

# The Marketplace

APRIL 2025

Ph: (717) 257-1270 | [www.marketsquarechurch.org](http://www.marketsquarechurch.org)



**Dr. Bruce Humphrey**  
Bridge Pastor

This month in our "Mark Up Your Bible" series we move into the New Testament. The first three weeks of April we will be reading the entire Gospel of Mark and swaths of other gospels. As we engage the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we need to avoid the common misinterpretation that the God of the Hebrew scriptures was vengeful and judgmental while the God of Jesus is gracious and forgiving. We find grace and forgiveness in the Hebrew scriptures and severe warnings in the New Testament. The Bible is one unified story of how God interacts with humans throughout history.

It is important to recognize progressive revelation: something that is vague in older scriptures becomes clearer in later scriptures. Here is an example of how the Bible is one story. When God commands Moses to teach the law as "eye for eye" it was radical in its day. The common laws of most cultures used different measurements of punishments depending on whether the offense was by a slave or a free person. Moses offered a radical new idea that all people regardless of socio-economic level should be judged by the same standards. This call for justice blossoms in the preaching of the prophets. By the time we get to the New Testament, this idea of justice as only punishment moves into the deeper desire for reconciliation and restoration to heal relationships.

Jesus came not to eliminate the laws of Moses and teachings of the prophets, but to complete and deepen their intention. He brings a fresh vision of the kingdom of God where people practice love and forgiveness, restoration and beloved community. Jesus invites us into the spiritual imagination of how humanity could live joyfully together as caretakers of each other and the earth.

Let's grow in faith as we invite God's Spirit to refresh us with insight into the story of what God is doing in our world today and how we get to joyfully participate in the kingdom of God. **Bridge Pastor Bruce**



## Easter Sunrise Service

There is something special about watching the sun rise over Harrisburg from Center City Island at the Ecumenical Sunrise Easter Service. This year, our congregation is joining The Journey Church, Pine Street Presbyterian, and Camp Hill United Methodist for the community Easter service on City Island. The worship will begin at 6:15 a.m. Reverend Stephen from Pine Street will bring a homily and Pastor Bruce will give the closing prayer/benediction. Dress warmly and enjoy refreshments after. If you wish, bring your own outdoor seats as well.

## Pastor Nominating Committee

These are exciting days for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). In recent weeks, the PNC reviewed the applications of dozens of interested candidates for Market Square's ministry, carefully and prayerfully studying their resumes, their answers to questions posed uniformly by the Presbyterian Church, their statements of faith, and their sermons. All the pastors were talented and thoughtful, each with their own strengths and abilities.

From that cadre, several stood out as especially well-suited and qualified. With the convenience of Zoom, we were able to meet with these pastors and begin our next step in the consideration process. We asked identical questions of each of the applicants that we prepared beforehand. Those questions were designed to get as much information as possible relevant to Market Square's particular needs and desires in a head pastor. The first discussions are completed.

We scheduled second Zoom interviews for several of the candidates with questions that are more specifically designed to learn about each of their individual careers and accomplishments as well as their preaching styles, goals for worship, and personal theologies. After those interviews, our next conversations will be held in person.

Meeting these faithful and accomplished individuals has been inspiring and fun for the PNC. We learn what these people of God have done in their churches and watch how they proclaim the Word every Sunday. From their questions of us, we also see how they view Market Square's ministries and potential.

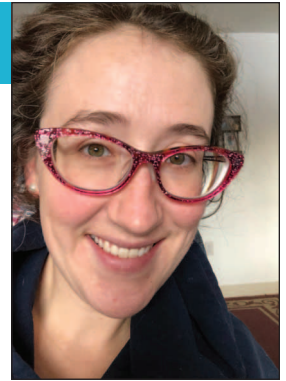
Please know that throughout our past work and upcoming discussions and discernment, your prayerful support is deeply felt.

**Steve McMullen**

**Next Marketplace Deadline: Sunday, April 13**

Please email articles and photos to Nancy Sheets and Kari Hultman. [sheets@marketsquarechurch.org](mailto:sheets@marketsquarechurch.org) and [khultman@comcast.net](mailto:khultman@comcast.net)

# The Spirit is at Work



Pastor Allison Smith

On a Wednesday in March, I got a phone call from our clerk of session, Jonelle, raising some concerns about the latest report from the International Service Center. The story of what unfolded after that phone call is a story about the subtle ways that the Spirit moves in the world. After talking with Jonelle, I decided to reach out to Dominic at the ISC to get a better sense of the issues they were facing and how Market Square might be able to partner with them to help.

The very next day I was able to meet in person with Dominic and the volunteer coordinator for the ISC. I learned so much in that conversation about the unique challenges the ISC is facing. Due to the freeze in federal funding for refugee resettlement programs the ISC wasn't reimbursed for work with refugees that was done as far back as October of 2024. Other agencies that work with refugee families have ended their programs as their federal funding has also been frozen. The need is great, and it's far above and beyond the work that the International Service Center usually does with refugee families. Many refugee families were told that at least 3 months of rent would be covered for them by the agency they were working with as they worked to find employment and settle into American society. That rent help disappeared when those agencies had to end their work with refugee families. Although the International Service Center does not usually provide rent on this scale they are doing what they can to help the families who find themselves in danger of eviction.

After our conversation Dominic learned of a refugee who was in need of a wheelchair. He sent an email to me and to Christine Filipovich to see if either of us knew of somewhere they might be able to obtain one. I did what I always do in such circumstances. Consult with Nancy Sheets, who has a habit of knowing all kinds of things about everything at the church! She let me know that she had a stash of durable medical equipment and would check to see if there was a suitable wheelchair. The next day she got in touch with Dominic and let him know that we did indeed have a wheelchair that they could have, but unfortunately it didn't have the footrests that most wheelchairs have. What Nancy didn't know was that the man who needed the wheelchair has no legs. His legs were lost in a terrorist attack that happened at the airport as U.S. troops pulled out of Afghanistan. It is as though the Holy Spirit set aside just the wheelchair he needed and all of us together played a little part to make sure it got to him!

I see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst, and especially in our networks of connection. We are the Body of Christ, connected by invisible bonds of the Spirit. Every now and then we have the blessing of seeing those bonds work together for good. Keep your eyes open, the Spirit is at work here and now! Alleluia! Amen!

Pastor Allison

**Volunteer forms are in the Narthex or ask Nancy to email you a pdf. Fill it out and return it to Chris Filipovich at [pronr@aol.com](mailto:pronr@aol.com)**



## Intertwined Faith Community

Intertwined is a ministry of the presbytery pastored by Kevin Long. One of Kevin's efforts is the Intertwined Actions email list. Intertwined Actions was inspired by the Market Square Ecology Advocacy Team list at Market Square, which is operated by the Ecology Action Committee (EAC). Messages from both lists, which are sent about twice a month to subscribers, offer resources for those with a concern for ecological justice. They consist of news about in-person events of interest to environmentalists, as well as a curated handful of links, such as petitions and forms that make it easy to share your thoughts with your legislators.

The Market Square Ecology Advocacy Team strives to offer impactful opportunities to those with limited time and those who want to increase their creation care efforts. If you would like to sign up, visit the Google Group here: <https://shorturl.at/XJ2F0>. If you have trouble signing up, contact Kevin Long at [kevin@intertwinedfc.org](mailto:kevin@intertwinedfc.org). If you would like to learn more about or support the eco justice efforts of Intertwined, visit <https://www.intertwinedfc.org/ecojustice>.

Rev. Kevin Long  
[kevin@intertwinedfc.org](mailto:kevin@intertwinedfc.org)

*Kevin is guest preacher on April 27.*



**Please join us!**

**Kids' Pancake Breakfast!**  
**Sunday, April 13**  
**9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Fourth Floor**

**"A Parade for Jesus"**

## April Worship Schedule

Our English language worship services are livestreamed from our sanctuary every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The Livestream button is at the top of the homepage of our website and links to our YouTube Livestream channel. Click on the date you wish to watch. Previous services are also available there. [www.marketsquarechurch.org](http://www.marketsquarechurch.org)

Korean language sermons are posted on the Korean Ministries YouTube channel: <https://shorturl.at/NcYFw>

### April 6: Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 am Korean Language Worship in Davis Chapel  
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary  
"Are You With Me?"  
Matthew 1:22-23 and Mark 3:13-15  
The Reverend Dr. Bruce Humphrey preaching

**Theme:** Moving from the Hebrew Scriptures into the New Testament, we see a shift in the way God connects with us. A key word in the New Testament is "with." God comes to be with us, Immanuel.

### April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday

- 9:30 am Korean Language Worship in Davis Chapel  
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary  
"Blood is thicker than Water"  
John 19: 31-37  
The Reverend Dr. Bruce Humphrey preaching

**Theme:** John uses images blood and water to set up his crucifixion story. When the soldiers pierced Jesus' side out flowed blood and water representing spirit and flesh.

### April 17: Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Foot washing  
Stripping of the chancel

### April 18: Good Friday

- 7:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary  
Tenebrae Service with Choir

### April 20: Easter Sunday

- 6:15 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service on City Island: The Journey Church, Camp Hill United Methodist Church, Pine Street Presbyterian Church, and Market Square Presbyterian Church  
The Reverend Stuart Seelman of Pine Street Presbyterian preaching  
The Reverend Dr. Bruce Humphrey participating
- 9:30 am Korean Language Worship in Davis Chapel  
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary  
"Resurrection Hope"  
John 20: 1-18 and John 20:19-31  
The Reverend Allison R. Smith preaching

**Theme:** It can be difficult to have hope when confronted with death and loss. Standing alongside Thomas, we will reclaim Easter hope in the here and now.

### April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

- 9:30 am Korean Language Worship in Davis Chapel  
The Reverend Nam Gil Roh preaching
- 11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary  
The Reverend Kevin Long preaching

## Easter Egg Hunt for Children and Their Families

**When:** Easter Sunday, April 20th at 9:30 AM

**Where:** Fourth Floor Education Wing

**What:** An Easter Egg Hunt for children and their families!

Anyone planning on attending the Easter Sunday service with little ones is invited to join us on the fourth floor for an Easter Egg Hunt and an Easter Sunday school lesson. We'll meet in the library on the fourth floor where everyone will get an Easter basket and will be sent out to hunt eggs all over the fourth floor according to their age group. Once all the eggs are found there will be prizes! We'll also gather for a lesson about the meaning of Easter. *We hope you'll join us!*

## 50501

Several people asked Pastor Bruce how they can get involved with the 50/50/1 peaceful protests in our area.

There's a Facebook group for PA here:

<https://shorturl.at/DYiV5>

For Harrisburg-specific information, go to this site:

<https://shorturl.at/7rG6Z>

The parent site is

<https://www.fiftyfifty.one/>

# Music Notes



**Tyler Canonico-Dilley**  
Minister of Music

Dear friends,

I hope your journey through Lent has been meaningful. The first anthem the choir will sing this month is Orlando di Lasso's, "Lord, O Lord, Have Mercy." This has been one of my prayers throughout Lent – Lord, have mercy upon us. During this crazy political time, I hold fast to my faith – God is in charge. I remind myself of this daily!

On April 6 at 4:00 p.m., we will welcome pianist Junghoon Park. This is the first time Arts on the Square has hosted a pianist (except for the online piano concert by Shelly Moorman-Stahlman and Ruth Slenczynska during the pandemic) and I'm excited for Jung-hoon to showcase our gorgeous piano in the Sanctuary. Mr. Park is a graduate of the University of Maryland and is an award-winning pianist whose diverse repertoire has won him recognition at prestigious competitions and piano festivals. I hope you will join us on April 6 for what will be a fabulous concert of piano music by a dynamic musician.

April 13 is Palm/Passion Sunday. We will begin with the festive processional and then gradually move into the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Market Square Ringers and the Sanctuary Choir will share a variety of selections which will touch both moods of the morning.

Then we move into Holy Week. Holy Week is such an important time for us Christians. It's important that we attend the services throughout the week to fully grasp and understand the full story. On Maundy Thursday, worshipers have the option to have their feet washed, as was the custom during Jesus' time; we will celebrate Holy Communion; and then move into the stripping of the chancel to prepare for Good Friday. We will have a Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday – a time for us to read the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and sing hymns and anthems. It's truly a meaningful service. Then we will reach Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday – we'll join in the festive worship service where choir, organ, brass, and timpani will lead our triumphal music!

The **Open Loft Choir** will meet on Sunday, April 27. Love choir singing, but can't commit to singing in the choir regularly? This choir is perfect for you! On April 27, join the choir and me in the loft at 10:00 a.m. to learn the music for worship and then we'll lead worship together at 11:00 a.m. I hope you'll join us as we always have a lovely time!

I hope you will consider attending the Holy Week services this year. If you're on the fence or are debating about making the drive, I assure you that each service is so moving and meaningful.

Peace and love,  
**Tyler**

## Sanctuary Choir Repertoire for April:

April 6 (Lent VI/ "Are You with Me?") – Lord, O Lord, Have Mercy by Orlando di Lasso and Carl Schalk's "Lord of Feasting and of Hunger"

April 13 (Palm/Passion Sunday) – "Hosanna to the Son of David" by Robert Lehman and "Procession of Palms" by Malcolm Williamson

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) – "Wash Me Thoroughly" by Samuel Wesley, "Drop, Drop, Slow Tears" by Eugene Butler, and "Ubi Caritas II" by Ola Gjeilo

April 18 (Good Friday) – "Crucifixus" by Antonio Lotti, "Go to Dark Gethsemane" by T. Tertius Noble, and "Deep Were His Wounds" by Leland Sateren

April 20 (Easter) – "Easter Introit" by John Ferguson, "To the Lamb on the Throne" by Dan Forrest, "He Is Risen" by Philip Stopford, "O Sacred Feast" by Healey Willan, and "Hallelujah" from *Messiah* by George F. Handel

April 27 (2nd Sunday of Easter/ Earth Sunday) – "Victory of Life" by Jean Pasquet



## Junghoon Park in Concert

Award-winning pianist  
playing works of  
Bach, Rachmaninoff,  
and Gershwin

**Sunday, April 6, 2025  
at 4:00 p.m.**

Suggested donation \$15

For more information: [artsonthesquare.net](http://artsonthesquare.net)

## International Service Center Update

Since Monday January 27, 2025, after President Trump ordered an indefinite suspension of the national Refugee Assistance Program (RAP), all funding reimbursements for expenses incurred by local refugee service providers such as the ISC has stopped. As a result, two local refugee service providers, Catholic Charities of Harrisburg and Jewish Family Services of Greater Harrisburg had to close their Refugee Resettlement Programs. At our ISC, thanks to our Refugee Support Services Program, which is supported by the state, we were able to maintain our Refugee Support Services (RSS), Afghan Refugee Support Services (ARSS), and Ukrainian Refugee Support Services (URSS) Programs to continue providing much needed services to help refugees become self-sufficient and integrated into their new community as rapidly as possible. However, state funding reduction has caused us to drop three programs: the Afghan Refugee Health Promotion (ARHP), the Ukrainian Legal Assistance (ULA) and the Practical Approaches to Self-Sufficiency (PASS) Programs.

As for our Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) which is funded by the National Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) through ECDC, funding reimbursements have stopped since January 27, 2025, at President Trump's order. Since January 1, 2025, we have been relying on our reserve funds earmarked for other programs to maintain the operation of our Refugee Resettlement Program. We were hoping that all our monthly expenses will be reimbursed by ORR and ECDC. Unfortunately, despite our desperate inquiries, we were told repeatedly by ECDC that without President Trump's order, no reimbursements could be made to any of the local resettlement agencies. Two of our local partners had to close their doors already, and we may be the next one. We only have sufficient resources to maintain the operation of our Refugee Resettlement Program until March 31, 2025. If the President does not authorize the release of refugee funds already allocated by Congress by then, we will have to shut down our RRP Program and let go of a dozen of dedicated refugee helpers.

The recently arrived refugees that were resettled by Catholic Charities and Jewish Family Services have been coming to our ISC asking for assistance since their resettlement agencies are now closed. We are trying our best to serve as many of them as possible, but our staff is overwhelmed. We have decided to go back to our roots. Just like in the late 70's, when the ISC was submerged by the large number of Vietnamese "boat people" refugees that kept on coming to our place every day, we had to launch a desperate appeal for volunteers, and the result was amazing. We had hundreds of wonderful volunteers who stepped up offering to help. At that time, every room and corner of the Market Square Presbyterian Church was used as an English classroom. In some of those classrooms, we frequently saw a mother concentrating on learning English from a teacher while her child was sleeping peacefully next to her. With the assistance of Dr. Joyce Davis, one of our most valiant Good Samaritans, we are starting a campaign to generate additional resources. [We urgently need help to cover the temporary rental assistance for 11 refugee families facing eviction](#), giving us enough time to secure gainful employment for the adults in those families. We also need volunteers with experience in immigration law, since our President is considering changing the current immigration law by eliminating all the parole, asylee, and Temporary Protective Status (TPS) benefits. This will place most of our Afghan, Ukrainian, Cuban, and Haitian refugees in the at-risk category for deportation.

Please do not forget us in your prayers.  
**Dr. Phuong Truong**

Donate directly to the ISC <https://shorturl.at/Eygz3>

## March for Democracy

Our Presbyterian clergy were well represented at the March for Democracy rally on the capital steps March 4. I was there taking photos and didn't end up in them. Here is my experience:

During the speeches someone addressed the idea of DEI. I was reminded that DIVERSITY is God's gift of differentness that helps us appreciate each other.

Diversity in our society is a strength not a weakness. Likewise, EQUITY is the desire for "liberty and justice for ALL." It becomes dangerous when there is an assumption that some are more worthy due to their economic security while others are treated as less worthy of receiving dignity and respect. INCLUSION involves hospitality to neighbors who may look different, come from other cultures, or have experienced life circumstances different from ours. Once we were reflecting on these things, the speaker made a bold resistance statement: "Even when these values become illegal in our country, we will refuse to give them up. We will announce loudly that we support D.E.I." The crowd then took up the chant, "DEI. DEI." It was moving. **Pastor Bruce**



## Field Hockey Club Makes Sandwiches and Writes Cards

Since the beginning of the year, Market Square Presbyterian Church has provided the following services to our unhoused and impoverished neighbors in Harrisburg:

- Served more than 2000 hot meals on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings.
- Set 6 individuals up with short emergency hotel stays via a third party donor's generosity.
- Provided emergency clothing to 11 people, including one delivery of clothing to someone's home.
- Provided emergency food to eight people, including one instance of delivery.

### Hot meals

The Friday Dinner has tried to remain dense and hearty through these final winter weeks. On February 21 we served 90 portions of shrimp and grits. On February 28 we served 112 portions of Salisbury Steak with mushrooms and onions over mashed potatoes with buttered peas. And on March 7 we served 105 portions of smothered rosemary-thyme chicken thighs over mashed potatoes with mixed vegetables.

The Sunday Breakfast serves roughly 600 people in a four-Sunday month, and features fruit juice and either mandarins or bananas. After the Breakfast closes, Fellowship Hall remains open until 10:45—providing coffee and an opportunity to charge phones.

### Other notable goings-on

On Tuesday, February 25, MSPC received a donation of nearly 200 snack bags from The PA Revolution Field Hockey Club—a local travelling team. “Snack bags” hardly does the donation justice, as each bag included a thick deli sandwich, as well as a personalized, hand-written greeting card from a club member to the recipient.

That evening, a team of volunteers from MSPC popped up at Blackberry and River Streets, distributing the bags, as well as also serving donated BBQ chicken and green beans from First Church of the Brethren. The remainder of the sandwich-and-snack bags were delivered to Grace United Methodist Church's overnight shelter for women and nonbinary individuals.

**Ben Perez**, Homeless Ministry Coordinator



▲ Above, the PA Revolution Hockey Club writes greeting cards to accompany snack bags.

◀ Left, one of the hot, delicious, and filling dinners Ben and volunteers prepare on Friday evenings for our unhoused neighbors.

**Activities like the above are why we support the ministries and mission of Market Square.**

## New Adult Education Space

Adult Education on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. will now take place on the **4th floor of the church in the room formerly used as the Bell Rehearsal Room**. If you take the elevator up to the 4th floor, and hang a right, the room is directly in front of you. The new Adult Education Room offers a cozier space and better acoustics than Geneva Hall.

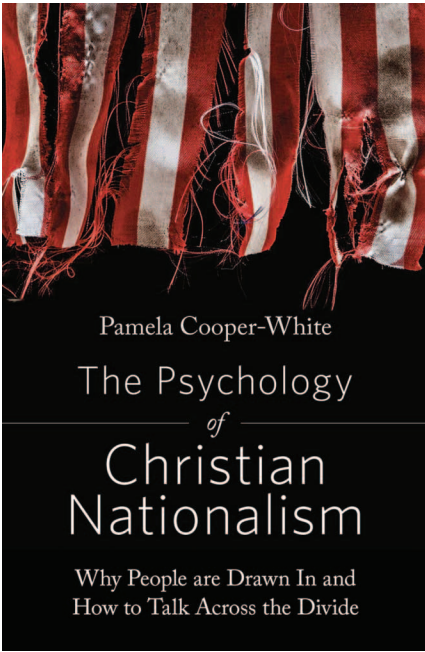
## More Market Square!

Find us on the web: <http://marketsquarechurch.org/>

Find and like us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketSquareChurch/>

Find us on Instagram:  
<https://www.instagram.com/marketsquarechurch>

**The Beacon Light:** our mid-week mini-sermon, with information regarding upcoming events, worship services, and members. Contact Nancy in the office to sign up.



## The More We Understand, the More Effectively We Can Respond!

Do you understand how Christian Nationalism became so rooted in our country? Why do so many seemingly “good” people fall into supporting ideals that to others are the antithesis of Jesus’ teachings? What can those who oppose Christian Nationalism do to change the tide?

On Thursday, February 27, the first of four sessions on the book, ***The Psychology of Christian Nationalism***, by Pamela Cooper-White, took place at Temple Ohev Sholom in Harrisburg. The participants in the Interfaith Community Read meeting were treated to a motivating and informative evening with the author herself. Ms. Cooper-White is an Episcopal priest and a pastoral psychotherapist who wrote this book after the events at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

The author explained that in our nation today, about a third of the population are adherents or sympathizers to Christian Nationalism; another third is considered skeptics, while only the remaining third reject such principles and actions. She traced the roots back to early years of American history with an increase in such beliefs escalating as a backlash to greater freedoms for people of color and for women. Ms. Cooper-White shared numerous examples of how many of our current elected leaders outwardly display their adherence to Christian Nationalism.

The remaining three sessions will focus on discussions of the key topics addressed in the book: Christian Nationalism and white supremacy, why people are drawn to extremist beliefs, and how we can talk across the divide. Each meeting will take place in a different house of worship on the last Thursday of each month. Registration is required through a link which will be shared in *The Beacon Light*.

Dr. Cornel West said, “Justice is what love looks like in public, just like tenderness is what love feels like in private.” Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to meet with those of other faith communities and share in educating yourself so that we can work for justice for all.

Janet Kunkel

## Our Church Family

### Deaths

The Reverend Berthi van der Bent Hamel died on February 27. Her obituary is here: <https://shorturl.at/LHCyz>

Rita Lippert died on March 9. Her obituary is here: <https://shorturl.at/1YgB1>

Deacon Joanne Winger died unexpectedly in mid-March. Her memorial service will take place on Saturday, April 12, at noon. Visitation with family is at 11:00 a.m.

### Celebrations

The Reverend Sandy Strauss represented MSPC in DC on March 5 as part of the Choose Clean Water Coalition.

Karen Smith married Bart Hazim on March 7.

Andrew Hunter won gold in the Men’s Singles Event (ages 17-45) at a pickleball tournament in Maryland last Sunday.

### Birthdays (over 90)

Nancy Sheetz turns 95 on April 10  
Bill Dallam turns 99 on April 30

### Past Birthday Celebration

Carla and her late and much-missed twin Carlette Queeley were born 65 years ago on March 6.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Ruling Elder Andrew Hunter! He won first place in the First Annual PickleMeSilly St. Patrick’s Day Pickleball Tournament in Finksburg, MD. Andrew won GOLD in the Men’s Singles Event (ages 17 up to and including 45).





The Ecology Action Committee (EAC) and Session signed a pledge in 2017 to be an Earth Care Congregation. By signing the pledge, the congregation agreed to make the care of our earth a part of all aspects of church life, including our worship, education, facilities and outreach.

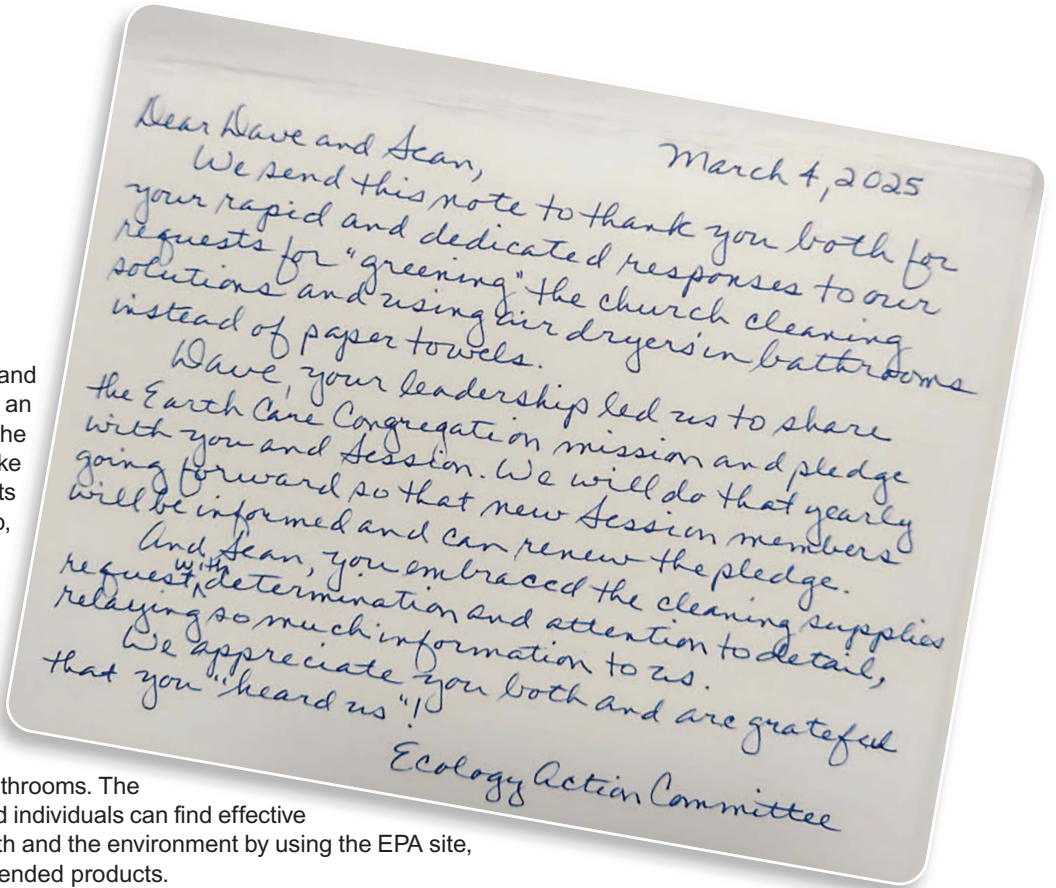
Recently, focusing on facilities, members of EAC met with Dave Volkman, Sean Meara, and Phyllis Mooney, chair of the House Committee, to discuss using safe and effective cleaning products and investigating a change from paper towel use to air dryers in bathrooms. The EAC recommended that the church and individuals can find effective products that are safer for human health and the environment by using the EPA site, [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice), for recommended products.

Sean quickly provided a list of 14 cleaning products that meet EPA's stringent testing, earn its "Safer Choice" label, and are cost competitive. When older products are emptied, these products will be purchased to fill the shelves!

Regarding paper towels, a pilot program has been put in place. Paper towel dispensers have been removed and air dryers installed in the bathrooms on the first floor outside Fellowship Hall. If this proves satisfactory, other bathrooms may also be upgraded to air dryers. It could save the church quite a bit of money over time.

EAC is very grateful to work with with Dave, Sean, and Phyllis and fulfill our pledge to care for our earth and our environment. And we suggest that when you purchase cleaning products for your home, look for "The Safer Choice Label" on the container!!

Barbara Pennell



## Earth Wisdom

**PLASTICS is a HEALTH ISSUE** (information below from [beyondplastics.org](http://beyondplastics.org))

- Plastics have been found in the human body in **lungs, kidneys, blood, brain, breast milk, placenta and more!!!**
- Plastic particles are found in **bottled water, soda, and juice, seafood, plant-based food, and more!!!**
- **16,000 chemicals** are used to make plastics – some are toxic!
- **Less than 6%** of plastic waste is actually recycled!
- **Only #1 and #2 are actually recyclable!**

Find out much more about plastics at the Adult Forum on MSPC Earth Day, April 27.

Debbie Olson





**PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM**  
*recertifies*

**Market Square Presbyterian Church**

*as an*

**EARTH CARE CONGREGATION**

for its environmental stewardship achievements in worship,  
education, facilities and outreach actions in the life of the church.

Through February, 2026

Signature Barbara Pennell Date 3/3/2025

Association for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns



*"The earth is the Lord's  
and all that is in it,  
the world, and those  
who live in it." Psalm 24:1*

## James: A Novel by Percival Everett

Mark Twain's *The Adventures Huckleberry Finn* was published in 1884, eight years after *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Huck tells his story in his own words in the famous novel, which was much more than a mere sequel to *Tom Sawyer*.



In *Huck Finn*, Huck and his enslaved friend, Jim, are in flight, trying to escape Jim's owner, Miss Watson, a devout Christian who supports slavery. She has been educating Huck about heaven and hell, so he knows what will happen to him if he gets caught with Jim.

One hundred and forty years later, Percival Everett published his book *James: A Novel*, told from Jim/James' perspective. I enjoyed teaching *Huck Finn* for many years at HACC, and I wish I could have had Everett's book back then to teach along with Twain's. Everett, who is Black, has said he wanted to let James tell his story in his own words, not Huck's, and what a difference this makes in rereading the novel.

In *James* we learn a lot about how things looked to enslaved people as opposed to how white folks saw them. James is always teaching his fellow slaves how to make white folks think they are illiterate by talking as if they are. Many enslaved people in fact did know how to read and write, but their white masters wanted to make sure that they didn't use those skills to work against them—as in forming a revolt, for example.

"White folks expect us to sound a certain way, and it can only help if we don't disappoint them," James says in one of his many teaching sessions with his six children. "When talking to white people and they don't quite understand you, mumble sometimes so they have the satisfaction of telling you not to mumble. They enjoy the correction and thinking you're stupid." This is exactly how Jim talks in Twain's novel.

James also has a little notebook and a pencil, which he carries in his pocket so that he can write things down along his journey. This is dangerous, of course, because if he is captured, the fact that he can read and write will add to his punishment.

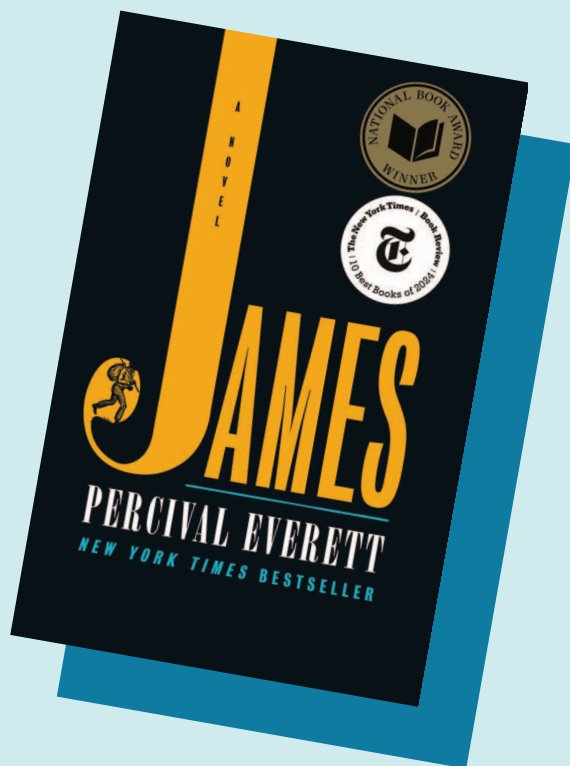
*James* shows us what slavery was really like in antebellum America. Time after time we are reminded of the brutality. Graphic depictions of slaves being whipped and beaten are common, and slaves talk about the brutality as just something they live with. We are witnesses to how hard they are worked: A passage depicting two slaves operating a crosscut saw is hard to read. The men are working in a foul pit and are whipped when they have to stop, and lose their footing. One of them does not survive.

Thank goodness there is also humor in Everett's version of James' experience. In a wonderful segment James joins a minstrelsy group. Not just any minstrelsy group, for The Virginia Minstrels, white men performing in blackface, want James to be blackened up as well. To top that, James learns that one of them, Norman, is a fair-skinned Black man who has been passing as white. James and Norman form a bond and run away from the group.

One of the reasons I, a young white man, loved Twain's novel, was that Huck had a chance to turn in Jim but didn't, because he knew it wasn't the right thing to do, even though he had been taught that he would end up in hell if he went against Miss Watson's strict Christian teaching. In a memorable passage, Huck says, "All right, then, I'll go to hell." Christianity does not fare well in either of the two novels.

Everett, a professor at the University of Southern California and author of over 20 novels, has a great comment regarding his feelings about Twain. "His humor and humanity affected me long before I became a writer," he says, and in a nod to a famous Twain quote, he adds, "Heaven for the climate, hell for my long-awaited lunch with Mark Twain."

Trum Simmons



# Session Activities – March 2025 Activity Update

By Jonelle Darr, Clerk of Session

Market Square's Session is responsible for the church's mission, governance, and programs. Pastor Bruce Humphery moderates the Session. Current Ruling Elders may serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms.

## Membership

- 1) Recognizing the death of Deacon Rita Lippert, Market Square's longest-tenured member, who died on March 9, 2025. Rita joined Market Square in April of 1946 and was ordained a deacon in 1970. A memorial service took place at Malpezzi Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 19. The Reverend Anne Ross officiated. Inurnment took place at the MSPC columbarium.
- 2) At her request, transferring Lori Sweet's Market Square membership (7276) to First Presbyterian Church of York.
- 3) At their request, reinstating Connie and Dennis Daly to Market Square's active membership roll. *Background:* Soon after they joined MSPC in 2021, they moved to North Carolina to be closer to family and asked to be removed. They have been worshipping virtually with us since then and long for a sense of belonging.

## Mission

- 4) Discussing the precarious funding situation that the International Service Center (ISC) faces due to the sudden freezing of all federal funds. Many commented on the immorality of the current administration's actions regarding refugees. It was noted that next year is the 50th anniversary of the ISC's formation and partnership with Market Square. The following recommendations were made:
  - Educating the congregation about the ISC's work
  - Examining Market Square's 2025 budget to consider what additional funds might be re-directed to the ISC
  - Seeking ways to connect the congregation with refugee families
  - Providing additional volunteer support for the ISC.
- 5) Making quarterly payments of \$7,375 to the Presbytery of Carlisle for General Mission (Total: \$27,000) and the International Service Center (Total: \$2,500).
- 6) Donating \$398.40 to the national Pentecost offering to the Presbyterian Church USA to benefit ministries with youth and young adults, and child advocacy/children at risk. *Background:* The PCUSA contacted Market Square because a member (or members) gave their Pentecost Offering directly to the PCUSA, rather than Market Square. PCUSA wrote to us asking if we wanted these funds (\$398.40) sent to us so that we could use them for the local portion of last year's Pentecost offering, or whether we would like those funds to be used at the national level. In 2024, Market Square gave its local portion (40%) of the Pentecost offering to Christ Lutheran Church's Medical Ministry.
- 7) Approving the collection of the Presbyterian Church USA's Pentecost offering on June 8, 2025, and designating Christ Lutheran Church's Medical Ministry to receive Market Square's local portion (40%).

## Outreach and Marketing

- 8) Discussing the new Outreach and Marketing Committee, chaired by Ruling Elder Nancy Snyder. Including:  
**Purpose:**  
The committee will promote, explain, and share the church's mission and values (as defined by our mission statement and core beliefs) by:

### Primary Responsibilities:

1. Coordinating and scheduling regular media postings
2. Publishing a monthly newsletter
3. Maintaining the website and social media platforms
4. Contacting visitors
5. Being a presence at community events (ex: Pride)

### Goals:

- Promoting the church's mission and values using print, website, and social media platforms
- Creating unified and branded messaging across all media platforms
- Engaging the congregation through our website, newsletters, and social media
- Encouraging and assisting church leaders in promoting church mission, advocacy, and events with the congregation and the community through media resources
- Welcoming visitors

## Arts on the Square (AOTS)

- 9) Approving a concert performance by Dr. Carol Williams at Market Square on *Sunday, August 17, 2025* at a cost of \$3,500, plus her hotel. These costs will be paid using AOTS funds on hand.

## Finance

- 10) Approving the use of up to \$500 from the Poinsettia/Lily fund to pay for the church's membership in the PA IPL. *Background:* A special offering had been approved for Earth Care Sunday on April 27, 2025 to support Market Square's membership in the PA IPL (a community of congregations, faith-based organizations, and individuals of faith, addresses climate change issues). Market Square's Ecology Action Subcommittee recommends that \$500 be sent to PA IPL to pay for the church's annual membership fee. Currently, the Poinsettia/Lily fund has an undesignated 'excess' balance of \$4,331.66.

As of March 18, 2025, there were 366 members on the church membership rolls. If you have any questions about Session activities, you may talk with me, a Session member, or one of our Pastors.



Feel free to join Market Square's Shawl Ministry on **Saturday, April 5**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Bring your knitting needles or crochet hook – we have plenty of yarn for you to use if you don't have any. AND, if you know anyone who needs something soft and warm to enfold them with love, please let one of the Shawl Ministry members know. Recipients do not have to be members of Market Square.

# Resurrection Reprise

By Donna Wenger

When I was in my senior year in college, I took a course on the Synoptic Gospels—that's the first three in the New Testament, and "synoptic" basically means a similar point of view. The Gospel of John has its own approach.

Here's where you can read the Synoptic accounts: Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28: 1-8; and Luke 24: 1-12. John goes his own way—John 20:1-13.

Note the order of the gospels above—that is not the way we would say the names—we would say Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. So why did I start with Mark? Simply said—scholars think that Mark's account was like the FIRST one recorded. Then Matthew, then Luke, and finally John. In a bit you will see why Mark's account being the first recorded is important.

So, quick review—which of the four gospel accounts tells us the details on the list of items below: WHO came to the tomb? Why did they go to the tomb? When did they go to the tomb? What did they find when they go to the tomb? If you'd like answers to the questions posed, feel free to ask me at church OR send me an email.

Now, a quick question and answer about Mark's account being thought of as the first one. The original manuscript of the Book of Mark ends this way:

*As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

It is striking that the original resurrection accounts end so unresolved. Later editors added the ending we have today.

Here's a poem I wrote a number of years ago, precisely on Mark's original ending of his gospel.

## FIRST EASTER

Mark was always breathless in the telling of the story  
Too rushed to even be bothered  
To let us know how Jesus was born  
Jumping right in to "the beginning of the Gospel"  
Crying make way, make way.

Too hurried to attend to mundane details like babies  
Crying in the night or shepherds shivering on the hillside.  
And so it comes as no surprise that Mark dispenses  
With details yet again. Right to after Sabbath sunrise  
He leads the two Marys coming to complete the burial.

Almost an idle chatting, who will roll the stone, they ask.  
Then looking up they see an open tomb. And Mark tells  
Us they were amazed. Who wouldn't be?  
Angelic assurances aside, we'd be amazed to learn  
That Christ has risen.

Is it any wonder that Mark ends abruptly the telling  
That he began without fanfare or flourish. What is  
There to say in the face of such wonder? Addenda  
Are extraneous. And we can even forgive those early  
Believers their silence and their fear.

By Donna F. W. © 2003

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*Bridge Pastor Bruce preached about the different resurrection accounts in the gospels as reflections on how we deal with the discrepancies in his sermon on October 27, 2024, "I Believe in the Resurrection." Reach out to Nancy in the office if you would like to read Bruce's sermon.*

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## Choose Clean Water Coalition

On March 5, members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) from Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia gathered in Washington, DC, for Chesapeake Bay Day on Capitol Hill to advocate for programs and funding to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Market Square Presbyterian Church became a member in February 2025, and Rev. Sandy Strauss joined the Pennsylvania delegation to urge PA legislators to support funding for local watershed programs, water quality, monitoring, conservation measures in the Farm Bill, and other efforts to clean up and preserve the Chesapeake Bay. Founded in 2009, CCWC began holding the Coalition-wide advocacy days in 2013. These days have been extremely successful in promoting bipartisan support of Chesapeake water quality programs as clean water is in the interest of individuals, recreation/tourism, and farmers alike. MSPC's Ecology Action Team looks forward to the information and education that CCWC provides for its own work in the future.

At right is a photo from one of my visits to Rep. Lloyd Smucker. The others are all from Pennsylvania, supporting several organizations.

Blessings and peace,  
**Rev. Sandra Strauss**



## Board of Trustees Safety and Security Committee Update

March began a very busy time for the House Committee! We sprang into action with some much awaited projects.

The first project to begin was the addition of a full door at the exterior entrance to the Alcove area on Blackberry Street. Previously there had been a half gate in the doorway. It is no longer effective. This new door will improve the exterior security. The door will look very similar to the doors on the front of the church. It will require some custom enclosures around it due to the space not being a standard size.

The scaffolding for Phase 2 and 3 of our masonry project began to be erected in the last two weeks of March. The masonry will begin in April and continue through August of 2025. When this is completed we will have restored all of the masonry on the exterior of the church in the last two years. This should last for at least the next thirty years with a review every five years.

The House Committee hopes to be able to clean and vent the protective glass over the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary once the masonry project is complete.

We greatly appreciate the work of Dave Volkman and Sean Meara as they tackle many projects including but not limited to: painting projects, de-cluttering and cleaning out of spaces throughout the church and organizing and cataloging our supplies.

We are working with the Safety and Security Committee to increase the lighting around the outside of the church.

The Trustees' Safety and Security Committee is taking steps to make the areas outside of Market Square Presbyterian Church safer and more welcoming, particular after dark. In addition to working with the House Committee on exterior lighting improvements, the Safety and Security Committee is finalizing plans to purchase and install an external security video camera system. The system will continuously capture and record live video of the sidewalk and entrance areas around the church building. Market Square Presbyterian Church recently was awarded a monetary grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency for these security measures. The Committee and the Board of Trustees extend their heartfelt thanks to Bridge Operations Manager Dave Volkman and to church administrator Nancy Sheets for their hard work on the grant!

A task group comprised of Market Square church leaders and staff drafted a written protocol for emergencies which require evacuation of the church building. The draft was shared with Inspector Ronald Gallatin of the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire, who recently met with members of the group and offered his suggestions and comments on the draft plan. Inspector Gallatin's remarks are being incorporated into a final version of the written plan.

By now you may have noticed that each of Market Squares outside entrances have been numbered. A placard displaying a specific number has been affixed next to the door to which it has been assigned. Door numbering is designed to help first responders quickly identify and access the correct door during an emergency situation. Soon, numbered placards will be placed next to each exit door on the interior of the church.

Other safety enhancements include the recent purchase of carbon monoxide detectors for each floor of the building.

**Phyllis Mooney, Chair**  
**John Dickinson, Safety / Security Committee Chair**

## Stewardship

YTD Actual . . . . . \$76,325  
YTD Budget . . . . . \$80,000  
**Deficit . . . . . -\$3,675**

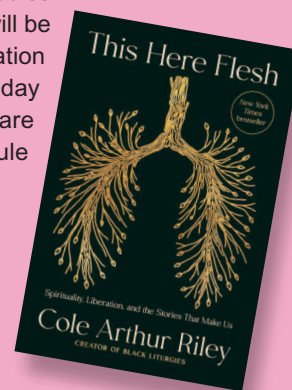
## Have you included the church in your estate planning?



Support the church for future generations. Contact John Dame for more information at [jdame@damemanagementstrategies.com](mailto:jdame@damemanagementstrategies.com)

## Adult Forum Schedule for April

For the first half of April we will continue with our Lenten book study of Cole Arthur Riley's *This Here Flesh*. We will continue exploring the wisdom of the theological insights Cole Arthur Riley explores in the stories of her lived experience and her family. In doing this we will also respond to Arthur Riley's invitation to explore our own stories and name the way God's love and presence is woven into the fabric of our lives and bodies. Our last two sessions will be held in the Adult Education Room at 9:30 on Sunday morning. The themes are listed in the schedule below:



- April 6:** Rest
- April 13:** Repair
- April 20:** Easter Sunday  
- No Adult Forum
- April 27:** Earth Sunday

The Ecology Action Committee will host the Earth Day Adult Forum on April 27. Please come to learn more about the Plastic Pollution Crisis. Plastics are here to stay – in medical equipment, home appliances, car parts, etc. But they are also present in our food, in our tap water and bottled water, in the air we breathe. Plastics directly affect our health and have been found in the lungs, blood, brain, placenta, fetus, and on and on. But we can be proactive in decreasing the amount of plastics in our everyday lives. Come to learn more about this issue and how you can take steps to decrease the direct effects of plastic on your life.

**Pastor Allison**

## Legislative Advocacy

Thanks to Cindy Bendroth for forwarding Ryan Dowd's message from [homelesslibrary.com](http://homelesslibrary.com), an online de-escalation training for library staff who interact with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Ryan Dowd has worked most of his career running homeless shelters. Currently, he works at the second largest homeless shelter in Illinois. He trains libraries around the country (and world) on how to work with difficult homeless patrons, using the same tools that homeless shelters employ. He is the author of the ALA book, *"The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness."*

A few years ago, I gave up "cynicism," "inaction," "powerlessness" and "apathy" for Lent. I was tired of feeling helpless in the face of what was happening to our country. I needed to do something more than just complain on social media. For 40 days I called a legislator's office every day. I gave my input on a relevant policy issue or bill. Unfortunately, my perfectionism made it too time-consuming and challenging to continue the 1/day calls indefinitely. We oftentimes complicate advocacy so much that we don't do anything. As Voltaire reportedly said, "perfect is the enemy of good."

### If you disagree with our government's actions

Don't vent your frustration to the echo chamber that is social media. Write a legislator. Here's a simple guide to how to do it...

### A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

**STEP 1:** Find out your congressional representatives by putting your home address into here: <https://shorturl.at/BTa1i> It will give you the names and contact info for your state's two senators and your area's House rep.

**STEP 2:** Send one message to one of them. Their websites have simple forms to give your opinion. Don't make it so complicated or difficult that you never do it.

**STEP 3:** Next week send another message to one of the other two. Keep this up for a year and you will have contacted congress 52 times with little effort.

### Practical tips:

- Keep your message short. Long messages don't get read.
- Keep your email to a single issue. State VERY clearly what bill, Executive Order or issue you are writing about.
- Be polite. Rudeness—even if well deserved—gets ignored.
- Add a single sentence as to why the issue is personal to you. Don't ramble.

**IMPORTANT:** A part of your mind will be cynical. It will tell you "they won't read this" or "one person doesn't matter." Ignore it.

Congressional offices LITERALLY keep a "score" of how their constituents feel so they can decide which issues are worth fighting for (and which are not!). They assume that one person writing to them represents the opinions of multiple people who didn't take the time to write.

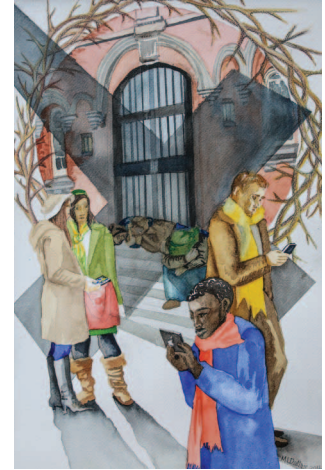
### TEMPLATE

Dear [Senator \*\*\* or Representative \*\*\*],  
I am concerned about [insert bill, executive order or issue here].  
I am [against/for] it.  
This is important to me because [insert single sentence here].  
Thank you for your service to our country.  
Sincerely,  
[Your Name]

Again, don't overcomplicate this. It will take 5 minutes to send a single email. Do it right now...



**Our Core Values  
in Art:  
Visualizing Faith,  
Community,  
Compassion,  
Justice & Service**



**Sunday, March 16 – June 1, 2025**

**Arts on the Square Gallery** opened a special group exhibition in Geneva Hall and the Atrium on Sunday, March 16, featuring a variety of art works created by Market Square Presbyterian Church members and friends. The group show, **Our Core Values in Art**, will be on display through Sunday, June 1, 2025.

The exhibition's theme is derived from Market Square Church's shared core values which were identified by the congregation in 2024: faith, community, compassion, justice, and service. Each participating artist submitted 1-2 works exemplifying or reflecting their impressions of the core values. Represented in painting, photography, fabric & fiber, three-dimensional works, as well as poetry, the core values are creatively expressed as living words rather than words on a page.

The artists include: Irene Appleyard • Adam Bateman • Georgia Earp • Mary Lou Dallam • Bob Garrett • Beth Hager • Susan Hoover • Ann Lehman • Kevin Long • Carol Mayer • Roger Olson • Barbara Passeri-Warfel • Ron Poorman • Ashley Robinson • John Robinson • Susanne Robinson • Chuck Smith • Elaine Wilson

Exhibits Coordinator Beth Hager and artist Barbara Passeri-Warfel installed **Our Core Values in Art** for **Arts on the Square Gallery**. The opening exhibit reception on March 16 was hosted by Ashley and Joe Robinson.

**Arts on the Square Gallery** presents three exhibits annually to showcase creativity and artworks by church members, friends, and special guests.

**Arts on the Square Gallery** exhibitions are sponsored in 2024-25 by John K. Robinson in memory of Rachel Robinson Bair.

*For info contact: Beth Hager, Arts on the Square Exhibits Coordinator, [bahager@earthlink.net](mailto:bahager@earthlink.net)*

### Above artwork:

*Remembering a special artist and church member who is no longer with us, we are very pleased to include an evocative watercolor by Mary Lou Dallam. She painted "In the Shadow of the Cross: Jesus Weeps at Our Indifference" for a Good Friday Service at Market Square in 2016.*

**Market Square Presbyterian Church**  
**20 South Second Street**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17101**  
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**Lizzie Camilli**, *Nursery Caregiver*  
**Steve Jackson**, *Parking/Events Staff*  
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## HOLY WEEK AT MARKET SQUARE

**April 13**

Palm/Passion Sunday

9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. English Language Worship Service

**April 17**

Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

**April 18**

Good Friday 7:00 p.m.

**April 20**

Easter Sunday

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service on City Island  
9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. English Language Worship Service

## Sunday Services

Korean Language Service—9:30 a.m.  
in Davis Chapel.  
Sermons on YouTube  
([link on the church website's](#)  
[Worship page](#)).

English Language Service—11:00 a.m.  
in the sanctuary.  
The service is livestreamed on our YouTube  
channel <https://shorturl.at/xeBHi>

The button for the livestream is at the  
top of the homepage of our website.  
[www.marketsquarechurch.org](http://www.marketsquarechurch.org)



## OUR MISSION

TO PROCLAIM AND LIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST BY WELCOMING FRIEND AND STRANGER ALIKE INTO OUR DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE FAMILY OF FAITH REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, OR WORLDLY CONDITION OF ANY KIND AS WE CELEBRATE OUR GIFTS, WORK FOR JUSTICE, PEACE, AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, REACH OUT IN MISSION, AND WITNESS TO GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE.