



The United Methodist Church

**New CreationCommunity Church**

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[www.newcreationforyou.com](http://www.newcreationforyou.com)

**Kurt Herzberg, Pastor**

**Worship Hours:**

**-Traditional Sunday, 8am**

**-Contemporary 10:30am**

**Church Office Hours: by Appointment**

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**Mission:** Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Vision:** To be a memorial to the community that God is mighty.

**Strategy:** Promoting "Community Groups" that are "Connecting Church to Home."

We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

*Joseph Campbell*

# March 2024



## **BUDGETING YOUR LIFE**

Pastor Kurt Herzberg

By my own testimony, and others in the church, it has certainly gotten harder financially the last few years. I hear of, read of, and experience this truth regularly. As a pastor, I'm always interested in how the sobering facts of life impact our faith. How do you balance buying food, paying down debt, and supporting the church? During Lent, we are reminded of our struggle between lived experiences and faith. Certainly, faithful stewardship in finances is a place of practical struggle and also a place of spiritual discernment.

I was part of several conversations on this subject this past week. Specifically, defining the acts of service, tithing and offering to God appears to be a needed conversation for our discipleship.

Let me preface this article by saying financial gifts and service to the church through spiritual gifts and graces are all wonderful and needed things for the Kingdom of God. We just studied this in Bible study in 1 Corinthians. So, thank you where you have given! Both areas are considered forms of worship to God.

Serving, like volunteering time, is worship because you're dedicating your time and talents to bless others and bless the Lord. Jesus said that whatever we do to serve others in need we do for Him. It's absolutely a generous act toward the Lord.

Tithing is also a form of worship. I hope you understand that! Your financial gift to God, given to the church, is worship because it reveals your trust in Him to provide, not the money. Matthew 6:24 says you can't serve two masters, money and God. So, tithing prioritizes God over money .

We all want to be generous, and serve the church and the kingdom. The question is "Is giving service to the church equivalent to giving money?" because we sometimes see service as a "budgeting" alternative to money. Are they equivalent? Not by biblical definition.

What is a tithe? First of all, the tithe was a requirement of the Jewish people in the Old Testament. It was a required 10% offering of first fruits which we would consider income today. It doesn't apply specifically to the New Testament church, although it's the church's generally accepted standard for proper giving today. From a budgeting standpoint, most would balk at this requirement since the average

amount of giving is 2% in the church. Jesus argues that the tithe should not be neglected, but He expresses that in all giving to the Kingdom, it's a matter of faithfulness. The question is "When giving anything for the Lord, is 10% effort, okay?" That does not sound like Luke 14:27 that says we are to bear our cross in suffering as Jesus did. A recent comment in our church leadership meeting was that "To give less than your best is to sacrifice your gift." The spiritual bar for a tithe is set high. By practice, the church has proliferated a rate that is low compared to Jesus' teaching. Regardless, 10% is the accepted baseline for giving. And if we rely on the Old Testament standard, which we do, there is no substitute for the tithe, which leads to our next definition.

What is an offering? An offering is anything given above the tithe. While I often frame our "offering" time in a service as receiving "tithes and offerings", the goal of that specific time is to meet the tithe. Offerings are icing on the cake! Honestly, most congregations never meet that burden. We take some solace that after the tithe, the Bible promotes giving both your money and your time, especially if you don't have the ability to give above your tithe. But again, the offering of money or time kicks in after the tithe.

While money is important to the ministry systems of the modern church, I can't emphasize enough the importance of giving time to the church. It has many benefits related to day-to-day function of the church, relationships inside and outside the church, and the sanctification and maturity of individuals. We can survive without money (if we chose to minister that way, but we don't, so we need money for our budget just like any other family!), but we can't survive without the exercise of the gifts and graces of all the parts of the body of Christ!

Ultimately, it's all a matter of faithfulness... the discernment of how you live faithfully in light of sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In every area of your life, this is the question. But you must begin with a proper understanding of scripture, so I hope this helps you in your own spiritual discernment!

## Honoring Christ's Great Gift to Us

When you honor someone, you step away from your daily routine, those tasks and activities we go through on autopilot, to things that require attentive planning and focus, with attention paid to that someone. Families sometimes have their own Easter traditions—special menus, houses or nursing homes to visit, special clothes that are almost comfortable, crafts and decorations, resisting the urge to go in to work.

We know that Easter, especially, is all about the ultimate gift from Jesus to us. The one that we could never reciprocate, except to devote our lives to growing closer to God, learning what he wants from and for us, and praising and showing gratitude for him.

If you look at this month's calendar\* on the last page, you will see there are many opportunities to come and worship in March, including Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday evening, and a sunrise service on Easter Sunday. (Yes, my youth friends, God will already be up and here waiting for you if you take the challenge to do something extra at that hour for Him!) There are 3 actual worship services on Easter morning—sunrise, plus the 2 we are used to, including the traditional at 8 and the contemporary or informal service at 10:30

\*I have yet to get the calendar perfectly right, but I want to, & I'm thankful for those who let me know of corrections I can make for the next issue.



Margie

## Glory to God in our Church



Beautiful cathedrals, right?

Each one took years to build, requiring the skills and artistry of hundreds of stone masons, carpenters, glass artists, sculptors... Nothing was too good for this chance to show the world the glory of God.

Today, we are still trying to show how magnificent God is, through our symbols and architecture, and even technology. We've coined the term "megachurches," & many are bigger than our local auditoriums. Ok, you're right—the one on the left did used to be a mall that went defunct, so the church bought it and are moving in. Better than going to waste, right? And they are beautiful! I'm thinking New Creation could fit in one section of seats!



&



Also today: my favorite kind of church: smaller, so you're going to be noticed when you visit and a tour of the building won't take all afternoon! LOL And busy! I probably should have used this



photo:----->

No great stone gargoyles. No ushers making sure you sit in your assigned section. Actually, not even pews to sit in! Just fairly comfortable chairs. We do our best to make visitors and each other feel wanted, welcome, and, well, safe. To do that, we strive to

keep the place clean and maintained; hence, the helping hands days coming up (March 9th and April 6th). One thing that has driven us all crazy has been the constant fight to keep the sanctuary carpet clean. We went with carpet tiles this time, so if any got hit hard with spills, we could pull them up to be heavy-duty cleaned, and we recently purchased a small spot cleaner/shampooer, but we have a LOT of carpet squares!. However, maybe an ounce of prevention?

So...not wanting to see Wade without morning coffee, we invested in lids for the coffee cups. Of COURSE you may bring your coffee into the service. As your brain cells wake up, you'll probably make more sense out of what your neighbor says during the passing of the peace! Just, please—grab a lid. Keep your favorite warm beverage warm longer, and our lovely carpet clean a bit longer at the same time.



**UPCOMING EVENTS!**  
 NEW CREATION COMMUNITY CHURCH  
 3005 EMIG MILL RD., DOVER, PA  
 WORSHIP SUNDAYS 8AM & 10:30AM

**SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW**  
 INDOOR/OUTDOOR  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 8AM-2PM

scrapbook  
 MORE  
 APRIL 13, 9AM-3PM  
 \$25 - 2 meals, table  
 All types of crafters welcome!

VBS JUNE 10-14  
 6-8pm  
 THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY  
 (All Kids Christen Here Receive 10 Bonuses)

MAY 25, 8AM-2PM  
 Spaces available for \$15  
**YARD SALE**  
 Call 717.764.0252, leave message!  
 MORE EVENT INFO @ [www.newcreationforyou.com](http://www.newcreationforyou.com), 717.764.0252



Child care  
 Pet care  
 Housekeeping

Share with your friends and family!  
 Please comment or personal message me if interested!

My name is Kylee, I am 15 years old and in 9th grade at Dover Area High School. I would love to spend time with your little ones and/or take care of your furry friends.

I have experience and will follow any expectations/rules for your child.



Celebrating Our Connection Through Prayer

The SUSUMC Circle of Prayer will be back providing lists of churches and centers of worship for us to pray for in a few weeks. In the meantime, there are others equally in need of prayer.

The Foster Kids' Program, including

- The kids who are moving into new homes with unknown people, missing their families
- The foster parents, who may or may not know the trauma the kids have lived through
- The neighbors and churches who may feel a call to be supportive, to help with tutoring, lending an ear to a child or parent, or offering a ride or supplies sometimes
- The administrators who need to make tough decisions on behalf of all participants.

Local free literacy programs, for those who help others learn English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language or learn to read and write at a proficient level, and for the brave and determined adults who push through their obstacles to learn

Local sports programs for kids—especially those based on Christian beliefs.

- For kind and nurturing coaches who invest in each kid's potential
- For parents who commit to sports schedules
- For kids who keep trying, and keep soaking up God's word and love

Pastors and their families, for countless hours spent in devotion to God and to their churches, using every spiritual gift they have and taking care of each other and of people in every walk of life at every age

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Mary Geiselman  
3/3 Solomon Nero  
3/5 Karen Wallace  
3/5 Mariah Linn  
3/8 Bart Pyle



3/9 Drew Hufnagle

3/12 Josie Kroft  
3/17 Jamie Mulhollen  
3/17 Kaleb Mulhollen  
3/24 Aida Durgen

## JOSHUA 4:24: STORIES OF GOD'S MIGHTY POWER



Each month this column gives witness of how God has impacted persons through the ministries of New Creation Community Church. The hope is that you are encouraged to participate in touching the community through our church ministries and support it faithfully with your finances. If you would like to offer your story, please see the pastor! This month we thank Mr. Charles Billet, commonly known as CJ, for his testimony:

In 2019, CJ met his future wife Heather, and her two girls. He's not bashful to testify he's been an alcoholic and partier all his life. But in 2018, he ended that season of his life. He prayed to God to be healed of the addiction. He woke up one day and quit "cold turkey". He was prepared for the difficult journey of withdrawal, but it never came. He says "It's a miracle, thanks be to God!" Not only that, his doctor, who knew of his alcoholism, reported he had no liver or other physical damage from drinking. They had a laugh when CJ told the doctor, "You must have my medical results mixed up with somebody else!" Again, CJ says it is the Lord who protected Him. He was a Christian all his life, but grew closer to God with the start of sobriety. He believes that God helped him stop drinking to prepare himself for his new wife and step-daughters, who mean the world to him.

After marriage, CJ began living across the street from New Creation Community Church. He and his stepdaughters have visited during our church community events like the car show and fall festival and talked to the pastor, and his step-daughters would ride their bikes in the church parking lot on occasion.

But CJ first actually entered the doors of the church to attend Griefshare. CJ is not only mourning the recent passing of his wife in January, but also grieves over losing custody of his girls as a result. Please pray for Charles as he endures this incredibly difficult loss of his family.

CJ also recently attended worship with us for the first time. He thanks New Creation Community Church for its presence in the community. He appreciates its community outreach, GriefShare, personal calls, and bible study and worship, all of which have given him hope and a closer relationship with God.



PS: If you need a DJ, consider Charles!



March 15<sup>th</sup>  
6-9 pm Bring a game and a snack to share! Fun & laughter guaranteed!

## PERSPECTIVE OF THE YOUTH

By Mariah Linn

👉 (^▽^\*)

Well it's March, meaning St. Patricks Day & Easter, amongst a few other things. Holidays change as well as the weather, but it's never the wrong time to keep an eye on our mental health. It's how **The holidays change, and so does the weather, but it's never the wrong season to keep an eye on our mental health. It's how we remember to love ourselves and our neighbors, as we were commanded to do. Last month's questions are still here, if you missed them or need a minute for a second look:**

1. Breathe in and out, and notice the emotions that are inside of you. How are you feeling, really? How are you feeling in your body? How about your mind?
2. In the past week, how often have you felt strongly: sad, angry, happy, joyful, proud, etc.?
3. Who do you talk to when you're not feeling your best? How does this person support you?
4. What's the best thing that happened to you this week? What about the worst?
5. How have you been sleeping lately? How have you been eating?
6. Have you or someone you know ever struggled with depression or anxiety? What was that experience like for them?
7. When you're feeling down or stressed, how do you like to be supported?
8. What makes you feel excited and joyful these days?
9. What are the signs that you're stressed or are needing extra support? What do you notice in yourself – what are your mental health "red flags"?
10. How are your friendships these days? When was the last time you felt lonely, and what was that like?
11. What are you doing in terms of self-care? How do you take care of yourself – both your body and your mind?
12. If you were having problems with your mental health, who would you go to for support?\*

Yes same questions as last month I know. They are important, though. It's ok to answer some instead of all.

Now let's talk about St. Patrick's Day- or more specifically the shamrock.

The holiday, which began centuries ago as the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, has become a day in which everyone gets to be Irish — in part by piling on the shamrock gear, and maybe even picking up a “Shamrock Shake” at McDonald's. (The treat is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary, a representative for the brand told TIME.) The phenomenal global popularity of the festival is largely a result of the United States' adoption of it. “There's nothing really Irish about it now,” Patrick Griffin, a history professor at Notre Dame [told TIME in 2015](#). But while the modern version of the Irish holiday may have strayed from its roots, the shamrock is authentically Irish in nature.

“It's a national emblem,” says Mike Cronin, a historian, professor and the academic director of Boston College's program in Dublin.

The three-leaf clover, a type of trefoil plant, has been considered the unofficial national flower of Ireland for centuries. Irish legend says that Saint Patrick used the shamrock as an educational symbol to explain the Holy Trinity to nonbelievers as he converted the Irish to Christianity in the fourth century. This folklore solidified in the public conscience in the centuries after Patrick's death (which is presumed to have happened on March 17). Around the 17th century, Cronin says, the shamrock's importance began to

converge with religious celebration of the saint's feast day: Those living in poverty still wanted to look nice at church, and luckily for them, an appropriate adornment was growing on the ground outside their homes.

Eventually, the tradition of wearing the shamrock continued to catch on more widely.

The Irish botanist and cleric Caleb Threlkeld wrote a [treatise on Ireland's native plants in 1726](#) that explained the shamrock as the country's national symbol, and asserted its significance in the context of St. Patrick's Day. Threlkeld wrote: “This Plant is worn by the People in their Hats upon the 17. Day of March yearly, (which is called St. Patrick's Day.)” Continuing to explain why the plant was relevant that day, specifically,

**Get Egged!!**

no peanut candy unless told otherwise!

candy filled eggs delivered & hidden in your yard for Easter morning!

message if needed details on how you want them hidden (how hard/ how easy)

12 eggs = \$10	24 eggs = \$20	36 eggs = \$30
48 eggs = \$40	60 eggs = \$50	

contact me : 717-666-2880

money can be paid in cash or cashapp-\$kyleymulhollen

eggs will be scattered evening of March 30th

Threlkeld said, "It being a Current Tradition, that by this Three Leafed Grass, he emblematically set forth to them the Mystery of the Holy Trinity." (The writer then goes on to remark on the "debauchery" and "excess in liquor" that was partaken in on that sacred day.)

When a [wave of Irish immigrants](#) came to the U.S. in the 18th century, there were no shamrocks growing in New York or Boston or San Francisco. So, while they celebrated their heritage with parties and parades, they substituted the [color green](#) and images of the shamrock for the plant itself.

The first U.S. St. Patrick's Day parade was celebrated in Boston in the 1760s, according to Samantha Bradbeer, historian and archivist for Hallmark. So when Hallmark looked to honor St. Patrick's Day in the 1920s, the design they should use on their greeting cards was clear. "The most popular symbol was the shamrock," Bradbeer told TIME in an email. The company actually started with postcards of shamrocks in 1910-1915, before making official cards for the holiday itself, she says.

With the plant established as a symbol of Ireland, Irish brands caught on and helped spread the idea around the world. Irish airline Aer Lingus, for example, adopted the shamrock as its logo. Even when the company rebranded this January, its CEO [made clear](#) that the shamrock wasn't going anywhere. "The Irish emblem has been at the heart of the Aer Lingus brand for more than 80 years, and it will continue to sit proudly across all of our aircraft," he said in a statement.

The shamrock remains one of the most popular symbols used on Hallmark products and cards for St. Patrick's Day, and of course, Bradbeer says, all of the products focus on the color green. The Greeting Card Association cites St. Patrick's Day as the ninth-largest card-sending holiday in the U.S., and Bradbeer says approximately 7 million cards are expected to be exchanged this year.

Though Cronin says the way we regard the shamrock as a symbol of St. Patrick's Day has lost its religious meaning, it seems that the value of the shamrock itself is not going anywhere.\*\*

Did you know that Easter wasn't originally a Christian holiday and its date was changed?

In 325AD the first major church council, the Council of Nicaea, determined that Easter should fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. That is why the date moves and why Easter festivities are often referred to as "moveable feasts". "There's a defined period between March 25 and April 25 on which Easter Sunday must fall, and that's determined by the movement of the planets and the Sun," Professor Cusack said.

In most countries in Europe, the name for Easter is derived from the Jewish festival of Passover. "So in Greek the feast is called Pascha, in Italian Pasqua, in Danish it is Paaske, and in French it is Paques," Professor Cusack said. But in English-speaking countries, and in Germany, Easter takes its name from a pagan goddess from Anglo-Saxon England who was described in a book by the eighth-century English monk Bede. "Eostre was a goddess of spring or renewal and that's why her feast is attached to the vernal equinox," Professor Cusack said. "In Germany the festival is called Ostern, and the goddess is called Ostara."\*\*\*

In *A History of Christianity* (vol. 1), Kenneth Scott Latourette states that notice of Easter as a festival occurs in the middle of the second century, but that festivals commemorating the resurrection of the Messiah were presumably observed by at least some Christians from much earlier times (p. 137). Philip Schaff also attributes the beginning of the Easter festival to the middle of the second century (*History of the Christian Church*, vol. 2, p. 207). He states that the Christian Passover naturally grew out of the Jewish Passover, as the Lord's Day (Sunday) grew out of the Sabbath. "It is based on the view that Christ crucified and risen is the centre of faith. The Jewish Christians would very naturally from the beginning continue to celebrate the legal Passover, but in the light of its fulfillment by the sacrifice of Christ, and would dwell chiefly on the aspect of the crucifixion. The Gentile Christians, for whom the Jewish Passover had no meaning except through reflection on the cross, would chiefly celebrate the Lord's resurrection as they did on every Sunday of the week." He notes that the early Christians commemorated the entire period between the death and resurrection of Jesus with vigils, fasting, special devotions, meetings culminating in a resurrection feast celebrating the whole work of redemption. The feast of the resurrection gradually became the most prominent aspect of the Christian Passover (Easter celebration), but the crucifixion continued to be celebrated on Good Friday" (Ibid., pp. 207-208).



Christians universally kept the Passover on the biblical date of Abib (also known as Nisan) 14/15, irrespective of the day of the week until a.d. 135 according to leading Sabbath scholar Prof. Samuele Bacchiocchi quoting the fourth century Christian historian Ephiphanius (*From Sabbath to Sunday*, p. 81). “This conclusion,” continues Bacchiocchi, “is supported indirectly by the two earliest documents mentioning the Passover celebration since both emphasize the commemoration of the death rather than the resurrection of Christ. The Ethiopic version of the apocryphal *Epistle of the Apostles* [or *Didache*] says, ‘and you therefore celebrate the remembrance of my death, i.e, the Passover’ (ch. 15). In the Coptic version the passage is basically the same, ‘And you remember my death. If now the Passover takes place ...’ (chap. 15)’ (Ibid., p. 82).

The second document that attests to the early church’s emphasis on the death rather than the resurrection of Jesus is the Sermon on the Passover, by Melito, Bishop of Sardis (died ca. a.d. 190). According to Bacchiocchi, Melito provides most extensive theological interpretations of the meaning of the Passover for early Christians. “Though Melito makes a few passing references to the resurrection, it is clear from the context that these function as the epilogue of the passion drama of the Passover. The emphasis is indeed on the suffering and death of Jesus which constitute the recurring theme of the sermon and of the celebration” (Ibid., p. 83).

“The resurrection,” Bacchiocchi admits, “however, did emerge in time as the dominant reason for the celebration not only of the annual Easter-Sunday, but also of the weekly Sunday. The two festivities, in fact,... came to be regarded as one basic feast commemorating at different times the same event of the resurrection.” Bacchiocchi concludes,

It would seem therefore that though the resurrection is frequently mentioned both in the New Testament and in the early patristic literature, no suggestion is given that primitive Christians commemorated the event by a weekly or yearly Sunday service. The very fact that Passover, which later become the annual commemoration of the resurrection held on Easter-Sunday, initially celebrated primarily Christ’s passion [death] and was observed on the fixed date of Nisan [Abib] 15 rather than on Sunday, makes it untenable to claim that Christ’s resurrection determined the origin of Sunday worship during the lifetime of the Apostles. (Ibid. p. 84)

Sources:

\* [25 Mental Health Check-In Questions | Calm Classroom](https://blog.calmclassroom.com), <https://blog.calmclassroom.com>

\*\*[Why a Shamrock Is a Symbol of St. Patrick's Day and Ireland | TIME](https://time.com), <https://time.com>

\*\*\*[Origin of Easter: From pagan festivals and Christianity to bunnies and chocolate eggs - ABC News](https://www.abc.net.au)  
<https://www.abc.net.au>







\*\*\*\* [When did the early church begin celebrating Easter? | Hoshana Rabbah Blog](https://hoshanarabbah.org)  
[Hoshana Rabbah Blog https://hoshanarabbah.org](https://hoshanarabbah.org)



Can you paint a wall? Replace a counter?  
Clean upholstery? Patch a wallboard?

All who have general maintenance skills are  
NEEDED for a time of fellowship and work  
on March 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8 am, to help  
improve our church’s appearance and  
structure. Join us! There will be plenty of  
folks to help you polish those skills.

## March 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 GriefShare luncheon @ Lyndon	5 Morning Glory study group 9 am Men's Accountability group 6:30pm New Testament Study 6"30 pm	6 Youth Group 6-7:30	7 GriefShare 4-5:30 Praise Team 6 pm; Choir Practice 7:15	8	9 Church Helping Hands 8 am
10 Daylight Savings Time 	11 WIC Bible study 6:30-8 pm	12 Men's Accountability group 6:30pm New Testament study 9:30 am Daycare Board 6 pm	13	14 GriefShare 4-5:30 Praise Team 6 Choir Practice 7:15	15 Church Game Night! 6-9 pm 	16
17 St Patrick's Day 	18 Finance 7 pm	19 Morning Glory Bible study 9am Men's Accountability Group 6:30pm NT Study 6:30	20 Youth Group 6-7:30	21 Griefshare 4 pm Praise Team 6 pm Choir Practice 7:15	22	23
24 Egg Hunt Donations Due	25 WIC Bible Study 6:30-8	26 Men's Accountability Group 6:30 NT Group 6:30	27 Praise Team 6 pm Choir practice 7:15 SEND Extended 7 pm	28 Maundy Thursday Meal at 6 Service at 7 	29 Good Friday Service 	30 Easter Egg Hunt 10-noon 
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: purple;">31 Happy Easter! 3 services this morning.</p>						



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Deadline for the April newsletter is Wednesday, March. 27th. Please send your articles, photos, or information to Margie at [Quiltgrand133@gmail.com](mailto:Quiltgrand133@gmail.com). Thank you!