



# Church *Matters*

Quarterly Newsletter of East Glenville Community Church - Spring 2021

## **Palm Sunday Worship**

**March 28th at 10:30am**

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

**April 1st at 7pm**

## **Easter Sunday, April 4th**

**9:45 AM - Egg Hunt**

**10:30 AM - Worship Celebration**

## **PASTOR MITCH**

### **Indisputable Good News**

*Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

I believe people are desperate for good news, but even when they hear it, they are hesitant to accept it. This has been a long and challenging year. As I write this, I realized it is exactly one year from the Sunday I came to EGCC for my “trial sermon.” It was on the flight home I began to see people wearing masks at the airport, and I thought, “That’s kind of weird!” Now of course it is weird to see someone without a mask. Over this year, it seems like a never ending stream of bad news, as news about spreading cases, the growing number of deaths, and the cancellation of about everything. Any thoughts we had that this COVID-thing would not be that bad, slowly dissipated.

I have noticed some signs of good news coming out, which is such a change from the daily news stream which highlights everything that is going wrong. I read the daily email update from The Dispatch (*a new small media company whose news reporting I’ve grown to trust, email me about it if you want to learn more*). The Morning Dispatch email includes a section that offers the daily COVID numbers, including new cases, deaths, and vaccinations, and lately there are some reasons to feel optimistic. The Dispatch summarized the numbers last week saying, “Per our analysis, the seven-day rolling average of confirmed new COVID-19 cases peaked on January 11 at 257,927. Today, that number is 70,591—a 73 percent decrease in six weeks.” And also, “On January 6, 132,464 people were hospitalized with COVID-19. That figure has decreased for 40 straight days, and is now nearly 60 percent lower at 55,403.” (Now, I realize there are different opinions about whether vaccines are good, so if

you like you can skip past the next two sentences). There is also good news on the vaccine front with a third vaccine being approved over the weekend. In today’s Morning Dispatch it shows that over 75 million doses have been administered, with over 2 million each day. So, there is good news, but there are also voices that keep saying we will never get past COVID or that our lives will not go back to normal. Could it be people have they become so accustomed to the daily stream of bad news that they cannot quite accept the good news?

What we need is indisputable good news! Good news that is not qualified by a voice that warns we should not be too happy about it because it might not last. There is a hunger for such good news, and we as followers of Jesus have good news to offer. The Easter message of Resurrection is unqualified good news. Jesus, the one his followers had declared to be the Messiah, was executed on a Roman cross. It would have seemed on that Friday that the forces of injustice and evil had defeated the one God had sent. Not so fast! The resurrection of Christ flipped the score. Jesus was not dead but alive again. He had not lost to the devil, but had decisively defeated God’s enemy. No one had taken his life from him, instead the Son of God had freely given His life on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. God the Father, had raised Jesus from the dead and opened the door to eternal life to every tribe, and nation and people. The kings and rulers of this world are not supreme, but instead Jesus has been exalted to the highest place and is Lord over this world. We get to share that news every Sunday, but especially on Easter Sunday, and Easter Sunday is coming soon!

Are people ready to hear the good news or are they so used to steady stream of negative media, angry rhetoric, sex scandals, political corruption that they just cannot quite receive indisputable good news? We can test that proposition by inviting people to hear and consider the story of Jesus. The word

“gospel” that we use all the time in the church simply means the good news. The gospel is the story of Jesus, both what he did and what it can mean for each of us. We get to tell the story of Jesus, and what he was like, and how he treated people, and what he taught. We clarify that he was not just some especially good human but was God in the flesh. We emphasize that his death on the cross was for our sins, so that we can have forgiveness and be restored with God. We proclaim he was raised from the dead and is that He is Lord. What incredible good news!, that the one in charge of our world is the same one who healed the leper, welcomed the poor and hurting, and washed the feet of his disciples. The message of the gospel is indisputable good news. It is God’s power at work to bring us into eternal life. It is good news for all peoples and for every person willing to receive it. Let us sound forth the news, and pray that those ready to hear will receive it.

Rejoicing in Him,  
Pastor Mitch

## **Spring Sermon Series:**

We will be finishing our series on the gospel of Mark on Easter Sunday. After Easter we start a short sermon series talking about the mission of the church, and what God would have us do next here at East Glenville Community Church.

## ***EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS***

We will be accepting donations toward flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday (\$20). Envelopes are in the pews and the Foyer and are due back by March 28th. Please note on the envelope if you are giving in honor or remembrance of someone.



## ***EASTER WEEK***

**April 1**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Worship and Communion 7pm**

Maundy Thursday is the night before the crucifixion, when Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Last Supper. We will have a worship time focused on the sacrifice of Christ and share together in the Lord’s Supper. More details to come.

**April 4**

**Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids 9:45am**

**Easter Worship 10:30am**

Come Celebrate the Resurrection!

The service will be streamed on FB Live and our YouTube channel.

The Alternative (No Music) Worship is at 9am.

## **ELDERS**

Our bylaws require us to meet annually “for the purpose of electing officers, voting on the budget, receiving the annual reports of individual officers, boards, and ministry teams of this church and its auxiliary organizations, and transacting other appropriate business.” Our Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday, January 29th. Due to the pandemic, we took on the challenge this year of holding the meeting both in person and online via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. By God’s grace we were able to conduct our business in a way that I think demonstrates our unity in the Spirit and our love for one another. We approved the pastor, staff, officer, board, and ministry reports from the 2020 Annual Report, passed the 2021 budget, elected some new officers and board members, and approved changes to church membership.

As the elders reflected on the annual meeting, one idea going forward is that it would be beneficial to hold informal listening sessions from time to time throughout the year to engage the congregation and gather your thoughts and feedback regarding our life together here at EGCC. Towards that end, the elders have scheduled an “elder chat” time on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This elder chat time will give you the opportunity to get to know us better, and for us to hear your thoughts and address any questions you may have as we move forward together as a church. The elder chat time will be held via Zoom, so be looking for further communication on the details for connecting.

We look forward to interacting with you all on March 16<sup>th</sup>!

-Don Kraines, for the elders

## **A NEW COAT!**

“Retired and refired” describes the group of men who have been devoting their Monday, and sometimes Thursday, mornings for the past several weeks to painting various rooms in our church. They call themselves the RK’s in honor of Ray Kaczmarczyk, who tirelessly volunteered countless hours taking care of our facility and grounds.

After painting the Hall of Missions, which is being transformed into the Missions Café, these men turned their attention to the Christian Education wing. First came rooms 5 and 6, otherwise known as the Youth Room. Now that these walls have been revitalized the furnishings will be also and our teens will have an attractive and functional place to meet. The painting of rooms 1,2,3,and 4 is almost finished. Come see how bright and cheerful they look. What is next? That is a surprise!

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

This winter the Worship Team started a study of the book *Sing!* by Keith and Kristyn Getty . It's been a tradition for the team to do a study each year to help us grow in our understanding of the theological and well as the practical aspects of worship leading. We're meeting on Zoom on alternating weeks through May and are led by a different team member each time. Melisa shared a few thoughts from our first study in worship a couple weeks ago, and we'll be doing more of that in the coming months. Listed below are the five goals of this book and study.

- To discover why we sing and the overwhelming joy and holy privilege that comes with singing.
- To consider how singing impacts our hearts and minds and all of our lives.
- To cultivate a culture of family singing in our daily home life.
- To equip our churches for wholeheartedly singing to the Lord and one another as an expression of unity.
- To inspire us to see congregational singing as a radical witness to the world.

We've had some great discussions around these topics that serve both to inform and inspire us, as well as to draw us closer as a team. Feel free to ask a worship team member what they have learned through it! I am thankful for each one of these men and women who serve so faithfully to lead us in worshiping together! We are blessed by their love for the Lord, their willingness to share their talent, and their commitment to our church. *Soli deo Gloria!*

Blessings,  
Sandie

## **YOUTH**

The first half of the school year is in the books and we have the second half to look forward to! There have been some exciting events even during the pandemic. We have seen our leaders hold activities and opportunities in their own homes with different games and avenues for relationships to be built. We have seen our youth grow in relationships and connect on a deeper level with one another in small groups. One of our more exciting events was our Christmas party where students brought energy, thankfulness, and fun! Our Thursday night sports night are growing, and it is exciting to see. Looking forward to this second half of the year we have more events planned such as Nerf Wars, a Regen Youth Conference, and even Youth Sunday! I encourage adults and teens alike to invite other students to our Wednesday night program where we are intentional in digging into the Word and encouraging students in their personal walks with Christ. We look forward to continuing in 2021!

Nick

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Looking back over the winter months I am thankful for God's grace in equipping our volunteers to teach and support an hour long Jr Church program during the worship service. Combined with health screening and regular sanitizing, the availability of Jr Church and the toddler nursery have enabled consistent church attendance for families with young children.

Now we are starting to anticipate renewal of family activities in the life of our church, beginning with an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45am Easter morning! A private reservation of Rollarama for roller-skating will happen Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. EGCC families and friends are invited! It will be by sign-up only due to safety guidelines from the rink. In June we are pleased to announce Rocky Railway VBS from June 28-July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be in prayer about how you can help volunteer or support this community out-reach program which shares the love of Christ and the gospel message with young children!

Blessings,  
Susan Perregaux

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sunday, April 4th at 9:45 AM

EGCC will host an Easter Egg Hunt for children, from toddlers to 5th grade. You can help support this event by bringing in donations of individually wrapped candy. No peanut products please! Box for Easter Egg Hunt donations will be in the foyer until Sunday, March 21st.

### **ROLLERSKATING AT ROLLARAMA**

Sunday April 18th  
4:30-6:30pm

EGCC Families and Friends! Join us for a private rink rental with Christian music! \$8 per person includes skate rental. Masks, health form and reservations are required. Due to COVID the arcade at Rollarama will not be open. Contact Susan Perregaux, [children@egcchurch.org](mailto:children@egcchurch.org)  
Rollarama.com  
2710 Hamburg St. Schenectady



### **VBS 2021**

**June 28– July 1st, 9am-noon**

Adults and teens, please prayerfully consider how you can volunteer for VBS! There are many staff positions to fill. Each one provides the opportunity to impact children with the Word of God. Health guidelines will be followed. Contact Susan Perregaux at [children@egcchurch.org](mailto:children@egcchurch.org)

## **EGCC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

*Note: This is our 2020 annual report.*

2020: Certainly a different year. It was a reality check for most. 2020 made us realize how fragile life is, to appreciate what we have and not take things for granted. Hopefully, it was and still is a time to rely on God, be in prayer and renew our relationship with Him.

We had to make a lot of changes and adaptations to move on with opening in September. Classes are smaller and our enrollment is down about 25%. Currently, we have 4 two year olds, 9 three year olds and 27 four year olds.

We have struggled financially with extra expenses due to COVID, and lower number of students. But, as always, God has blessed us with parents willing to donate cleaning supplies, paper products and snacks. The staff have also donated time and resources to allow us to stay open. We are especially grateful to East Glenville Church for allowing us to be a part of their ministry.

Our staff is committed to doing God's will and giving all children the opportunity to know Him and His love. Many thanks to Carol Bradley, Heather Chevalier, Holly Klein, Michelle Ruchalski, Carol Saccocio, Debbie Waugaman and Mandy Westervelt for their dedication.

We are praying that the next school year will find everyone healthy and fewer restrictions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Wachtel

## **EGCC WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 11:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday 6:30 pm

- Men's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study  
(remote on Zoom)
- Youth Group

Thursday

9:30am Women's Bible Study  
(remote on Zoom)  
6:00pm Youth Sports Night

Sunday

9:00am Alternative Service  
(no music)  
10:30am Worship Service  
(Jr. Church and Nursery)

First Sunday of the Month

12:00pm Element Group  
for young families



**EASTER**  
HE IS RISEN