



March -
April 2024

Restoration **PRESSBYTERIAN**

a bi-monthly publication of Restoration Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Our VISION

To be a church,
a community and a world
continually restored
by the grace of Christ.



Our IDENTITY

We are strugglers, sufferers,
and sinners who share
in God's restoration
of all things -
our life with God, our
relationships, our community
and our world -
through the Gospel.



Our MISSION

To proclaim the Gospel
and serve in love
with the hope that God
will bring continual
restoration to our lives,
relationships, community
and world for His glory.

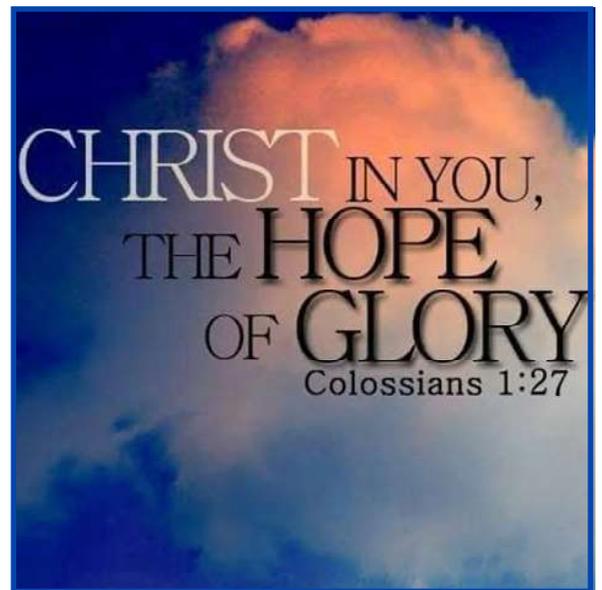


Easter: The Beginning of a New Creation FOR YOU!

Dear Church Family,

I suspect that when we think about the reality we celebrate on Easter Sunday – the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead – we tend to think primarily of the events that occurred on that first Easter morning – the women visiting the tomb, the angels, Jesus appearing to Mary, etc. Sometimes, we will also rightly consider the future hope that the Resurrection gives us of death's defeat and our own coming resurrection at the last day.

But, how often do you stop to think about the implications of the Resurrection of Christ for our lives here and now? The teaching of the New Testament is fairly clear that not only will we be raised by Christ at the last day, but that we *have already been raised up with Christ, and seated with him in the heavenly places*, right now! (Ephesians 2:6). Further, St. Paul also speaks about how the *same power* that raised Christ from the dead is now at work in us who believe (Ephesians 1:19-20). This is why he can also declare the glorious mystery of "*Christ IN YOU, the hope of Glory!*" (Colossians 1:27)



One of the great fathers of the early church, Gregory of Nyssa (circa AD 335 - 395), put these truths beautifully in an Easter sermon, where he used the imagery of the Creation to speak of the whole life

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Please remember to donate to our Blessing Box community ministry if possible. This ministry is greatly appreciated by those who stop by to pick up something to help themselves or their family. Those who help keep the Blessing Box filled often receive comments about how they have been blessed by this outreach.

Donations of new or gently-used toys or items of clothing for babies through adults are welcomed as well as toiletries, food staples and dry goods. Donations may be placed in Room 101 (in the Sunday School classroom hallway) or in the larger white storage box in the front of the church.

“The best exercise for strengthening the heart is reaching down and lifting people up.” Ernest Blevins

Easter: The Beginning of a New Creation FOR YOU!

Continued from page 1

of believers as a Resurrected Life of a New Creation, firmly rooted on the day Christ rose from the dead.

Here is how Gregory put it:

This is the day the Lord has made – a day far different from those made when the world was first created, and which are measured by the passage of time. This is the beginning of a new creation. On this day, as the prophet says, God makes a new heaven and a new earth. “What is this new heaven?; you may ask. It is the firmament of our faith in Christ. What is the new earth? A good heart, a heart like the earth, which drinks up the rain that falls on it and yields a rich harvest. In this new creation, purity of life is the sun, the virtues are the stars, transparent goodness is the air, and the depths of the riches of wisdom and knowledge, the sea. Sound doctrine, the divine teachings are the grass and plants that feed God’s flock, the people whom he shepherds; the keeping of the commandments is the fruit borne by the trees. On this day is created the true man, the man made in the image and likeness of God. For this day the Lord has made is the beginning of this new world. Of this day the prophet says that it is not like other days, nor is this night like other nights. But still we have not spoken of the greatest gift it has brought us. This day destroyed the pangs of death and brought to birth the firstborn of the dead. /



ascend to my Father and to your

Father; to my God and to your God. O what wonderful good news! He who for our sake became like us in order to make us his brothers, now presents to his true Father his own humanity in order to draw all his kindred up after him.

Praise the Lord! And Happy Easter!

Pastor Jon



DON'T MISS IT!

**Spring Missions
Conference
and International
Luncheon**

April 13-14



Welcome to Restoration Outreach

by Rachel Lamb

As all of us know, outreach to our local community is a vital part of the ministry at Restoration. We have a beautiful, active community around us that needs hope in a world filled with suffering. We have many wonderful opportunities to serve and bless our local neighbors. Some things we are already doing and some things are new. Read on to see the ways God is already working and will continue to work in our outreach.

Currently, we are providing for and interacting with our community in three specific ways. First, we have our Blessing Box that has been a welcome ministry to those in need throughout the community. Reach out to Laura Durkovic to join the filling team with not only food but new or gently used clothing. Second, we have our wonderful sharing library that engages both children and adults alike in providing wonderful Christ honoring books. Reach out to Lou Eble for ways to help. Thirdly, once a month, we have been going to Naamans Creek and blessing the residents with a worship service, including a message and hymns. Contact Alan McCarrick, Laura, or Jon about becoming involved. These ministries have been providing joy, encouragement and purposeful engagement in our community.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES! God continues to bless our church with opening up new opportunities to reach our community. We are excited about partnering with **Upper Chichester Township for their Easter event** on March 30, at 11 am. This is a way for Restoration to be visible and purposeful in reaching our community and showing that we care for them. Please join us on this day to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and show the love of Christ to people of all ages, faiths and nations. Reach out to Rachel Lamb for ways to help.



As we think about Spring, we look forward to the opening day of **Restoration's community playground**. Keep an eye out for more information as to specific opening dates.

We are also planning a **Backyard Bible Club** for kids June 24-28 from 6-8pm which will be led by Child Evangelism Fellowship. Present plans include an outdoor movie night (in conjunction with the Fellowship Committee) to conclude that week. If you are interested in helping with that ministry, please see Laura Durkovic or Rachel Lamb. CEF is leading a Teacher Enrichment Seminar on March 16th (see the details below or speak directly to Rachel Lamb).

Lastly, we are excited to bring back **Community Game Night** on the fourth Friday of each month, starting March 22, at 6:30 pm. Invite friends for a fun night of games and ice cream. People of all ages, faiths and nations are welcome.

Pray with us that God will bless our endeavors so that we may "enlarge the place of our tent, and let the curtains of our habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes" (Isaiah 54:2).

Do you have ideas for helping us reach our community with God's great news? Contact one of the Outreach Team: Laura Durkovic (Chair), Lou Eble, Sydney and Karlene Flores, Don Korb, Rachel Lamb and Alan and Beth McCarrick.

Thanks for the opportunity to share about how God is already using and will be using Restoration to be a light to our community. Continue to invite your friends and neighbors to come along with you to church and/or any of our outreach events!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- March 17: Naaman's Creek, 2pm
- March 22: Community Game Night 6:30pm
- March 30: Upper Chi Easter Event, 11am
- April 21: Naamans Creek, 2pm
- April 26: Community Game Night, 6:30pm

Teacher Enrichment Seminar
Saturday, March 16th; 8:30am to 2pm
RCCG Living Spring, Linwood (Marcus Hook), PA
TO REGISTER ASAP:
Call the Child Evangelism
Fellowship (CEF) Office: 610-449-9564

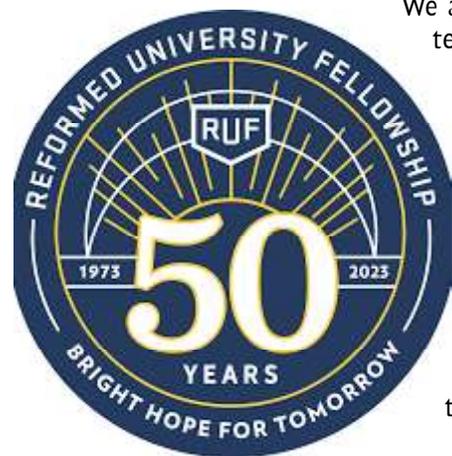
Missions Committee

by Beth McCarrick



Who is on the missions committee and what do they do?

Cheryl Garrish serves as chair with Jon Bonomo, Don Korb, Beth McCarrick, Robin McGhee, and Heather Musgrave rounding out the group. The missions committee's primary job is to be a liaison for the missionaries that our church supports and the congregation. Those missionaries are the Kirkland's to Greece, the Wessels in France, Bruce and Pat who are serving overseas and don't want their information broadcasted due to the nature of their work, and another local missionary who also requests not to have information published for the same reason. We supported the Scott's with Disciple Makers until this past January when Jeff took a job with the ARC of Center County. The monies designated for them were transferred to the Kirkland's who are experiencing a shortfall. We also gather information on summer and short-term mission trips and pass this on to the congregation.



We are currently planning our **SPRING MISSIONS CONFERENCE**. The committee sees a need to reach out to young people as do other committees. When the McCarrick's and the Musgraves attended Reality Factor in the fall (a youth retreat sponsored by our sister presbytery, Heritage), we were introduced to Jonathan Hatt who is raising support and being sent out from Faith Presbyterian as a campus worker with RUF at Rowan University in NJ. What's RUF you may say? Our spring missions conference will be an opportunity to meet Jonathan and find out exactly what RUF is and does here and around the country. Please mark your calendars now for April 13th and 14th to attend this conference which will consist of a light breakfast Saturday morning, 3 sessions with a program geared for kids and ending with a lunch. On Sunday, we will conclude with a mission themed sermon and lunch following the service. More details will be forthcoming.

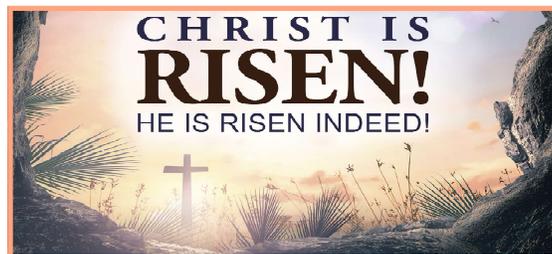
Please plan to fellowship with us...

Our **Maundy Thursday Service** will be held
Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm.
The Lord's Supper will be served
as part of the service.



Join us for an **Easter Fellowship Breakfast**
at 9am just prior to our Easter Morning
Worship Service on March 31st.

Celebrate our risen Christ during our
Easter Morning Worship Service,
Sunday, March 31st at 10:15am.



The Garrish family

by Beth McCarrick

The Garrish family consists of Rob, Cheryl, RJ, (Julia) and Hannah. They reside in Aldan, PA. Cheryl hails from Rushford, NY, about an hour southeast of Buffalo where her father was a dairy farmer. Cheryl's nursing degree is from Roberts Wesleyan College near Rochester. With missions in mind, she decided to attend Lancaster Bible College. It was at LBC where the two met, but they did not begin a dating relationship until eight years later. Rob and Cheryl remained in touch with each other after their college graduations and starting dating after being invited to a Super Bowl Party, when Rob began perceiving Cheryl as more than just a fun friend from college. They dated only four months, and have been married for over twenty-eight years.

Cheryl served as Head Nurse for Handi*Camp for 11 years with Handi*Vangelism ministries for children with special needs under the auspices of Bible Club Ministries (BCM) International before eventually working on the skilled nursing unit at a local retirement community for nearly 17 years. Cheryl is currently working as a cafeteria assistant at the Christian Academy. Rob works for PENTEC Computer Services, LLC since October 2003 as an Information Technology Consultant.

God blessed Rob and Cheryl with two children, Richard (RJ) and Hannah. In September 2022, God blessed their family again when RJ married Julia Bradshaw. RJ and Julia first met at Black Rock Retreat in Quarryville while serving on the summer staff in 2017. RJ has his own freelance Videography/Photography business. Julia works as a nurse working at Nemours Children's Hospital. Hannah works as a crossing guard in Aldan under the supervision of the Aldan Police Department. Her plans are to be a detective or CSI Agent/Investigator someday.

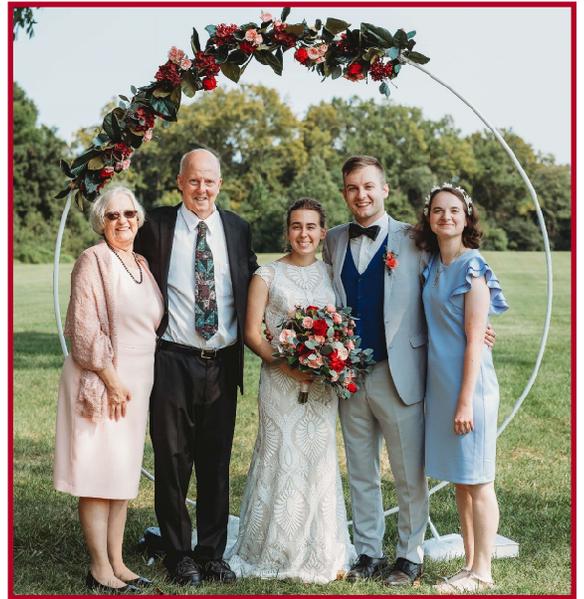
Prior to attending Restoration, they attended Christ Redemption Fellowship, a PCA church plant in Havertown. After the church plant closed, Rob wanted his family to experience a number of other churches based on their denominational distinctives or because they had friends there. Their first visit to Reformed Presbyterian Church of Boothwyn was on Sunday February 2, 2014.

Their faith Journeys: Rob Garrish grew up in the Borough of Aldan. He was the fourth child of five to Richard and Eleanor Garrish. The Garrish family attended Aldan Union Church where they were involved in the activities and ministries of the church. One of the blessings of growing up in a family with Christian parents is that Rob, knowing that he was conceived in sin and born a sinner, does not remember a time when he was not a Christian. While he was young, Rob was saved by grace alone, through faith alone, although he may not have been able to express it that way back then. One of the blessings of attending Aldan Union Church was getting to know the McCarrick and McDaniel (Beth) families.

Cheryl grew up in a Christian home where it was important to not only attend church but be involved in church ministry. As a result, Cheryl recognized her need for the Savior in First Grade, during a Released Time Bible Club. It was during her 4th or 6th grade year that she sensed God calling her to be a missionary nurse.

Cheryl and Hannah are involved in Explorer Girls ministry at Aldan Union Church. Hannah has helped with both the youngest group and the oldest group on Monday nights. Hannah attended Explorer Girls from preschool through high school. She also attended their camp, received staff training at their camp, and is now on their camp staff. God even used Explorer Girls to bring Hannah to Christ at age 7. RJ accepted Christ as his Savior around the age of five.

Favorite verses and Bible stories: Rob's favorite verse is Romans 12:18 and his favorite books of the Bible are Proverbs and Romans. Cheryl's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 1:6 and favorite book of the Bible is Psalms. Cheryl particularly favors the story of Tabitha/Dorcas recorded in Acts 9:36-43. RJ's favorite passage is Psalm 19:1. Hannah's favorite verse is John 3:16, her favorite bible stories or books of the bible are: Ehud, Ruth and Esther. "I only like Ehud because he is also left-handed."





Overwhelmed at times by worry or anxiety? Set aside some time during March and April to memorize (hiding God's Word in your heart) these verses about our mighty God and our worrying! All verses are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Psalm 55:22: Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Isaiah 41:13: For I, The Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Zephaniah 3:17: The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by His love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Psalm 56:3,4a: When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

WORRY



This technique is borrowed from Pastor John Piper.

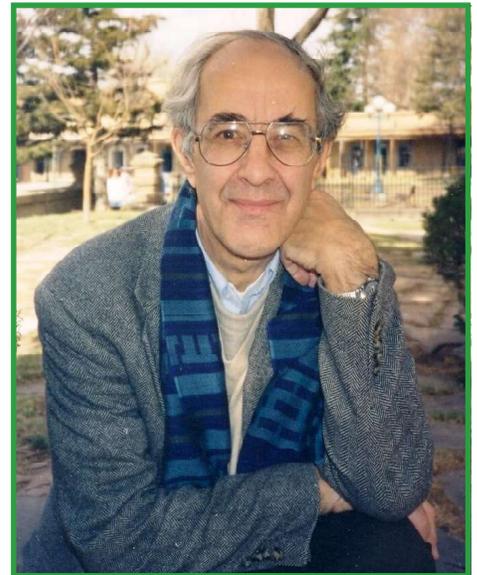
Henri Nouwen

by Alan McCarrick

I'd like to introduce you to someone that I bet most of you've not heard of: Henri Nouwen (pronounced "en'-ry now'-when"). Catholic priest, scholar, author, teacher, mystic and eventually caretaker to a severely disabled person for many years. His devotional writings are very meaningful to me and some of my acquaintances.

Henri was born in the Netherlands on January 24, 1932 and was ordained a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Utrecht July 21, 1957. His career as a scholar/teacher included stints at Notre Dame, Yale Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School. (I bet those are not the first schools you might have thought of for someone of interest to an evangelical!)

He spent some of his sabbaticals from teaching at various places including the Cistercian and Trappist monastery in New York. (Cistercian monks follow a strict understanding of the Rule of St. Benedict, but the Trappists are even stricter: enforcing the daily rhythm of prayers, scripture reading and study (*lectio divina*) and manual labor providing almost all the needs of the monastery and spending most of their other time in single cells. Their food is very simple and speaking is to be minimized at all times. Although the time spent with the Trappists encouraged his spiritual growth, the absence of ministry led him away from becoming a monk.



His career of teaching and speaking grew unsatisfying compared with his desire for a life devoted to God while also dedicated to ministry. A close colleague at Harvard invited him to travel together to a L'Arche community in France. (L'Arche is French for "The Ark" and is a specific reference to Noah's boat). They now have 150 communities scattered worldwide. They are long term care communities for those with severe intellectual and physical needs.

During a short visit to the L'Arche "Daybreak" community in Toronto, he was able to help reconcile a serious conflict between the community and a family whose son living there had been severely injured. The community asked him to consider becoming their "pastor." Nouwen accepted, left Harvard and moved there in the fall of 1986, where he would spend the last ten

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Church Calendar!

(LS: live-streamed)

Every Sunday: Sunday School, 9:00am
Worship Service, 10:15am, LS



MARCH

- 3 ... Communion, during Morning Worship
- 3 ... Missions Committee meeting, noon, church
- 4 ... GRASP, 7:00pm, church
- 6 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 6 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 9 ... Men's Breakfast, Bible Study, Prayer, 9:00am, church
- 9 ... **SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!!!**
- 10 ... Youth Group, following Morning Worship
- 12 ... Women's Book Study, 6:30pm, zoom, Gloria Snyder
- 13 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 13 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 14 ... Session Meeting, 7:00pm
- 17 ... Communion, during Morning Worship
- 17 ... Naanam's Creek Country Manor, 2:00pm
- 20 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 20 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 22 ... Community Game Night, 6:30pm, church
- 24 ... **PALM SUNDAY**
- 24 ... Youth Group, following Morning Worship
- 27 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 30 ... Upper Chichester Community Easter Event, 11:00am
- 31 ... **EASTER**

APRIL

- 1 ... GRASP, 7:00pm, church
- 3 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 3 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 7 ... Communion, during Morning Worship
- 7 ... Missions Committee meeting, noon, church
- 8 ... Women's Book Study, 6:30pm, zoom, Gloria Snyder
- 10 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 10 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 11 ... Session Meeting, 7:00pm (date tentative)
- 13-14 Missions Conference
- 14 ... International Lunch, following Morning Worship
- 17 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 17 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 20 ... Men's Breakfast, Bible Study, Prayer, 9:00am, church
- 21 ... Communion, during Morning Worship
- 21 ... Naaman's Creek Country Manor, 2:00pm
- 24 ... Coffee Break, 10:00am, church

APRIL (continued)

- 24 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 26 ... Community Game Night, 6:30pm,
- 28 ... Youth Group, after Morning Worship



**March 22nd
and April 26th,
6:30pm:**
Community Game Nights
at church! Invite someone!

March 30th:
Upper Chichester Community
Easter Event, 11:00; Chichester
Township Community Building,
8500 Furey Rd, Upper Chichester

April 13th-14th:
Annual Missions Conference!
Following the Worship Service the
Fellowship Committee has planned
an INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON.
Plan to join us! Watch and listen for
more details.

Community Calendar!

Please see Beth McCarrick for more information about the below activities...

Wilmington Women's Connection

TIME FOR TEA Luncheon: April 8, Noon to 2:00pm; \$25.00 inclusive

Ladies! You are invited to a "Time for Tea" luncheon at Fava Ristorante Italiano (1102 Baltimore Pike, Suite 101, Glen Mills, PA 19342). Crystal Anderson, owner of "Drink Like a Lady" will be doing a tea tasting presentation. At the conclusion of the luncheon, Crystal will have her teas available for purchase. The speaker, Michelle Kim, of North Brunswick, NJ will share with us how she was transformed from cultural bondage and abuse to joy! Her story is entitled, "A Journey Towards Joy."

Henri Nouwen *Continued from page 6*

years of his life. While at Daybreak, Nouwen was paired with Adam, a core member at L'Arche Daybreak with profound disabilities. After several years, Nouwen wrote "It is I, not Adam, who gets the main benefit from our friendship."

His books cover a wide range of topics, events and issues that impacted his life and his zeal to be closer to Jesus. Out of caution, he can touch on mystical ideas and language which occasionally gives me pause. I believe that too strong an emphasis on the mystical union of Christ and His people can seem like having a pet tiger: a beautiful warm "friend", but a wild one that unleashed can easily eat you up. Christian mystics can have a tendency to be interested in techniques and methods practiced by other religions – especially Buddhism and Hinduism and may speak unquestioningly positively of them. They may slide into a dangerous thought that mystics outside of Christianity are also pursuing the one true God. That being said, I haven't seen that in Nouwen's writings that I've read.

"Our lives are destined to become like the life of Jesus..."

"Our lives are destined to become like the life of Jesus. The whole purpose of Jesus' ministry is to bring us to the house of his Father. Not only did Jesus come to free us from the bonds of sin and death, he also came to lead us into the intimacy of his divine life..." from [Making All Things New](#).

There is an online daily meditation from Nouwen's writings: <https://henrinouwen.org/meditation>.

An interesting book about Nouwen, with a cute title is "Nouwen Then, Personal Reflections on Henri". It is a series of essays by people who knew him. He had a habit of immediately becoming a friend to anyone he met – often corresponding repeatedly. The personal stories by several writers are moving reading to me.



RESTORATION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

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Sing to the Lord, for
he has done glorious
things; let this be
known to all the world.
Isaiah 12:5

