

About this April 2017 newsletter format:

This newsletter is in the same basic working format as that of the mailed version. What this means to you is that the opening cover page of the newsletter is on the third page of this document, so look for it there.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL 2017

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

\* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter

- April 1 – Saturday Worship Service at 5:00pm
- April 9 – Hour of Prayer at church at 4:00pm
- April 5, 12, 19, 26 – Ladies Bible Study
- April 9 – Monthly Building Offering
- April 11 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- April 11 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- April 14 – Good Friday Service at 7:00pm\*
- April 16 – Easter Sunday\*
- April 20 – May Newsletter articles due
- April 22 – KJLY Christian Radio's Day for Women 2017 at Hosanna Lutheran, Mankato
- April 30 – Spring Gospel Hour at Southeast Christian Church in Minneapolis

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

- May 1 – PHCA Camp Early Bird Registration rates for youth campers ends today
- May 3, 10, 17 – Ladies Bible Study
- May 4 – National Day of Prayer for America
- May 6 – Saturday Worship Service
- May 7 – Hour of Prayer at 4:00pm
- May 9 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- May 9 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- May 14 – Mother's Day
- May 14 – Monthly Building Offering
- May 18 – June Newsletter articles due
- May 29 – Memorial Day



CONGRATUATIONS to Jim Ely on his baptism on Friday, March 24. Pray for his continued growth in Christ.

### ELECTRONIC GIVING

We are exploring the idea of making electronic giving possible here at the Cleveland Church of Christ. We are interested in knowing if people would use this method if available. Please send a note to [clchurch@live.com](mailto:clchurch@live.com) if you would take advantage of this opportunity.



### EASTER FLOWERS

We are offering the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away with flowers over the Easter season. For \$15 an Easter lily or a bunch of tulips can be purchased that will be displayed in the sanctuary Easter Sunday. Then you are free to take the flowers home following the service. There will be a sign-up list in the foyer. Orders must be made by April 9 with payment made at the time of the order. Payment can be given to Iris Krenik, Judy Lloyd, Jo Rupe, or Shelly Will.



### EASTER SUNDAY

Perhaps the most important day of the year for Christians is Easter Sunday. This is the day we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death. It is a day we remember that Satan will never defeat those who belong to Jesus. We want as many people to share together in worship that day. We invite all who are in the Cleveland area to join us as we remember the resurrection of Jesus together.



### EASTER SERVICES

**April 14**

7:00pm Good Friday  
(Communion will be shared)

**Sunday, April 16**

9:00am Continental Breakfast  
9:30am Worship Service

### 2017 CHURCH FAMILY GRADUATES



If you, or a family member from our Cleveland church family, are graduating this spring from high school or college, please tell our church secretary Lisa Koppelman, at [clchurchlisa@live.com](mailto:clchurchlisa@live.com) We would like to know from what school you are graduating, when you graduate and your degree & major, if graduating from college. If you graduated between summer 2016 and now, we would also like to hear from you.

## VBS DIRECTOR ~ 2017

Vacation Bible School is a fantastic opportunity for our church to impact our families and our communities for the cause of Christ. For the past several years we have been able to share Jesus with many more children through VBS than we do through Sunday School. We are looking for 1 or 2 or 3 dedicated people who would be willing to direct our program this year. If you are interested, please talk to John Kester as soon as possible.

### BOOK REVIEW

In 1994, Greg Boyd wrote a book called "**Letters from a Skeptic.**" This book was a series of letters between Boyd, a Bible College professor, and his 70-year-old father who was not a believer. (For many years, my brother David gave this book as a gift to high school graduates in his life.) Boyd began the correspondence with his father, a correspondence that spanned 30 letters, because he realized he talked to people all the time about faith in Jesus but he had not talked much about that faith to some of the most important people in his life - including his father. Boyd asked his father to pose any question he had about God and faith and Christianity and he would do his best to answer the questions. The book deals with a wide range of topics including suffering, heaven and hell, evil in the world, why we should trust the Bible, the character of God and how one man's death could have value for other people just to name a few of the topics covered.

What impresses me about this book is the way Greg Boyd goes about answering his father's questions. He never belittles him. In fact, he often compliments him on the deep thought behind the questions. He answers the questions thoughtfully and kindly. he is, after all, talking to his dad who he loves deeply. After 2 years and over 30 letters a remarkable thing happens. Boyd's dad tells his son that he has become a believer. I can hardly imagine the joy Greg must have felt when he received the letter that shared that wonderful news.

I couldn't help but think that Greg's father would never have come to faith in Jesus if Greg had not taken the risk to engage his dad in conversation about the things that mattered the most to him in the world. If we truly believe that a relationship with Jesus is the most important thing in the world, like Greg Boyd did, then we probably need to take a risk and find a way to start a conversation with the people we love about the God who died to save them. maybe it is time for you to take a risk and write a letter.

## 2017 Summer Camp Schedule Pine Haven Christian Assembly

[www.pinehavencamp.org](http://www.pinehavencamp.org)

Based on grades going into Fall 2017  
Cleveland is in Zone A

**EARLY BIRD DEAL for YOUTH CAMPERS:**  
**Register before May 1 and receive a discount on your registration fee.**

### Pine Haven Christian Assembly 2017 Camp Schedule

Work Weekend	May 11-13
Fishing Camp	May 26 - 29
Ladies Retreat	June 9 - 11
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Zone B	June 11-17
11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	June 18 - 24
Family Week	July 2 - 7
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Camp	July 9 - 15
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Zone A	July 16 - 21
Servant Leadership	July 16 - 29
Adult Wknd	July 21 - 23
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Zone A	July 23 - 29
World View Camp	Aug 2 - 6
Greenhorns	Aug 6-9
Family Wknd	Aug 10 - 13
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Zone B	Aug 13 - 18
Man Camp	Aug 18-20
Ministry Leadership	Aug 20 - 22
Scrapbook/Craft Wknd	Sept 14-16

Information from [www.pinehavencamp.org](http://www.pinehavencamp.org) on 12-17-2016

### CAMP OFFERING

One of the things we share in common at the Cleveland Church of Christ is the conviction that church camp can have a significant impact on the lives of the youth in our church. Because we believe this, it has been our practice, for a number of years, to pay half the camp tuition for any young person from our church who wants to go to camp. In recent years we have not had a lot of kids going to camp so we extended our support so that any child from our church could invite a friend to camp and we would pay half of that tuition as well. We have had sufficient money in our camp fund so that we have not had to ask for any additional funds to send kids to camp the last couple of years. As camp season approaches we do need to replenish our camp fund. A special offering will be received on May 14 (Mother's Day - what better gift could a mother give than to encourage a child in their faith) to provide funds for this summer. Camp funds also make it possible for the church to supply transportation for all of our campers.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN**

APRIL 2017  
Vol. 35 No.4



## **It's Messy**

*By John Kester, Pastor*

I read a book last week called *Messy Grace*. I won't give you a review of it here, but suffice it to say that I found the title intriguing. The premise of the book is that truth and grace are often cast as being at odds with each other when in reality, Jesus showed us in Scripture that they act hand in hand with each other. The problem we often face is that in our messy world we feel like we have to pick between the ideas of truth and grace.

I was thinking about this in regards to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. If ever there was a messy situation it was the events that surrounded the cross of Jesus. It was messy in a very real sense. There was blood and sweat and tears and agony the day that Jesus died. It was a messy day in a physical sense. But beyond that, it was a messy day in a spiritual sense. The Son of God, who was the embodiment of God's love, was confronted with the hatred of people who refused to accept his love and failed to understand the breadth and depth of it. The one who was the truth of God was confronted by lies and false witnesses. The one who came to open the gates of heaven for all people was opposed by the forces of evil who sought to silence the truth he came to speak. It was a messy day.

Jesus had to figure out how to combine truth and love in one grand act. I imagine that he could have focused on the truth that those who hated him were sinning and they deserved to be punished. Scripture says he could have called down 10,000 angels to come to his rescue and punish those who opposed him. They deserved it. It would have been just and righteous. On the other hand, he could have ignored their sin and said their behavior didn't matter and extend love to them without any consequence for their sin. But neither of these actions would have been consistent with his character to be both full of grace and truth.

So, Jesus did the hardest thing imaginable. He chose to suffer so that we could understand the magnitude of sin that would take the life of a holy and righteous man and at the same time recognize that the love of God knows no limits. It is an unbelievably messy story. The righteous one dies. Sinners seem to triumph. Good is vanquished. Evil wins.

But somehow, in the midst of the mess, the love of God triumphs. A thief is granted life in the midst of the mess. Jesus provides for his mother and his best friend in the midst of the mess. Jesus forgives the ones who hurt him, out of love, in the midst of the mess. Throughout the awful events of the day, the love of Jesus triumphs over the hatred of those who stood against him.

And somehow, three days later, the truth that Jesus is the Son of God was verified when he stepped out of a tomb alive and whole. In the midst of the messiest day ever, truth and love walked side by side. It is my prayer that as the people of God, we learn to walk this tightrope. May we never sacrifice truth because falsehood is easier. Jesus didn't do it and neither should we. But while we stand for truth, may we do it in the same manner that Jesus did. His kindness and love were present even when they required him to suffer.

In our messy world, it is hard to hold truth and grace together. To do it might require us to suffer. But I don't know any other way to live that honors Jesus with our lives. In the midst of the mess may our devotion to the truth only be rivaled by our determination to love like Jesus did.

**BIRTHDAYS:** April 3- Oliver Rogers; 6- Tony Dittrich, Sherm Rupe; 7- Brenda Davis; 9- David Crow, Marshall Heldberg; 10- Zach Will; 13- Kim Wobbrock; 16- Jeff Jaster; 18- Wally Krenik; 19- Brandon Rogers; 23- Simba Nyamutora (son of missionary in India); 24- Lisa Sprague; 25- Larry Filter, Brandon Koppelman; 28- Jim Schmidt

**ANNIVERSARY:** April 7- Graydon & Ellen Dickie

## **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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clevelandchurch.net

**OUR HEAD:** Jesus Christ

**PASTOR:** John Kester

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Lisa Koppelman

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE** every Sunday

9:00 am – Bible Classes (4 Years – Adults)

10:00 am – Fellowship Time

10:30 am – Worship Service

**SATURDAY WORSHIP** meets on the first  
Saturday of each month at 5:00pm

Link to prior monthly newsletters

[www.clevelandchurch.net/newsletters-2/](http://www.clevelandchurch.net/newsletters-2/)