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The Light

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Office Hours Monday through Friday

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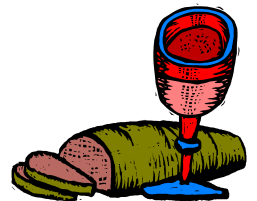
**Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 12
Worship at 10:30 a.m.**



What is Easter? It is not a celebration of the coming of Spring, colored eggs or bunnies. It is about Jesus, who died a shameful and painful death by crucifixion, who was deserted by all but a few women followers. These women came to His tomb on Sunday and there encountered the risen Christ. Death had no power over God; by faith we believe death has no final hold on us.

Celebrate Christ's resurrection as you hear the choir's magnificent anthem, "Behold the Lamb". Sing and rejoice, for we believe in our God whose "yes" is greater than our "no". The miracle of Christ's resurrection gives us hope in life and purpose beyond death. Come to praise the Lamb, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Maundy Thursday
Meal and Service**



A simple meal of soup and bread will be served on April 9th, Maundy Thursday, at 6:30 p.m., followed by a worship service at 7:15 p.m. You will find a sign up sheet in the hallway of the church or you can call or email the church office so we know how many to expect. Please join us for this sacred and meaningful service.

Summer Worship Change

The Diaconate has voted to change our summer worship service to 9:30 a.m. It is our hope and prayer that you will take advantage of this earlier worship time to be with your church family and then enjoy the rest of the day with family and friends. Come and support our summer music program with Barb as organist and talented soloists and musicians. The 9:30 a.m. worship time will be in effect beginning Sunday, June 14th through Sunday, September 6th.

Come! Explore! Serve! Grow!



**Spring Fling Luncheon
Ladies Luncheon with a
Christopher & Banks Fashion Show
Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.**

Tickets \$ 15.00 for adults - \$ 10.00 for children 12 & under

Tickets are available from Carolyn Parent or call the Church Office (440) 248-4180

Reminder - Each board is being asked to provide a gift basket to raffle off during the luncheon.

Sponsored by the Social Committee



From the Pastor

We hear a lot about living a healthy lifestyle – eating right and keeping physically fit, and finding ways to stay mentally alert. We know the importance of regular exercise to stay healthy. Yet we also know how the stresses of daily life can play havoc with blood pressure levels – dealing with traffic snarls and manic work schedules, juggling family obligations or caring for an elderly parent. We can feel we are on overload all the time. I have to ask - how are you exercising your faith “muscles”?

Studies tell us time and again that people of faith have better coping strategies and greater resilience to stress. They often develop a positive life orientation and believe themselves to have better social support from their faith community, with resulting less anxiety. Carolyn Parent has told me how her daughter and son-in-law, coping with their infant son’s medical issues, have found great encouragement from their small group at their church. The close relationships they enjoy within their fellowship group help them deal with everything going on right now.

Attending worship is an important way to grow in faith. It allows us to regain a the right perspective of life, as a gift rather than an entitlement. It helps us cultivate our appreciation for God’s love, surrounding us at every moment. Faith is more than reading one’s Bible in isolation; it is being among others who are also seeking to grow in faith and service. Yet it is not enough to sustain relationships through Sunday morning worship services. We long for informal moments in conversation that help us build trust between one another, like the kind of sharing that can happen in a small group study.

There are several opportunities to grow spiritually through interactions among believers here – the first is our ongoing adult study series, offered Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., in April on the 21st and 28th. You are welcome to attend as your schedule permits; we are exploring God’s word within Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. Discussion is lively and you will feel refreshed and encouraged in your walk of faith. Secondly, we will be offering a book study on Sunday, May 3 at 9 a.m., one session, to talk about the bestselling book, The Shack, by William Paul Young. Babysitting and a continental breakfast will be offered; sign up in the hall or you can call or email the church office.

Exercise your faith muscles, and experience again the promise of abundant living that is our legacy of faith in Jesus Christ. Have a blessed day!

Mary Ellen

April Scripture

April 5 (Palm Sunday)	John 12: 12-16	“Sometimes You’ve Got to Shout!”
April 9 (Maundy Thursday)	John 18:28-19:1	“Pilate Pops the Question”
April 12 (Easter Sunday)	John 21: 15-19	“When Jesus Comes Looking For Us”
April 19	John 20: 19-31	“From Doubters to Doers”
April 26 (Confirmation)	John 3: 16-24	“Passport to Life

Youth Lock-in

Youth in grades 6 and older are invited to attend a lock-in at the church from Friday, April 3, through Saturday morning the 4th. Confirmation youth will come at 6:30 p.m. in order to create their faith statements for confirmation; other youth may arrive at 8 p.m.. Pickup is at 10:30 a.m.. Let Mary Ellen know if you are coming – she could use an extra adult pair of hands for supervision.

Confirmation

Sunday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m. is Confirmation Sunday, the culmination of two years of study for five youth in our church. We are proud of their effort and dedication: Brad Cisar, Jennifer Hoffman, Katherine Hoffman, Lindsey Mahan, and Erin Steininger. Thank you to their families for their support and encouragement! Please hold them in prayer and plan to welcome them as our newest members of Solon Community Church.

Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Christian Education

With the Lent workshops well underway, I have turned my attention to plans for the weeks following Easter. Here is a breakdown of the weeks ahead:

April 19: Preschool through Gr. 6 will meet together for a special video presentation of *"The Legend of the Three Trees,"* a perfect follow-up to the Easter story. Three young trees with big dreams of what they will become, are disappointed when reality turns out differently. Little do they know the bigger plans that God has in store for them as they each play a unique role in the life of Jesus.

April 26: New rotation begins, DAVID AND PSALM 8. The children learn the story of the anointing of David with a new game, Bible Jeopardy, and it's the preschoolers turn to cook!

May 3: Introduction to Psalm 8 about Divine majesty and human dignity. A storytelling of "The Legend of St. Brigid," and real life examples of our awe-inspiring God at work.

May 10: "Tech. Week" The children create a slide show of images that express the majesty of God, set to inspirational music.

Note: Help make this project a success by sending us your digital or printed photographs of things in nature that reflect the glory and majesty of God. (All photographs will be returned).

May 17: What was David's inspiration, and how did he feel when he wrote Psalm 8? The children act it out with puppets.

Though we are quickly coming to our final rotations of the program year, there is still time to get involved in any capacity. Talk to Elizabeth to volunteer as a Workshop Leader or to help with preparation.



Solon Community Church to start a Spiritual Book Discussion Group

Have you read any inspiring or spiritually enlightening books lately? Join members of your church family as we respond to readings that help us explore our relationship with God and the role of spirituality in our everyday lives. Look for the signup sheet in the foyer or email the church to let us know your preferences for days and times to meet or particular books you're interested in reading.

For our first meeting we will be discussing **The Shack by William P. Young**. It is the much-talked-about fictional story of a grief-stricken man's personal encounter with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit at an abandoned shack. We will be meeting in the **Fireside Room on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.** Babysitting, on request, will be provided along with a continental breakfast and warm fellowship.

KENTUCKY WORK EXPERIENCE:

Kentucky Work Experience is a week long youth mission in Appalachia. We'll leave the Cleveland area on Saturday, July 25th and return on Saturday, August 1st. We work. We play. We sing. We cook. Join the group.

This work camp is open to any youth who is entering eighth grade and older. The cost is \$225.00 per person before any fundraising activities we do. The trip is sponsored by our denomination, and will include youth from other area UCC churches. It's a great opportunity to do something good for families in the Appalachian region, and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians. (Did I say it looks really good on college scholarship applications too?) Talk with Mary Ellen if you are interested.

On Our Extended Prayer List

Prayers for the health and well being of our older members

†Dee Varga, at Stratford Commons
†Rosie Golias
†Tom Billheimer, now living in Bryan, OH.
†Jim Byer, at home.
†Jean King, living in Beaver creek, OH.
†Evelyn Schultz, in St. Petersburg, FL.
†Virginia Fentress, at Breckenridge Village in Willoughby.
†Margaret Steele, at Grande Village
†Gene Rust
†Lois Grant
†Anna Lou Tomola, at Heather Hill
†Al Varga

Congregational Self Assessment

Please return all completed assessments to Susan Daley, Jeff Markle or Lisa Grimm by April 5th or place in the box in the foyer. We have received some responses but more need to be returned. Council will communicate the results to the congregation by April 27th.



Rummage Sale - June 19th and 20th

It's spring cleaning time! Please save your gently used items in good condition for the rummage sale! Hold on to them and look for more details.

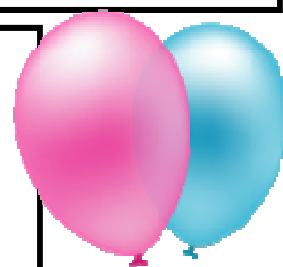
We will also need your help in sorting and setting up for the sale.

April birthday greetings to:

2 Dick Baker
2 Douglas Dilalla
2 Mary Ellen Hoffman
4 Phil Tuttle
6 John Flynn
6 Lisa Grimm
7 Greg Miller
10 Joshua Manis
12 George Groewa
12 Hilary Peterson
12 Davis Young
13 Elizabeth Carlson
13 Connor Grimm
13 Virginia Kresina
16 Brad Stuver
18 Virginia Kendig
18 Carrie Manis
21 Jim LePorte
22 Beth Allison
24 Timothy Grabnic
25 Aaron Manis
26 Kailee Grimm
27 Sue Georges
28 Carl Bona

Thank You

A HUGE thank you goes to Jim Kotora, Barb Polomsky, the choir and the fine instrumentalists who contributed to the lovely cantata on Sunday, March 22 at our church. Thank you for your hours of preparation that went into making this event such a tremendous musical experience! Thank you to all those who attended and gave their enthusiastic support.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

...will be taken on Sunday, April 5th. One Great Hour of Sharing joins our hearts with God's by providing aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds and wells. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing changes lives.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION SERVICE

at First Congregational UCC, Berea on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 2:30 pm is one of the final services they will hold at their historic Seminary Street sanctuary. First Church sold their church facility on the corner of Church and Seminary Streets to Baldwin-Wallace College. The service is free and open to the public and a reception will follow. (440) 234- 2231 This is the church where Rev. Martha Chenault is now serving, who was previously our interim pastor.

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study	<i>2</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Choir	<i>3</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:30 SCC Youth Lock-In 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>4</i> 9:00 HSKY 11:00 Sameepya
<i>5</i> 10:30 Worship/ Communion/ Sunday School 11:30 Benevo- lence 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	<i>6</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 7:00 Deacons	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study	<i>9</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Soup Dinner 7:15 Maundy Thursday Service	<i>10</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>11</i> 9:00 HSKYD 9:30 4-H Club 1:00 Sameepya 7:00 Hubs
<i>12 Easter</i> 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	<i>13</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:30 Trinity Women 7:00 Trustees	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study	<i>16</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 7:30 Choir	<i>17</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>18</i> 9:00 HSKYD 1:00 Sameepya
<i>19</i> 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School. 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI 3:30 Rental (Sanctuary & CLC)	<i>20</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 7:00 Christian Education	<i>21</i> 9:30 Adult Study Light Deadline	<i>22</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study	<i>23</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Choir	<i>24</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>25</i> 9:00 HSKYD 1:00 Sameepya 7:00 HUBS
<i>26</i> 10:30 Worship/ Confirmation/ Sunday School 11:30 Spring Fling Mtg. 11:30 CLC Rental 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	<i>27</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:30 Trinity Women 7:00 Council	<i>28</i> 9:30 Adult Study	<i>29</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study	<i>30</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 7:30 Choir		



SAVE THE DATE - MAY 17, 2009 Joint Worship Service with Trinity Christian Church

Solon Community Church in partnership with Trinity Christian Church is honored to host special guest Rev. Susan Valiquette on Sunday, May 17th at our 10:30 a.m. service.

Rev. Valiquette is chaplain at Inanda Seminary in South Africa whose mission is to provide quality secondary education for young black girls. Their vision is to prepare students for positions of responsibility within South Africa. The school's motto is "Shine Where You Are."

As they celebrate 140 years of service, they are proud to have many students in positions of leadership in the country. A scholarship fund established by Global Ministries will support the young women attending school.

There will be a pot-luck luncheon following worship.

Everyone is invited to share in this special day. Please join us!

Solon Community Church

33955 Sherbrook Park Dr.

Solon, Ohio 44139



April