

THE TIE that binds

April 2024

1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
860-445-6126
www.pbcgroton.org



APRIL
SONGBIRDS' JOYFUL MUSIC,
AND THE
EARLY SPRINGTIME FLOWERS,
COLORFUL UMBRELLAS
OPENED WIDE FOR APRIL SHOWERS.
DAYS ARE BRIGHTER,
HEARTS ARE LIGHTER,
PROMISE FILLS THE AIR—
THE GIFTS OF APRIL BRING US
SPECIAL HAPPINESS
TO SHARE.



Dear PBBC Friends:

Happy Easter (Season)! In the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, the church calendar invites believers to remember the resurrection appearances of the Risen Christ.

Are there signs in this season that stir and reaffirm your faith?

Some of us feel hope as we observe nature. Despite the snowflakes we saw just a day ago, the earth around us is greening up as spring progresses. Walking or driving near my house (a bit further north than PBBC) we can see forsythia, crocuses, daffodils, and hyacinths on the ground and flowering trees above. Birds in hearty chorus wake us early, and our eyes catch flashes of color from ubiquitous robins and occasional woodpeckers.

(By the way, we will have the opportunity on April 28th to celebrate God's Creation and lift up outdoor and camping ministry at PBBC with guests from Camp Wightman. I encourage you to wear your Camp gear that day!)

Perhaps mirroring nature's enthusiastic welcome of the return of the sun's warmth, spring also is a busy time for human transformation and transitions. Please hold in prayer those preparing to wed (like Heidi and Nate) and college and high school graduates pushing to complete their requirements in the next weeks so we can celebrate their accomplishments in the next months.

(Prayers for parents, professors, and teachers during this intense season, too- Spring fever is real!)

There is Good News for us, too. The Easter message of Christ's Resurrection goes far beyond seasonal fun and into the broken and wounded places of our spirits. Easter began in a cemetery, with women weeping and wondering what was next. That's where they saw the first sign and heard the first whisper of hope- and by all accounts weren't immediately sure what to believe.

And yet from that small beginning, faith grew. Jesus came to the apostles where they were- hiding in fear, on the road, sitting at table, working the night shift. He greeted them, saying "Peace."

Prayer for Eastertide: God of Surprise and Hope, give us to see and hear you as we look for you in the garden and the graveyard. We pray through the name of the one who has Risen, indeed. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Michelle
Michelle Madsen-Bibeau
Interim Pastor





APRIL MINISTERS

Lay Leaders:

07 - Janice Maranda
14 - Dianne Augeri
21 - Carol Rowley
28 - Pete Wong

Serving Communion:

Bob Land & Dianne Augeri
Jonathan Liu & Li Ling Liu
Preparing Communion: Bob Land & Portia Freeman
Assisting Pastor: Cathy Greenfield

MAY MINISTERS

Lay Leaders:

03 - Holly Boyle
10 - Drew Wesche
17 - Carol Gatlin
24 - Steve Hughes
31 - Catherine Hiller

Serving Communion:

Drew & Londa Wesche
Kathy Piscitello & Barbara Brant
Preparing Communion: Drew & Londa Wesche
Assisting Pastor: Steve Hughes

APRIL

- 05- Jonathan Liu
- 08- Anita Nelson Fernald
- 10- Mark Mundell
- 10- Reese Friedman
- 16- Liz Rousseau
- 17- Stephen Morton
- 21- Nancy Spalluto
- 21- Will Vars
- 22- David Augeri
- 26- Becky Freeman



MAY

- 12- Eleanor Cebriwsky
- 15- Andrew Dellarco
- 21- Mei Ling Liu
- 22- Susan Schmidtknecht
- 23- Jeff Land
- 28- Cherri Ashbey
- 29- Derek Bianchi



Pastor's Sabbatical
February 1 through April 30

"What is a little Sabbath? It is a time when you are down, not up; receiving, not giving; being, not doing. It is a time set apart that is different from ordinary time. It is departure from your allotted time into God's time, which is as much your home as your allotted time is. It is special time, when we reflect on our actions and let them seep into our souls. Sabbath is moving into the eternal from the daily, to a little bit of heaven from a lot of earth. It is sacred time.

Sacred time is the time of praise and gratitude.

It is not measured in minutes and hours but in something larger, as big as eternity. Ashes to ashes, stardust to stardust, I like to say."

To my beloved church family, thank you for the gift of this sabbath time. Even though you will not *hear* from me over the next three months, you will still be *held* by me...

in spirit, blessing, and prayer.

You will be in good hands and heart with Michelle!

God be with you 'till we meet again...

With immeasurable love, Claudine

The Church Mice Crafters will be at the
Ledyard Farmers Market

They will be there June 5, 12, July 10, 24

August 7, 21 and Sept 4

If you can lend a hand and help at the booth please see
Carol Gatlin or Sandy Vocolina

They would appreciate your help—the hours are 4-7pm



Camp Wightman



Registration is open for Summer Programs!

Boating, swimming, art, nature, archery campfires, singing, smores & so much more!

Traditional Camp: Age 6-17

June 23-June 29

June 30-July 6

July 28-August 3

August 4- August 10

August 11- August 17

Leaders in Training: Age 15-17

Equips youth to be leaders at Camp, in their home, schools , & Churches.

June 23- June 29

June 30-July 6

Family & Friends Camp—All Ages

Lodging in retreats Centers & Cabins -\$250 per camper with the maximum fee per household capped at \$900—children under 5 are free!

July 28-August 3

Special Needs Program—ages 18+

June 23-June 29

June 30—July 6

July 21-July 27

August 4-August 10

Wild Women in the Woods—Ages 55+

July 29-August 3

Pamphlets are in the Lounge.



EASTER FLOWERS

In Memory of her two sons, Kip and Matthew

Given by: Barbara Brant

In Memory of Parents and Grandparents

Given by Carol Gatlin

In Memory of Louis Starr and John Scroggins

Given by: Sandy Vocolina

In Memory of Denise and Jim Baird

Given by: Marilyn and Karen Baird, Jim and Deb

In Memory of Arthur, Claire and "Red" Marquardt

Given by: Jane Imdahl

In Memory of loved ones

Given by: The Lew Family

In Memory of our parents

Given by: Pat and Darrell Tootell

In Memory of Garold Benson, Lena Benson, Harley Osgood, Marjorie & John McGraw

Given by: Marilyn Benson

In Memory of Loved Ones

Given by Dave & Carol Rowley

In Celebration and Thanks for Michelle's time with us.

Given by: Dianne, Dave, Dante

In Memory of our Parents

Given by: Gail Neff & Peg Straub

In Memory of Myers and Howard Families

Given by: Clyde & Cathy Myers

In Memory of Donna Bibeau and Abigail Harris

Given by: The Madsen-Bibeaus

In Honor of our Church Family

Given by: Marilyn & John Rodearmel

In Memory of Mimi & Pop, Grandpa Tom, Grandma Floss,

Grampa Bob & Gramma Toots

Given by: Austin and Family



What's Coming!

Sunday, April 7—Communion



Prayer
Shawl Ministry

Sunday, April 14th—Prayer Shawl Blessing and
Second Sunday Food Collection

Sunday April 21st—Shhhhh—it's a surprise!

Sunday, April 28th—Pastor Michelle's last
Sunday and Camp Sunday



New Date

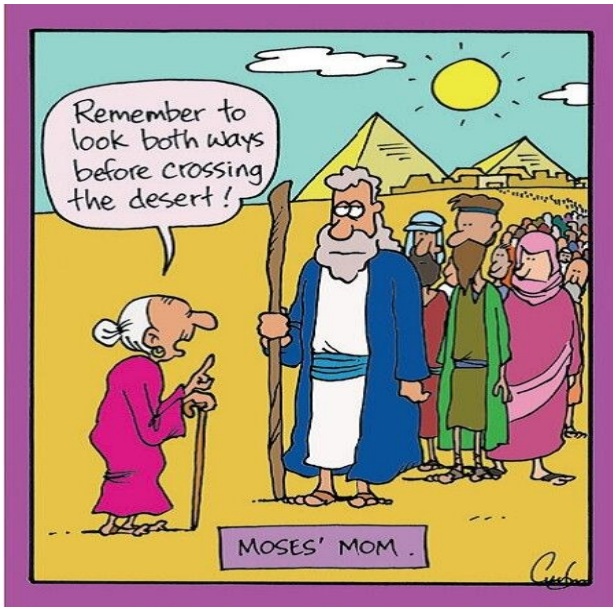
Pasta Supper

June 1st—5 pm

Put on by Lou Sherman and Sons

*To make reservations call the
church office 860-445-6126*

Church Humor



"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME AFTER CLASS.



YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR."

**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
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