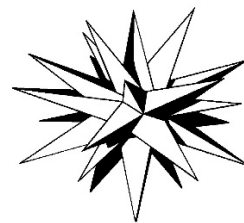


# A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

1830 Butztown Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18017  
610-868-6481



# The Star

Volume 64, No. 4

April 2021



## *A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser*

### RESURRECTION – Sharing Good News!

It is interesting to look at the gospel stories immediately following the Resurrection. In those first accounts, Jesus was unrecognizable, even by his closest friends. Jesus was right there alongside of them, but they could not see him. In John's gospel, Mary thinks Jesus is the gardener (20.15). In Luke's gospel, the disciples think Jesus is a stranger on the road to Emmaus and they only recognize him in the breaking of bread (24.31). In Matthew's story, Jesus looks like lightening (28.3). From these stories, it is fair to say that when Jesus was raised from the dead, it was not simply an act of resuscitation, (where something is restored and returns to business as usual). What happens here is RESURRECTION...something former becomes made new. This is indeed Good News. Because just as God raised Jesus to new life, we too, along with all of creation, are being made new. We might not feel new, even when the Easter proclamation, "The Lord is Risen" is just freshly out of our mouths. For some, it is now a struggle to begin to come out of isolation and to rediscover how to be in the presence of others without fear. For others, news headlines leave us stunned and confused, not knowing what to do. We live with the reality of hardship and pain in this lifetime. Difficult news comes to us every day with power, and it can cause people to see the Good News of the Resurrection as an idle

tale....some long ago narrative that has lost its place among reality. We would settle for a breath of fresh air, an act of resuscitation to lift us up from the ways that life can bring us down. But God speaks so much more into our lives through faith in Jesus Christ, and through our relationship with others who believe.

Resurrection...new life, happens all around us. Look to see it in creation; in greening grass, bulbs beginning to bloom, and buds on trees. Resurrection...new life... Look to see it taking shape in the church as we begin to re-assemble in person and work towards strengthening relationships within the congregation and with our neighbors. Resurrection...new life....Look to see it in your own life. Do you recognize the presence of God in your midst summoning you to some kind of personal resurrection/new life? Where is it that you see the presence of God showing up? During this season of Easter we will explore how Jesus appeared and is appearing in our lives and in our world. Those appearances indeed change people, change situations, change our world, and make all things new. Join us in hearing and living into the Resurrection.

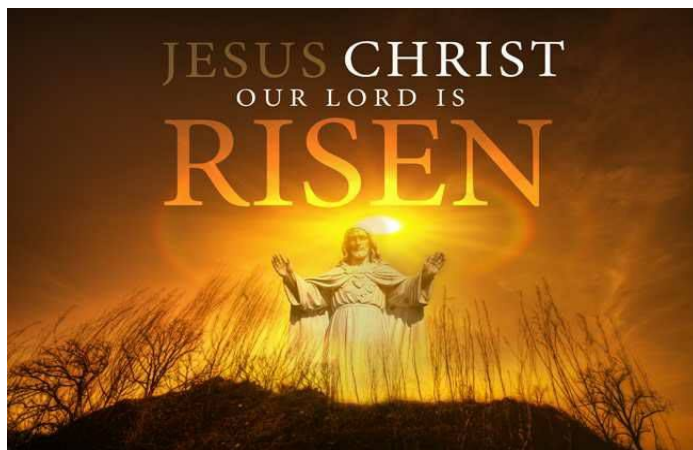
Blessings to you this Easter season and always,

Pastor Linda

*Pastor Linda*



**For Pastoral Care:** Contact Pastor Linda via email at [pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org](mailto:pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org), via phone or text message at 484-764-8629.





## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday  
Dramatic Reading and Service of Holy  
Communion Zoom Worship at 7:00 PM  
Please bring your own bread and juice to  
the screen.


Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Tenebrae  
Zoom Worship 7:00 PM.

Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter  
Sunrise Service outside – 6:30 AM  
**10:30 service in Family Center**  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also  
available.

Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> –  
10:30 service in Family Center  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also  
available.

Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> –  
10:30 service in Family Center  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also  
available.

Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> –  
10:30 service in Family Center  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also  
available.



## Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities



The church office is open on Mondays from 9:00 – 3:00. Remote office hours are in effect for Tuesday-Thursday. Phone messages are checked daily. Please call the office or email as needed.



**We're back in the church for worship beginning Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30! Worship will be in the Family Center so that we can continue to respect the recommended social distancing guidelines. Masks will still be required as well. We appreciate your cooperation.**



### Remote Worship Opportunities

**ZOOM link -- Dial-in by phone -- YouTube recordings**

Weekly Worship will be available live on ZOOM **Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** You may also dial in by phone or check YouTube for pre-recorded services and sermons each week.

**YouTube Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF67kjDFPgY>



**EHMC Sunday Morning Coffee Class** - EHMC is inviting you join us via ZOOM. Please use the URL below to join the meeting with your computer, tablet or phone with a microphone and webcam. If you need to download the app, please approve it and join the meeting with computer audio. **Every week on Sun. at 9:30 AM Eastern Time**



## Additional Worship Opportunities



### Calling All Parents and Kids - Sunday Morning Children's Time

We are offering a Children's Message each week during our 10:30 a.m. Zoom worship service. The Children's Message will seek to connect our scripture and sermon for the day, and help you engage your kids in the Bible stories each week. So, invite your kids to the screen at the start of the service... we look forward to seeing their bright smiles and hearing their inquisitive voices!



### SPRING LEARNING AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES:

#### Group Spiritual Companionship

Spiritual Companionship groups are a way to create a safe, sacred space where a group of 3 to 5 people can share their life journey and listen for God's movement in their lives using spiritual listening—with their hearts. This is based on methods used by the early renewed Moravian Church in the 1700's. One such group is already active at East Hills, and the church would like to start up 1-2 more groups of 3-5 people each, starting in late April or early May. They would be led by an experienced Spiritual Director, and would meet for 2 hours, monthly, for a commitment of 4-6 months.

More detailed information about how these groups work and benefit the participants can be found in the July 2018 edition of The Moravian magazine, and can be found just by typing 'Spiritual Companionship, The Moravian' in a search engine. You can access a brief YouTube presentation by Marcella Kraybill-Greggo, who is coordinating the growth of these groups for the Northern Province in the link below. Please contact Karen Montgomery at 484-894-0604 or [montgomerykaren04@gmail.com](mailto:montgomerykaren04@gmail.com) if you are interested. Also feel free to ask Jay Larson, Kevin Moyzan, or Lucy Thompson about their experiences with this type of fellowship.

A Quick Introduction to Spiritual Companionship can be found here:

<https://moravian.zoom.us/rec/share/n7ZTgf1qMKNRTLj50nQ3Umo3RYXc9lW0i0Kcxas5fe4COATeOVc-LxaKYXFIS8Xq.lrnTUoeMwYvYConV>

Passcode: w@GUF4Wv





**You are invited to join an EHMC small group...**

**WHAT:** **What on Earth Am I Here For?** A guided study of Rick Warren's book, The Purpose Driven Life. Please consider making a six-week commitment and joining facilitator Bill Matz in a journey with purpose comprised of a six-session online video-based study promoting discovery and insight into God's purpose for your life.

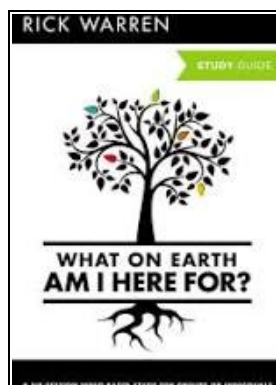
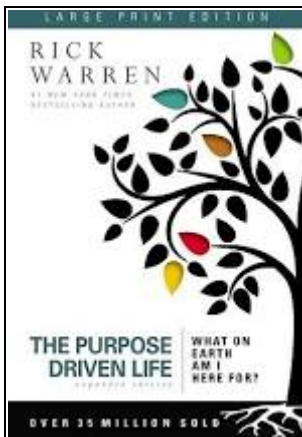
**Description:** Throughout the six sessions, you will discover the answer to life's most fundamental question: *What on earth am I here for?* According to Rick Warren, here's a clue to the answer: It's not about you! You were created by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end. The six sessions include: (1) You Matter to God, (2) You Were Planned for God's Pleasure, (3) You Were Formed for God's Family, (4) You Were Created to Become Like Christ, (5) You Were Shaped for Serving God, (6) You Were Made for a Mission.

**WHO:** This small group activity is available to ten EHMC members.

**WHEN:** This online study will be offered on six consecutive Monday evenings @7:00 PM; April 5, 12, 19, 26 and May 3 & 10. This forty-day commitment requires attendance to all sessions.

**WHERE:** The six sessions will take place using the online platform, Zoom. A Zoom link for joining the sessions will be emailed to participants prior to each session.

**HOW:** Your forty-day commitment of participation requires that you purchase The Purpose Driven Life (expanded edition, 2013) and study guide What on Earth Am I Here For? (2012) written by Rick Warren. A PDF version of the study guide will be made available upon request. An electronic device that is capable of audio and video access will be needed.



\*Possible websites for purchasing materials: [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com) [secondsale.com](http://secondsale.com)

## OUTREACH:

### Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?

#### Contextual Outreach



At the Joint Board Retreat in January, our Board Members determined that two ministry priorities this year will be:

**“Inreach” – building and re-building our sense of community among existing members of East Hills.**

**AND**

**“Outreach” – getting to know the people in our neighborhood and finding ways to establish new relationships with the neighbors surrounding the church building.**

We invite you to join us for 2 Contextual Outreach learning sessions led by Dr. Jill Peters, Missional Leadership Developer at Moravian Theological Seminary. Jill will help us look at data concerning neighborhood statistics and she will lead us in a process that puts our feet to the pavement in order to discover and re-discover our neighborhood and ways God is calling us to serve.

All members of EHMC are invited to participate. Please plan to be part of both Sessions.

Session One – Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

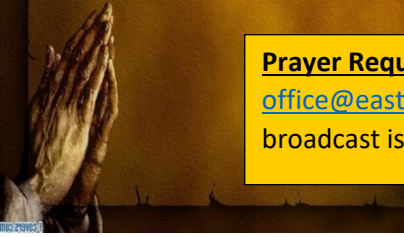
Session Two - date tba

If you are not currently serving on the Joint Board but would like to be part of the Contextual Outreach sessions, please email [office@easthillsmc.org](mailto:office@easthillsmc.org) or [pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org](mailto:pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org) to register by April 11th.



**Happy Easter**

## Worship and Mission Opportunities



**Prayer Requests:** Have a prayer request? Please email the “**Detail Form**” to the church office at [office@easthillsmc.org](mailto:office@easthillsmc.org). Only first names will be mentioned during worship since the YouTube broadcast is literally available to the world.



**Online Giving:** Please visit our website for online giving at <http://www.easthillsmc.org/online-giving/>. You can donate using your checking or savings account, debit card from your financial institution, or Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit card. If you're donating for the first time, you'll be asked to set up a profile with your email address and financial information. Then you can schedule a one-time donation or weekly or monthly recurring donation. Your financial information is completely secure.

**Mailing donations:** You may also send pledges to the office at the church. The mail is being checked daily so that no money or checks are sitting in the mailbox for long. 1830 Butztown Rd., Bethlehem, 18017



**Women's Fellowship:** On Tuesday, February 2, all women are invited to join in our ongoing discussion based on the book of Esther, with particular attention to Chapters 3 and 4. Contact Lucy Thompson for the Zoom link. We will be talking about Courage, as demonstrated by Esther's willingness to put her life on the line to save her people. Her uncle, Mordecai, had requested this help of young Esther, as the King had written a decree to kill all the Jewish people, men, women, and children. In spite of her tremendous fear, she demonstrates great courage, and the people are spared. Have you taken risks because of your faith? Let's talk about it on Tuesday night.



**Men's Fellowship:** As we continue to open areas of the church and our lives, the Men's Fellowship Group wants to let you know we are still here. Many of our fundraising events were canceled and we had to scale back our donations to causes that we earmarked funds for. Men's Fellowship is available to assist members whenever possible. We have an email chain setup so that if a member needs some sort of assistance, an email can be sent out looking for the proper assistance. For example, if a member becomes ill and needs some temporary jobs/outside chores completed he/she can let one of us know and we can try to find a volunteer to help accommodate that need. As of now, social distance and safety guidelines need to be met to safeguard each of us.



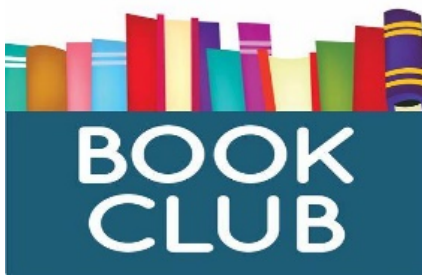


## WHY KNOTS –

Our WHY KNOT group always has wonderful hand-made items available for sale, and we recently posted a brand new ALBUM on our EHMC Facebook Page. In addition to beautiful baby quilts, blankets, buntings, and small soft toys, there are also some new items, including woven kitchen towels, one in a gorgeous basketweave pattern, and piece-work bedding for 18 inch dolls, such as American Girl Dolls. To access the Album from our EHMC Facebook page, select “Albums” at the top, or “Media” and then “Albums.” When you scroll through the Album, click on any individual picture to read the description including the price. Our group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month, currently by Zoom, and we always welcome newcomers. We work on items for sale as well as for donation to various charitable organizations.







**EHMC Book Club:** Everyone is invited to join the East Hills Moravian Church Book Club on **Thursday, April 22nd at 7pm** via Zoom to discuss "Love Medicine" by Louise Erdrich.



**Calling all East Hills Musicians** - Pastor Linda and the Worship Committee are looking for special music to include in the Sunday morning recorded services. Feel free to record singing or instrumentals as an individual, a family, etc., within our current safe guidelines for social distancing, of course.

Music can be a powerful tool to unite the community in this potentially stressful time. We appreciate our musicians' contributions to our East Hills community, now and always.



**Cash Cards** - Choose from over 750 retailers for giving or for your own shopping. Create your own online account at [ShopWithScrip.com](https://www.shopwithscrip.com) using enrollment code 8897CBD34973 or contact Julie Del Priore, Heather Frantz, or Lucy Thompson with your request. Cards for Giant, Wegmans, and Valley Farm are available.





**EHMC Worship Support for April 2021:**

	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25
<b>Sacristans /Color</b>	/White	/White	/White	/White
<b>Elder on Duty</b>				
<b>Liturgist (in-person)</b>				
<b>Liturgist (recording)</b>				
<b>Ushers</b>				
<b>Counters</b>				





**DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**



**Northeast Community Center:** Last week we had the joy of assisting in the delivery of a large donation of food from our local Giant on Easton Avenue to the NECC Foodbank. It is wonderful to see a neighborhood business provide much-needed assistance to the effort of feeding the hungry. We all miss the satisfaction of being able to provide A CAN A WEEK, but we can support this ministry through our prayers and financial contributions. Our EHM group of foodbank volunteers looks forward to the day when we can safely return to our work on site, sorting, packing, and distributing food to the many people with food insecurity.



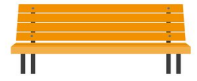
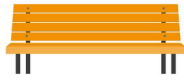
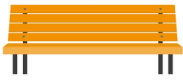
**A Can A Week and Joyful Noise** - Due to the ongoing increase in COVID-19 cases in our area, A CAN A WEEK is being suspended until further notice. Monetary donations for JOYFUL NOISE and A CAN A WEEK will continue to be used and are greatly appreciated. Thanks for your ongoing support.



**Drive-By Food Pantry** - Help us restock our Food Pantry shelves at Central Moravian Church with much needed items for our next food distribution. Pull in front of our church office building at 73 West Church Street **between 1 and 3 p.m. on Easter Sunday, (April 4)**. If people are coming to the sunrise service at God's Acre, they may leave their donations outside the Food Pantry door behind the Central Church office (accessed via driveway between 53 (Widows' House & 63 W. Church St). Otherwise, they can drop off from 1-3 PM as usual. Items needed are canned or dried beans, green beans, corn, boxed milk, canned soup, mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, ground coffee, tea, wrapped candy, soap & toilet paper.

**On March 8th, EHM received a thank you letter from Grace Young, Director of Marketing and Development at the NECC for the January donation of \$644.78. They are very grateful for the donation which was used to directly support the Food Pantry Program.**

## TREX Plastic Challenge Update – BAM Churches – 2020

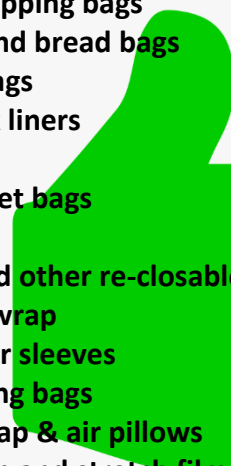


**Trex plastics collections:** As of January, East Hills has met the goal of 500 pounds of recycled plastics and we are now eligible to receive a park bench for our campus! Collection accumulations will now accrue to West Side Moravian Church. When they have met their goal, the BAM churches participating in the Trex Plastic Challenge will have recycled plastics equivalent to the weight of a compact car!

To protect our continued eligibility for the program and the safety of the East Hills members who process the recycled materials, please observe the following criteria for acceptable goods: Look for the recycling symbols 2 or 4 printed on the packaging. Please limit other recycling to items on the following list. The plastics **MUST NOT** be contaminated with any foreign material or chemicals. The only exception is small paper labels.


*\*After volunteers bagged and weighed the plastics for our recent delivery to Weis Market, our community recycling partner, we found materials that DO NOT comply with the requirements for this program. **Please recycle only acceptable materials!***

### ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS



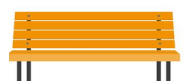
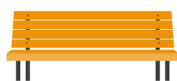
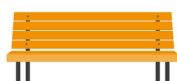
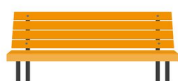
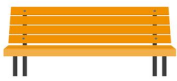
- Plastic shopping bags
- Produce and bread bags
- Grocery bags
- Cereal box liners
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Salt bags
- Ziplock and other re-closable bags
- Case overwrap
- Newspaper sleeves
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bubble wrap & air pillows
- Pallet wrap and stretch film

### NOT ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS



- Plastic bottles or other rigid plastic containers
- Degradable/compostable bags
- Pre-washed salad mix bags
- Frozen food bags
- Candy wrappers
- Any Chip bags
- Dried fruit and nut bags
- Six-pack plastic rings
- Pouch packaging
- Cheese wrappers
- Zip lock bags
- Saran Wrap
- Bread wrappers with little air holes
- Cellophane wrappers
- Bird seed or other bulk bags that are not #4
- If material does not stretch easily
- If material is shiny & crinkles or crunches

**\*\* All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.\*\***



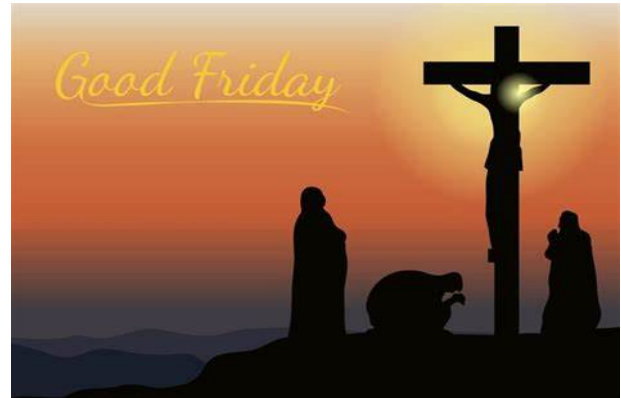


## April Calendar Celebrations

### Apr. 1st – Maundy Thursday



### Apr. 2nd – Good Friday



### Apr. 4th – Easter



### Apr. 5th – Easter Monday



### Apr. 7th – National Beer Day 🥰



### Apr. 11th – National Pet Day





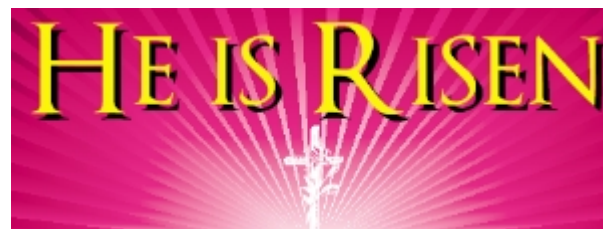
Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> – Tax Day



Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day



Every Day...



## EHMC 2021 WATCHWORD

**God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ dies for us. (Romans 5:8)**

He left his Father's throne above –  
so free, so infinite his grace –  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race!  
What mercy this, immense and free,  
for, O my God, it found out me!  
What mercy this, immense and free,  
for, O my God, it found out me! (773)







## APRIL

ALL APRIL BIRTHDAYS! WISHING YOU THE BEST!!

❖ Please contact the office if anyone is missing or needs to be removed. Thank you!



## DETAIL FORM

ANNOUNCEMENTS / NEWSLETTER / EMAIL BLAST / PRAYER LIST

**(CIRCLE ALL APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR REQUEST)**

**(All must complete this section)**

**CONTACT NAME:**

**PHONE:**

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

**START DATE:**

**END DATE:**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT / NEWSLETTER / EMAIL BLAST CONTENT:**

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**PRAYERS FOR?**

**WHY?**

**MEMBER?**

**MEMBER'S FAMILY?**

**MEMBER'S FRIEND?**

**OTHER?**

**If this prayer request is for someone other than your immediate family, do you have that person's permission to share this?**

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**\*\*If you need something extended or updated, please contact the office. \*\***

**EHMC Office email address: [office@easthillsmc.org](mailto:office@easthillsmc.org)**

**EHMC phone: 610-868-6481**