerry Yarbrough

Save the Date: Saturday, June 23rd, 2018

On Saturday, June 23 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. we will be holding our first ever car show right here on our church grounds. "Cars for Christ." Food - Fun - Cars. Watch for more information coming soon on this new event.

North Penn Association Meeting

**NORTH PENN ASSOCIATION
PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**

St. John's UCC

**500 W. Main Street
Lansdale, PA 19446**

**Spring Meeting
Sunday, April 15, 2018**

Registration begins 1:30



***All are welcome as we gather as people of God.
As a covenantal church, each congregation is
asked to be in attendance – clergy &/or laity.***

Recipe Corner

- *Judy Stimson*



I have been trying to think of a recipe for our Easter season.

Finally, I looked in my Challenger Recipe file for some inspiration. Lo and behold, I spy Pastor Marianne's Apple Crisp recipe. I'm inspired. Catch her inspiration, too, and treat your family to Easter Apple Crisp.

Imagine fresh, warm, sweet Apple Crisp in your Easter basket. No jellybeans, no bunnies, no chocolate eggs, Apple Crisp. As a little girl, RevM would have loved nothing else. Today RevM shares that Apple Crisp "really reminds me of love. The love my Grandmother had for me (she is now with the Lord) and the love I can share with others."

"It's a recipe my Grandmother made. She also always made me homemade apple sauce for special holidays like Easter and Christmas and I would get my own bowl because I like it served warm. It was the perfect mix of sweet and tart and very chunky, not overcooked. It had to be Macintosh apples, nothing else would do. The apple crisp goes to the next level making a dessert that I always enjoyed with the crumb topping. For Easter, my Grandmother would get my cousin a huge Easter basket filled with candy. My mother told me that when I was very young, I asked my Grandmother if I could have fruit instead. (I guess you are what you eat!) The Apple Crisp has become my comfort food and brings back very fond memories of dinners with my family which makes it extra special when shared with friends. It has become the requested dessert when my prayer group gets together."

Apple Crisp

Butter an 8 x 8 or 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ Qt. baking dish and put $\frac{1}{4}$ C water in it.



Blend $\frac{1}{4}$ C sugar, $\frac{3}{4}$ t cinnamon, and $\frac{1}{2}$ t salt. Add 8 cups peeled, cored, and sliced apples. Toss to coat apples with cinnamon sugar mixture. Place in baking dish.

Macintosh work best, but I have also used Honey Crisp.

Crumbs: Combine $\frac{1}{2}$ C flour and $\frac{1}{2}$ C sugar. Then add 4 T butter and mix until crumbs form into balls. Butter should be soft, but not melted.

Sprinkle crumb mixture evenly over top of apples. Some will drop down between and that is fine.

Bake @ 350⁰ for 45 minutes. Best when served warm. You can also serve with vanilla ice cream on top. Enjoy!

Flowers/Bulletins/Greeters

Flowers:

Mar 25 – Erin Dallatore in celebration of Nicole Crawford's birthday.

Apr 1 – Clara Nyce in memory of Lloyd Nyce.

Apr 8 – Judy and Al Stimson in honor of their anniversary.

Apr 15 – Kristin and Chris Currie in celebration of Ben's 9th and Evan's 7th birthdays.

Apr 22 – Steve Heinel in memory of his father.

Apr 29 – Barb Clipsham and Gwen Heinel in memory of their parents.

May 6 – Rose and Kevin Kriebel in memory of Jay, Sarah, and Fay.

May 13 - Barb Clipsham and Gwen Heinel in memory of their mother.

Bulletins:

Mar 25 – Clara Nyce in memory of Marguerite Evangelist.

Apr 1 – Clara Nyce.

Apr 8, 15, & 22 – Open.

Apr 29 – Barb Clipsham and Gwen Heinel.

May 6 – Jerry Yarbrough in memory of his mother.

May 13 – Rose and Kevin Kriebel.

Greeters:

Mar 25 – JJ Paskill

Apr 1 8:00 AM – Jan and Ed Kachinsky.

All other April dates – Open!

May 6 – Rose and Kevin Kriebel

Help Wanted

We have a number of positions open for just the right persons. Must be able to extend hand and clasp another person's hand warmly yet gently, while smiling. Must be friendly, and be able to enunciate the word "hello" enthusiastically (no experience required!). That pretty much describes our whole congregation, and we need you to be a greeter! Sign up on the chart in the narthex.



Williams Family Prayer Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings from the Netherlands! We trust that this finds you well. It has been really cold here in the latter part of February and into early March. It gets like this when the wind blows directly from Siberia. For about 10 days, we had freezing temperatures. Wind speeds were up to about 50 mph/70 kmh some days. Brrrrrr!

For the first time in a number of years some the canals froze. Many were out on the canals skating or walking.

During the break time at Tyndale, some of the students were out on a small canal next to the school. Here are: Emmanuel Tetteh (Ghana), Huma Gill (Pakistan), and Christable Addo (Ghana). They have never been on ice before, and they loved it. When then go back home, they can tell their families, that not only did they study in the Netherlands, but they also learned to walk on water! It was a fun moment.

I am teaching two classes this semester: Exegesis of Romans and Second Century Christianity. I have taught Romans for 12 years. It is the first time to teach Second Century Christianity, but many are finding this helpful for their contexts.

Below are a few highlights from the last month.



Mentoring groups have restarted at the seminary. On my left is Emmanuel Howard. He is graduating this year, returning to Ghana, and getting married. He will be serving in the pastorate then.

The other student is John Paul Del Rosario. He is from the Phillipines. When he returns he will be key teacher in a Bible College in Manila.



Several of us from Tyndale will be at Trinity International Church this Saturday March 17 to speak at an apologetics conference. Dr. Phil Gottschalk, Solomon Dimitriadis, and I will be presenting topics addressing modern day disbelief. We look forward to this time. Prayers are appreciated for this.

Some of you will remember that I served as Interim Pastor at Trinity International Church for 18 months. The church is doing well now two years later, which is encouraging.



Abby and I are pictured with a statue of Abraham Kuyper. He was a highly influential theologian, journalist, and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1901-1905). He also was an academic. Abby and I had this picture taken at the Vrije Universiteit after going out for a Dad and daughter date. Abby will be receiving letters regarding her applications from universities this next month regarding her studies next year. Please pray for God's leading for her.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We appreciate your help greatly in the work with the European Christian Mission.

With Christian Greetings,
Drake, Andrea, Abby, and Sam Williams

CALENDAR!

Please confirm committee meeting dates and times with your committee chairperson.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Palm Sunday Challenger Distributed	26 Worship Committee 7:30 PM	27 Tech Meeting 7:00 PM	28	29 Maundy Thursday Meal 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal after	30 Good Friday Prayer Vigil Noon – 3:00 PM Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM	31 Holy Saturday

Please confirm committee meeting dates and times with your committee chairperson.

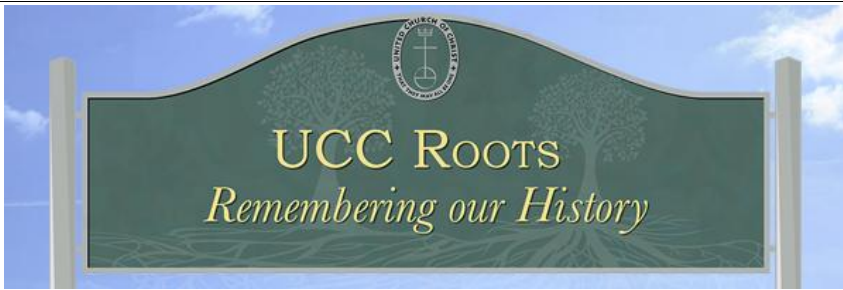
April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy Easter! Communion Services @ 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM (Note; no Sunday School nor Prayer Breakfast)	2 Membership 6:30 PM Stewardship 7:30 PM Rev M vacation	3 6:00 PM Rev M vacation	4 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Rev M vacation	5 Scouts 7:00 PM Christian Ed 7:30 PM Compassionate Care 7:30 PM Rev M vacation	6 Rev M vacation	7 Bible Study 5:30 PM Rev M vacation
8 Rev M Vacation Rev. Harold Burkett Supplies	9 Finance 7:30 PM	10 Consistory 7:00 PM	11 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	12 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	13	14 Friends Club Dinner Indian Valley Country Club 6:30 PM
15 Food Cupboard NP Association Meeting 1:30 PM at St. John's UCC Lansdale	16	17	18 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	19 Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00 - 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	20	21 Bible Study 5:30 PM
22	23 Worship Committee 7:30 PM	24 Tech Meeting 7:00 PM	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	26 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	27	28

Please confirm committee meeting dates and times with your committee chairperson.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL 29	APRIL 30	1 Women's Fellowship Red Lobster 6:00 PM Membership 6:30 PM Stewardship 7:30 PM	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	3 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Christian Ed 7:30 PM	4	5 Garden Party (Tentative) Bible Study 5:30 PM
6 Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM Challenger News Due	7 Finance 7:30 PM	8 Consistory 7:00 PM	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	10 Ascension Day Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	11	12 Golf Outing



He Shared our Past and Shaped our Future

Louis Herman Gunnemann

In 1962, the formation of the United Church of Christ was scarcely five years old when it gave birth to another union. This time two midwestern theological schools rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition and in the educational efforts of the Congregational Christians established the “United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities” in New Brighton, Minnesota. It was a union of “Mission House Seminary,” an Evangelical and Reformed school in Plymouth/Sheboygan, Wisconsin and “Yankton School of Theology,” a Congregational Christian school in Yankton, South Dakota. The dean of the new school was Louis Herman Gunnemann, who served from 1962 to 1974.

Gunnemann (1910-1989) had attended Mission House and served as a pastor in Iowa and Indiana. In the 1950s he joined the Mission House faculty, later becoming its dean. Building on his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and his active involvement in the ecumenical movement, Gunnemann helped chronicle and define the evolving UCC. His book, *The Shaping of the United Church of Christ* (1977) is still basic reading.

As chair of the UCC Commission on Worship, Gunnemann nurtured innovative new UCC worship resources—*Services of the Church*—booklets in a loose-leaf binder. Members of the Commission were impressed by his capacity to balance widely divergent views of liturgical and free church worship. Some years later he served on the worship commission of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), focusing on the importance of worship liturgies in the ecumenical movement. He was a member of the United Board for Homeland Ministries and was assistant moderator of the UCC General Synod in 1975.

In the 1980s Gunnemann became one of two co-editors of a new journal—*PRISM: A Theological Forum for the United Church of Christ* that was sponsored by UCC seminaries to stimulate theological conversation in the church.

Contributor: David Beebe

Sponsors

A Gift in Memory Of Marianne Berry

*Thank you to
Candy Stasen
and
Barbara and Dick
Stoudt
for sponsoring this issue
of The Challenger!*

Earlier this month, we dedicated a gift given in memory of Marianne Berry by her husband, Charles, and son, Andrew. They generously presented the church with a new “smart TV” to replace the older, smaller one in the narthex.



This should make it even easier for us to share photographs of our church family and news of interest to the congregation. We’ll think of Marianne every time we look at it. Thank you, Charles and Andrew!

For Kids of All Ages

This week's worship opportunities:

Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM

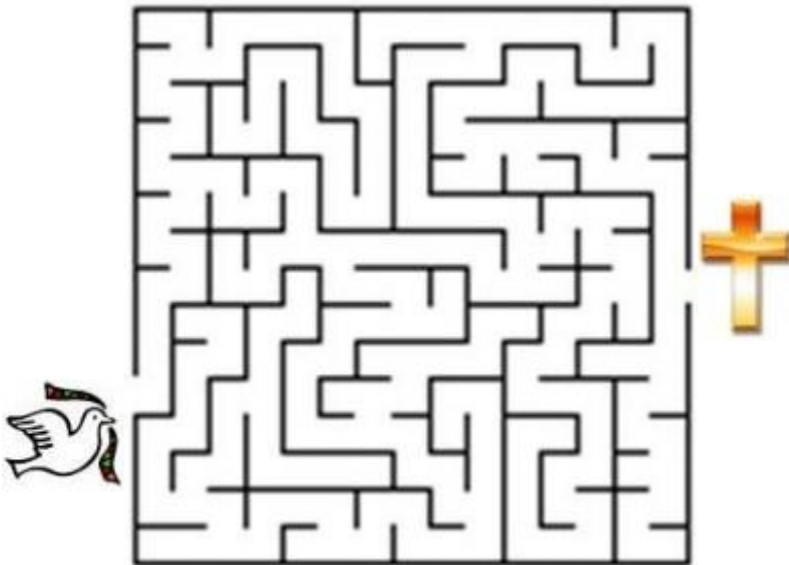
Good Friday Prayer Vigil Noon - 3:00 PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM

*Easter Communion Services
at 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM*

Easter Maze

Can you help the Dove
Find the way to the Cross?



Thanks...

Thanks to Glenn Snyder for seeing that the recent heating problem in Light Hall was resolved as quickly as possible!

Hmmmm.....

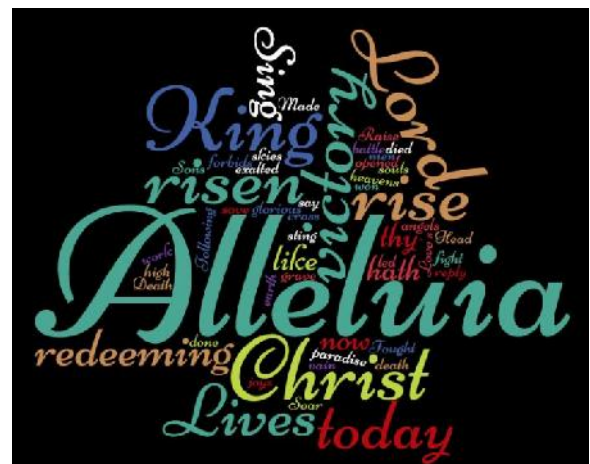


"Mother's deviling the Easter eggs. Is that sacrilegious?"

CartoonStock.com

Word Cloud

(Using the words from
"Christ the Lord is Risen Today")



On a Church Bulletin Board

BAKE SALE THIS WEEK: Homemade breads!

SUNDAY SERMON: He Is Risen!

Bible Jeopardy Answers

1. Who is Zechariah?
2. Who is Judas?
3. Who is Mary Magdalene?
4. Who are the Men in White?
5. Who is the Holy Spirit?



Heidelberg United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger, Pastor

March 2018

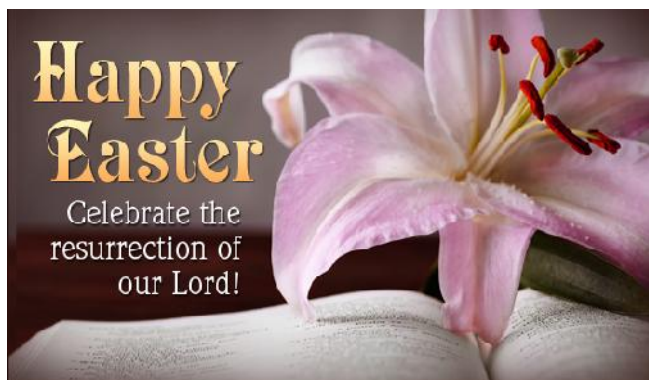
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www.facebook.com/heidelbergchurchhatfield
Access our YouTube Channel
from our web page.

March 29 – Maundy Thursday Meal, Taize, Communion
March 30 – Prayer Vigil (noon – 3:00 PM), Tenebrae (7:30 PM)
April 1 – Easter Communion Services 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM
April 14 – Friends Club Dinner 6:30 PM

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Our Mission Statement

The mission of Heidelberg United Church of Christ is to know our Savior and to let Him work through us as we reach out in worship, service, and witness to all.

Our Vision Statement

As Heidelberg United Church of Christ, we hear God calling us to accomplish the vision He has provided through: broadening the base of His church’s membership within our own congregation; communicating His gospel more effectively; serving the local community with greater commitment; to grow and strengthen in the faith with which God has entrusted us; and, in obedience to His command and call, ministering in those ways that will assure the growth and enrichment of congregational identity and Christian discipleship.