

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2017

THE LINK



MAY 2017

Let the past go as new life begins this spring

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus!

Spring is here and brings the rebirth of nature--new beginnings. The crocus breaks through the ground with purple blooms, the bright yellow daffodils open up in a blast of color after the drabness of winter. The dogwoods and redbuds bloom and birds begin to sing.

Spring time reminds us that God's children cannot afford to remain stuck in the past- whether good or bad. If you are "stuck" in a particular time period of your past, you have difficulty seeing the new things that God is wanting to "spring forth" today. It is better just to forget some things that are hindering your life from "springing forth" with

new things.

Look ahead for new miracles that will overshadow the old ones. Isaiah tells them, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! God is saying to you today, "I want to

do a new thing in your life. I want it to spring forth now." God wants us to look ahead to new miracles in our life that will overshadow the old ones. I remind you that spring is here. Answers to prayer are beginning to happen.

Many of you have prayed for a long time about things and you haven't seen any answers yet to your prayers. You might be tempted to be discouraged

and be ready to give up hope. The people in Isaiah's time probably felt this way too.

What we identify as impossible barriers in our lives are no problem for the Lord. God has the same power to deal with rivers, mountains, or the barren desert. Why do you think that He can't handle your problems? I declare to you that our God is able! I declare that "Spring is ready to burst forth" giving an indication of its rapidity. Once God begins to answer our prayers, it can happen very quickly. I declare that it's time to begin thanking God in advance for doing a "new thing" in your life.

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take Him at His Word;*

*Just to rest upon His promise,
just to know "Thus saith the Lord."*

By
Rev. Dr.
Peter E. Grinion



Worship Servants

May 7

Communion

Invocation: Clara White
Scripture: Mary Bailey
Offering: Clara White
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Roberta Miller
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Roberta Miller

May 14

Invocation: Leanna Shirley
Scripture: Don Peoples
Offering: Leanna Shirley
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Roberta Miller
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Debbie Covill

May 21

Family Sunday

*Noisy offering for
David & Michelle Heed*

Invocation: Betty Heisig
Scripture: Ryan Scurlock
Offering: Betty Heisig
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Roberta Miller
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Potluck

May 28

Invocation: Clara White
Scripture: Anne Greco
Offering: Clara White
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Roberta Miller
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Kathy Gosnell

Trustees training 101

ABC/RGR Executive Minister Rev. Alan will conduct a trustees training beginning with supper at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 3. All are invited. If you are a trustee, if you ever were a trustee, or if you might someday be willing to serve on that essential board, please come.

In past years, recruiting for trustees has been difficult because people feel uncertain about what their duties might entail. They suspect they will be asked to make financial decisions and -- worse yet -- church repairs. Now is your chance to learn the role of the trustees and the supports available to make your service successful.

Come even if you are determined you will never be a trustee. You will learn more about the governance of the church and the important function of other parts of the body it is so easy to take for granted.

Plus you can enjoy supper.

Mother's Day Lunch set

Attention mothers, daughters, aunts, and friends! Be sure to sign up for the Mother's Day Luncheon to be held at the church at noon Saturday, May 13. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to bring a friend or relative, please let organizer Patricia Floyd know.

Women from the Henrietta Senior Center and some residents at Woodcrest Commons have been invited as guests.

We're a sacred site

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 20, WHBC will participate in the Sacred Sites Open House sponsored by the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The goal of the open house is to make stained glass windows available to the public. The statewide event is titled "*Stained Glass: Windows on this World and the Next.*"

Help clean up on Saturday, May 6

The Trustees have called a Work Day for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6. There will be something for everyone to do.



Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at Peppermints

Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

Choir Practice

6 p.m. Thursdays

Bible Study

7 p.m. Thursdays

Trustees Training

6 p.m. May 3 at church
Starting with supper

Mission Committee

3 p.m. May 5 at church

Work Day

10 a.m. Saturday, May 6

Deacons' Meetings

10 a.m. May 11 at Leanna's

Mother's Day Lunch

Noon, May 13 at the church

Trustees' Meeting

6:30 Tuesday, May 16

Sacred Sites Open House

10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 20

Noisy Offering & Family Sunday Potluck

May 21

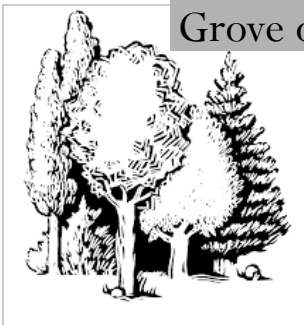
Cabinet Meeting

6:30 p.m. May 30

Easter Sunday 2017 at WHBC



Grove of Grace



Vacation Vista

The clouds floating, fluffy white
 Dream vacations come in sight--
 Finding trailways in the sky
 Visualizing with a sigh!
 God's creation vast to see,
 Sings a teasing melody.
 Climb some mountains peak to peak,
 Fun to vision views to seek,
 Anywhere I choose to go,
 God stays with me -- promised so!
 Lovely scenery tempts to try
 Valleys low to blue skies high!
 Dare to Dream!

*

Absolutely Awesome

The majesty of Nature
 Reigns on eternally
 Proclaiming our Creator
 Will never cease to be!

Bright blooms wake up the forests
 Sweet music cheers the air;
 Birds wing up from cozy nests --
 See creatures everywhere!

The earth is filled with glory
 Awaiting eyes to see
 And tell their own heart story
 Of thankful melody.

*"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power
 and the glory forever -- Matt. 6:13*

By Mrs. Evelyn M. Shoots
April 2017

The church needs dialogue in this factious age

We live in a factious age made even more so because of the 2016 Presidential election. Families have been torn apart. A rift has developed between lifelong friends. Even churches have experienced divisions in ways not experienced before.

Ministers have reported difficulty in preaching in the face of such divisions in fear that if they dare risk to bringing the Gospel to bear on current events a sizeable sector of their congregation will be offended and walk. Also, not saying anything at all about the present-day proceedings will result in another sector's annoyance and departure.

Clearly, Jesus did not shy away from speaking God's truth, even when doing so brought down the wrath of his home congregation upon him. But he also spent the next three years outside of religious institutions, choosing instead to go out to the people in their homes, workplaces and in the countryside. He went directly to the people. I would not suggest that the answer is to abandon the church to remain true to the call-



By:
 Rev. Alan Newton
Executive Minister
ABCRGR

ing to preach the Gospel freely as the soul convicts one to preach.

What I

do suggest is that we look to the other ways that Jesus built bridges between the divisions in his culture. Jesus created safe spaces for dialogue, dialogue that usually resulted in transformation. I believe that should we risk conversation across divided lines we will discover that most people share the same values.

Occasionally these shared values become transparent in our response to tragedy and suffering; a response that is uniformly compassionate. Yet, we need not wait for tragedy to be brought together. Our unity in Jesus Christ should sufficiently motivate us to hang together and work toward common understanding.

Blessings to you,

Rev. Alan Newton

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Editor's Note: This article was first published in the May 2017 monthly newsletter of Rochester Genesee Region American Baptist Churches.