



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MILFORD

Tidings

Worship Service 9:30am

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April 2024

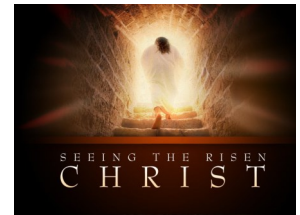
www.upcmilford.org



A Message from our Pas-

Rev. Stephen Scovell, Pastor

Hello UPC Family,



On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death. There is good news for all of us - in the end, death does not win. God overcomes the grave. Love conquers all. We hear these words often in the church. For the longest time, the Easter story had lost its wonder for me. I heard it so much growing up, that it became normalized. I was desensitized to the awe of it all. Yes, of course, Jesus died and rose again. Cool. But what does that really mean for us here and now? Because the miracle of Easter is no normal story. The miracle of Easter is a promise - that no matter what comes our way, no matter the hardships, no matter the gravity of the situation, there is nothing that God cannot overcome. This story is all about hope.

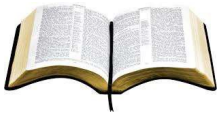
The concept of resurrection can feel like a fairytale - a fable from long ago. And many Christians over the years have found themselves all over the spectrum when it came to their belief about resurrection - is the story literal or metaphorical? **How can someone actually rise from the dead?** I've come to realize that those kinds of debates aren't really life-giving, and they distract us from the heart of the Easter narrative. Because whether or not you believe the story is literal or metaphorical, it doesn't change this one underlying truth - that the Spirit of God is alive and on the move and there is nothing that is going to stop God from renewing and transforming our world and our lives. ***God's love is greater than death itself. God's love is greater than anything the world throws at it.***

In our lives, we are going to face many crosses. We are going to experience moments of great suffering and hardship. We are going to endure trials. We are going to know loss. But we are also going to experience many resurrections. We are going to know joy. We are going to know hope. We are going to know love. **Because the cross is never the end of the story. God takes our crosses and turns them into empty tombs. God takes all the many deaths we experience and breathes new life into them. God takes our brokenness and transforms it into something beautiful. The promise of Easter is that, in the end, love wins. In the end, nothing is lost to God. The story doesn't end on Friday. *Sunday is always around the corner.*** May you refuse to let go of that hope. May you never lose sight of the wonder and awe and promise of Easter morning - that at every end, there is a new beginning and in every death, there is new life that awaits us.

PASTOR STEVE



BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is postponed until further notice.



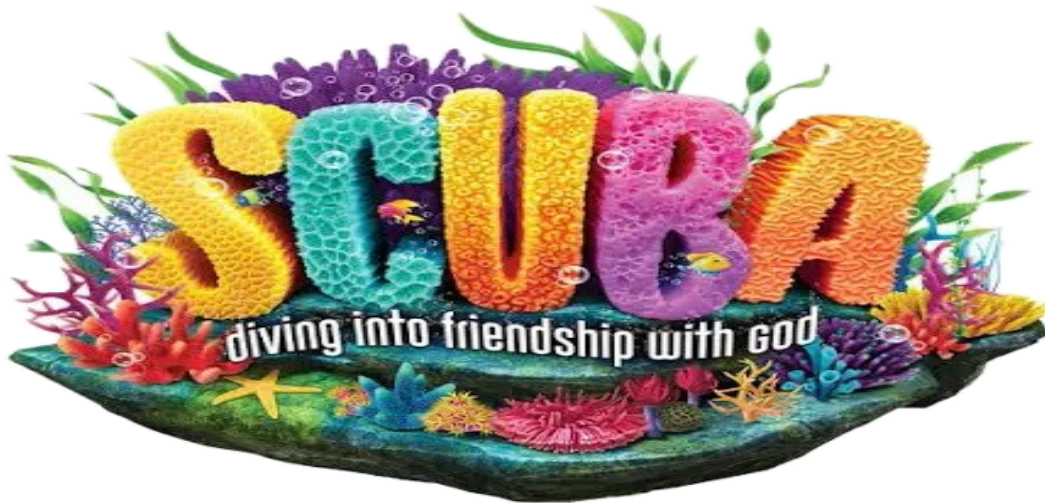
Pub Theology

Pub Theology is reading the book "Curveball" by Pete Enns. We will be meeting twice in April on April 3rd and April 17th. April 3rd will be hosted by the Heerema's. April 17th will be hosted by the OBriens.

All are welcome.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Vacation Bible School
at UPC!

Monday, July 15th-Thursday, July 18th

Questions? Want to volunteer?
Email Amanda Kemp at aewilkinson@gmail.com



FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY EVENING DINNER GROUP



PLEASE JOIN US on **Sunday, April 7th**
at **5pm**

For an evening of Food, Fun & Fellowship

Riverview Bistro

946 Ferry Blvd., Stratford

(Across from the Dock Shopping Ctr)

RSVP to Nancy Shirley

(203-283-3771/profshirley425@gmail.com)

By April 4th

ALL INVITED!!!

LNO

We are looking for someone to **host April or May's Ladies Night Out**

UPC Financial Update

As 02/29/2024

YTD Income: \$15,305 Expenses: \$25,467

YTD Net Ordinary Income (Loss): (\$10,162)



MISSIONS

Purple Pantry

We always welcome your donations of the following items:

Cereal, individual	Chef Boyardee or Chili	Water (individual bottles)
Peanut butter	Protein Drinks	Nuts, individual sleeves
Chili	individual sleeves	Macaroni & cheese
Vienna Sausage	Ramen Noodles, cup or pkg	Individual fruit cups
Chicken in a can	Tuna fish	Baked Beans

..... IN individual portion size, flip tops, when possible,

No Sweets

ALSO

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF CLOTHING ITEMS

Thank you all for your continued support for Purple Pantry , clothing drive and other missions activities.

News from the Deacons!

☀️ Join Our Ushering Team! ☀️

Thank You to those who faithfully signed up as Ushers each Sunday in April

April 7	Bob Heerema & Nancy Shirley
April 14	Joyce Haig & Donna Radecki
April 21	Donna Radecki & Nadine Logan
April 28	Joyce Haig & Valerie Fanning



Sunday Ushers!

Communion is served on the first and third Sunday of each month by presently serving and past ordained Elders.

We're looking for dedicated volunteers to serve as ushers during our Sunday worship services for the months of May, June, July, and August. Ushers play a vital role in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone who walks through our doors.

If you're interested in being a part of this important ministry, please add your name to the sign up sheet found on the bulletin board at Social Hour or see/text/call **Cindy Sloan @ 203-3206-8453**

Your service makes a difference in the lives of our congregation members and visitors alike. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!



☀️ Thank You for Hosting Social Hour! ☀️



The Deacons extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who've graciously volunteered to host our Social Hour each Sunday following worship. Your warm hospitality creates cherished moments of fellowship and connection within our church family.

For the month April, we thank the following hosts!

April 7	Mary Heerema
April 14	Vince Romano
April 21	Valerie Fanning
April 28	Nadine Logan

As we look ahead to the months of May through August, there are abundant opportunities for members to host.

This entails providing something delightful to snack on after our uplifting worship service. Deacons will take care of the set up and making coffee.

Your contributions make our Sundays even more special. If you're interested in hosting during these months, please let a Deacon know! Sign up sheets are posted on the Bulletin Board at Social Hour. The Deacons are also designating all donations to Social Hour to be contributed to the ***"Making a Place to Gather and Grow"*** campaign until the \$13,000 goal is met. Creating first floor open space for Sunday Social Hour and other events easily accessible by all members and visitors is important to the Deacons mission.

Thank you for enriching our Sundays with your generosity and kindness.

The Deacons



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Ellen Williams ~ April 12th
Natalie Kemp ~ April 15th
Dylan Cantwell ~ April 25th
Herb Shirley ~ April 28th
Valerie Fanning ~ April 30th

Jesus

