

# The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 53/Issue 2

March/April 2022





## *A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR*

What a joyous time we've had in The Living Room at RBC during the month of February. With our worship area transformed into a cozy and welcoming space, we've had the opportunity to get to know some of our RBCers in new and interesting ways. This time and space in The Living Room has given us some much needed recharging together as an RBC family.

I had mentioned during our first week in The Living Room that my family will often block off our calendars after several weeks of busy schedules in order to just have family time. We each claim a spot in our living room- we do crafts, watch movies, cook together, play games, nap, and take time to slow down, recharge, and regroup. This down time in the living room together helps us to be prepared to take on the world again. And that's exactly what we've been doing here at RBC. We can't stay in The Living Room forever- but neither can we stay away from it forever. Like with all things, it is a careful balancing act of caring for our RBC family and caring for the world outside of the church walls. Our lives and our Christian journey demands both.

I hope you've enjoyed the time in RBC's Living Room (and remember- you can always check out past services on our YouTube page or website). In the weeks ahead, we'll turn our gaze outward to The Neighborhood, recharged by the laughter and learnings we've had in the Living Room.

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Lenten Study: Life on the Margins**

*Sponsored by Royersford Churches in Action*

RBC and some of our fellow churches in Royersford will be sponsoring this 5 week study on "Life on the Margins." Join us as we learn about issues impacting those on the margins of society- housing, homelessness, mental healthcare, immigration, and more. Where would Jesus go? What would Jesus do? What can we do?

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 9 at 7pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89100549575?pwd=eC9NR2N1aGt4RHJFTFExNzM1d2tmZz09>

Meeting ID: 891 0054 9575

Passcode: 023449

**\*Note- this isn't the regular RBC Zoom link!**



**ROYERSFORD  
CHURCHES IN ACTION**

## **RBC's 10 Questions**

Want to get to know your fellow RBCers a little more? Here are the 10 questions we've been asking. Find someone you'd like to know better and ask them!

1. What is your favorite local restaurant?
2. What is one thing you own that you really should throw out?
3. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
4. Apples or oranges?
5. What or who inspires you?
6. Favorite smell?
7. What is the most used app on your phone?
8. Flat or sparkling water?
9. You get one song to listen to for the rest of your life: what is it?
10. Describe the rest of your life in 5 words.



## **Lenten Daily Devotional**

If you are interested in receiving a daily email with short devotional during Lent, please reply to this email or let Kate or Pastor Sarah know.



## A Worship Technology Update:

It's amazing to think that in just two years, we've gone from a single access worship (in-person only) to a completely hybrid 3-point model (in-person, live streamed, and recorded). Our hybrid worship has enabled people to continue worshipping with their RBC family even when they are sick, traveling, or unable to get out. We've reconnected with RBCers who had been unable to worship with us due to distance or inability to leave their home. As we've all navigated health needs and risks during this time of pandemic, our ability to worship together has not been impacted because we've remained connected virtually.

The pandemic fast-tracked many of these technology changes that would otherwise have taken years. And yet we still have a ways to go. We are aware that the connection isn't always great and that the sound quality can be difficult to hear at times, and we are working on it. As you might imagine, upgrading our outdated system has taken a lot of people-power and financial power. This, along with world-wide supply chain issues, is taking a while to resolve yet we are grateful to be moving forward. We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to live into this new mode of worship and connection.

In addition to having online worship available for two years, some other technology changes you may have noticed:

- New television displays in the sanctuary (thanks to a very generous donation!)
- Improved graphics
- Improving sound thanks to the purchase of a new sound board (and still a work in progress!)
- Steadier connection

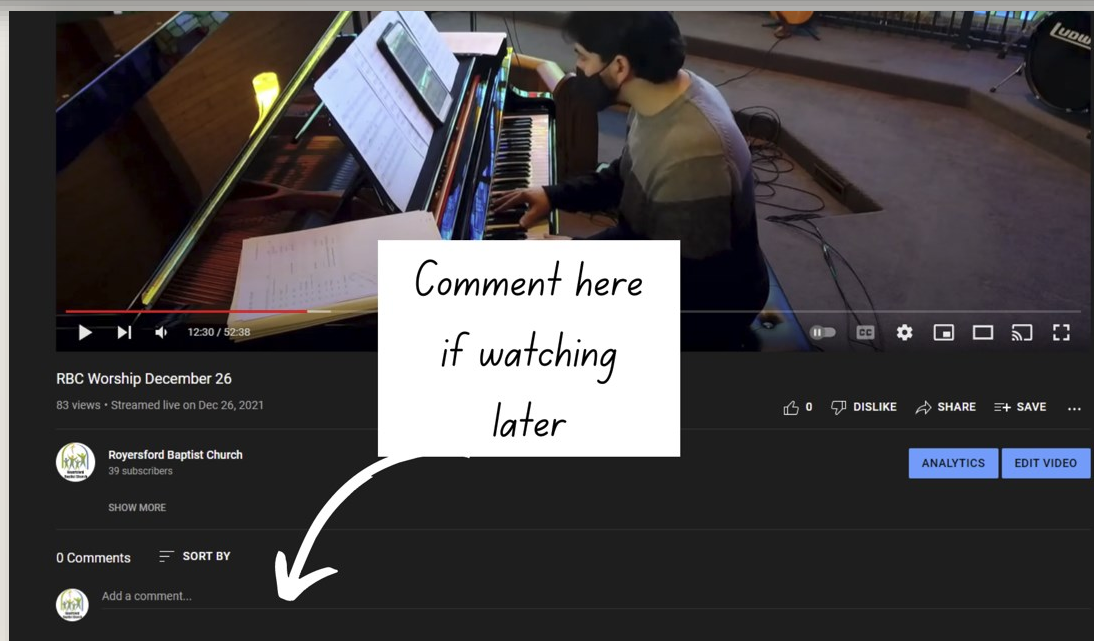
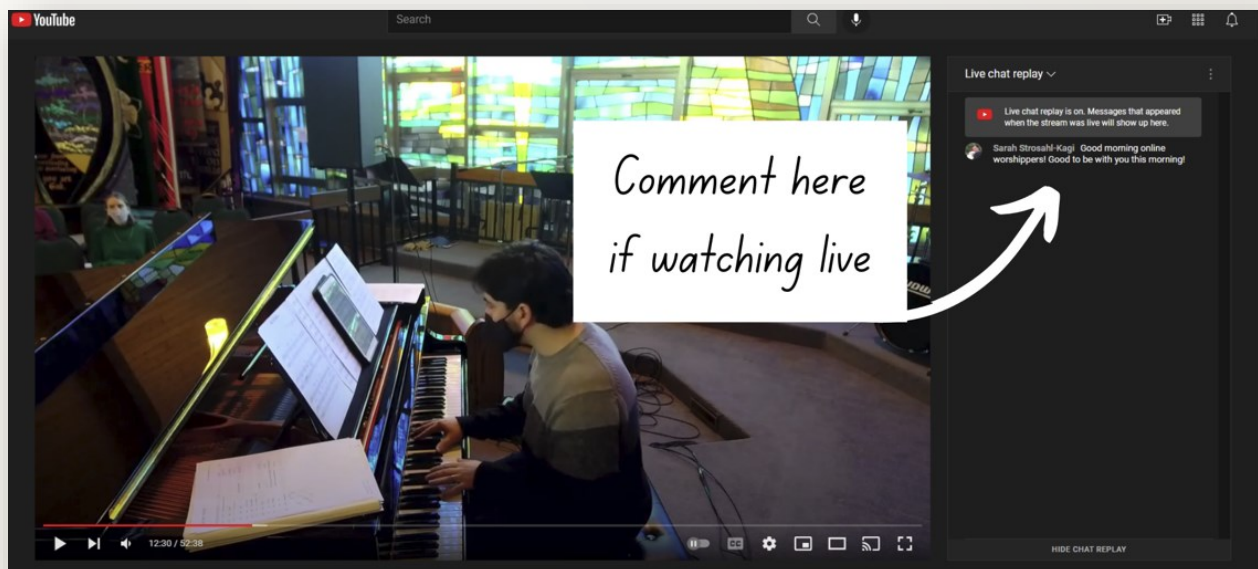
One big change since moving into the sanctuary is that we are no longer using Zoom for worship time, but rather live-streaming on YouTube/our website. This gives us a much steadier connection, but it also means that people worshipping at home cannot see one another. If you are worshipping online, one way you can feel more connected is to use the chat box on YouTube. Say "hi" or "amen" - greet and interact with your fellow RBCers.

***Ever miss a Sunday Service? Check out the recordings on our Website: <https://rbcabc.org/online-worship>***

What can you do to help with these technology transitions:

- If you are in-person and having trouble hearing, try moving forward in the sanctuary
- If you are speaking during worship, be sure to hold the microphone close to your mouth
- If you are online, use the chat to interact with other worshippers
- Volunteer to be trained on our new systems to free up our tech coordinator to focus on troubleshooting
- If you notice some technology malfunctions during worship, pray for our worship team. They most likely are aware of the issue and trying to resolve it on the fly.

Continue to give thanks to God that we are able to connect and worship together in these ways!



# RBC News & Looking Ahead!

## Reminder: Building Use

If you would like to use the building for any purpose, please let Kate know so we can schedule properly. If you aren't sure if your group is on the calendar, ask Kate! If you do use the building, please be sure to turn off all lights, turn down the heat, and lock up afterwards.



Join us on **Saturday, April 16** for RBC's annual Easter Egg Hunt!

*(Specific time & details in the coming Midweek Newsletters)*

The 2022 Women's Retreat is scheduled for April 8-9 at RBC.

Further details to come!



Please join us in welcoming RBC's new custodian, Kevi Sulollari! If you see Kevi around the building, feel free to stop and say hello!





# RBC Youth Group

Spring is just around the corner! And we are so excited for some sun and warmer weather! As I have mentioned before our youth ministry has undergone some major construction because of these past two years, and we have been in the process of a re-build. Our foundation is laid out and we are adding to it, strategically, and safely, piece by piece. And NOTHING says new life like Springtime does!

As we embark on our construction and welcome in this energizing weather, we hope to continue to grow our program, not only in numbers and activity, but in depth. This past year we have brought in several middle school aged students who are new to youth group. This brings excitement, fresh ideas, and a lot of questions. And I love getting questions! It shows curiosity, and thoughtfulness, and a development of faith. As we wrestle with these questions during our weekly gatherings, I hope to be able to bring our students back outside, in nature and take inspiration from creation.

We have been having great success with the curriculum we have been going through in this new year so far. I have been watching our students grow, learn more, and connect with each other every week. It is an absolute blessing to be able to walk alongside our students and see how God is moving in their lives.

-Ryan Seckman, Youth Director



## What's Happening at RBCNS?

There are so many fun things going on at RBCNS, LLC! We are learning about sharing and caring for our friends in our 2S Class, our emotions in our 3S Class, Dinosaurs in Pre-K and Enrichment just finished up their Science Unit and will be moving on to the Art Unit. In a few weeks the SPCA will be visiting our 3S Class to talk about dog safety and Quiver Farm will be visiting the Pre-K Class and they will be hatching some chicks! We are so excited for what Spring will bring us and are looking forward to getting outside to burn off our energy!

Enrollment has begun for the 2022-2023 School Year, and we are full in our Pre-K and 3S Class and have a waitlist for both of those classes. Our 2S Class and Pre-K+ class still have a few openings, so please spread the word!

Continue to watch our Facebook page for more updates and to see the school in action! For now, please enjoy the attached pictures; Enrichment with their Soda and Mentos Experiment, Pre-K on Valentine's Day, 3S with their Sound Unit and their Band, and our 2S during Circle Time!







## FROM THE GREEN TEAM

### Did You Know...

According to Green Matters, the percentage of recycling that actually gets recycled is both surprising and disconcerting. About 35% of the total amount that Americans generated was actually recycled. It feels like we are trying harder, yet the sad reality is that there are many flaws in the process itself. Plastic, metal, glass and paper are the most common, yet they all recycle with varying degrees of success. Plastics recycled are only 9%, metals are 69%, glass is 31%, and paper is 68%. These figures are from a couple years ago. So, what is the good news? And how does this affect our recycling efforts? Read on, McDuff!

An innovative company was established in 2001 called Terracycle, a social enterprise on a mission to eliminate the idea of waste. In fact, they have taken on a difficult goal – to recycle the un-recyclable. “Nearly everything we touch can be recycled.” They have begun a first-of-their-kind- program. Leading companies work with them to take hard-to-recycle materials, and turn them into new products. They provide services, for a fee of course, to recycle everyday items which curbside will not pick up. For example: Styrofoam, clamshells, trays, single-use cutlery, candy wrappers, and much more. Their theory is to “Eliminate the Idea of Waste”. They are moving from a linear economy where we throw things “away”, to a circular one, where waste is used to make new products. For these efforts, they have won over 200 awards for social entrepreneurship and sustainable business.



### TerraCycle's global impact



PEOPLE RECYCLING

202,831,611



WASTE RECYCLED

7,762,174,415

Here's how it works: Consumers choose which items they would like to recycle. For example: shoes, disposable gloves, small action figures, coffee bags, razors, tape dispensers, pens and markers or batteries. There are hundreds of options. They choose the size container to order, from a pouch, a box, a bucket, or a pallet. After sending the fee, Terracycle sends the chosen container. When it is filled up, there is a prepaid label to mail it back. You can either wait to order again, or they will automatically send you a new one. It's pretty slick, really. And it is guaranteed that these hard-to-recycle items will be made into a new product, instead of going to the landfill.

So, how does this affect RBC? We are going to give it a try, with alkaline batteries, including AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 volt. We will order the small bucket, which holds up to 10 lbs of batteries. When it is full, we just mail it back. We do have to tape the top of each battery, but they tell us how to do that. After we see how it goes, we might do it again, or try another item, like razors, or pens and markers. The price for each is different, so it is definitely a consideration. But, isn't this cool? Those batteries that would go to the landfill now have a place to be recycled. I invite all of you to take part, in supporting this ministry. Your job is to bring in your alkaline batteries, of the sizes mentioned above. We will have a box to receive them, near the box for the caps (across from the nursery). When it is full, then we have done a great service to keep these batteries out of the landfill. Let us try this first, and see where God leads us next.



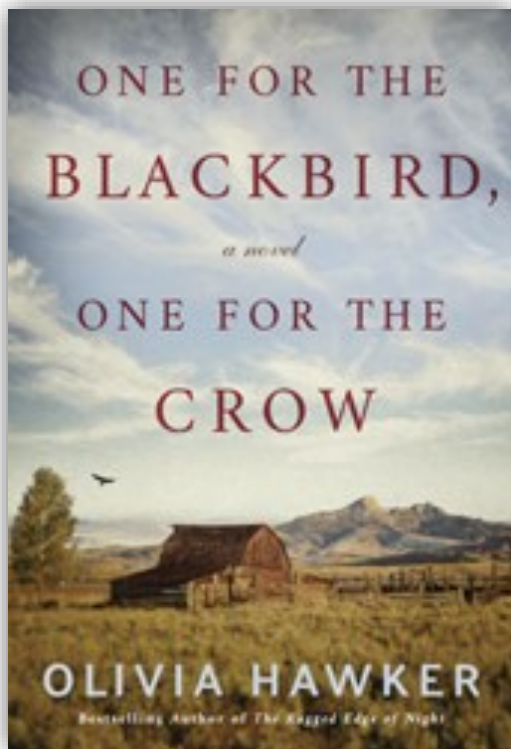
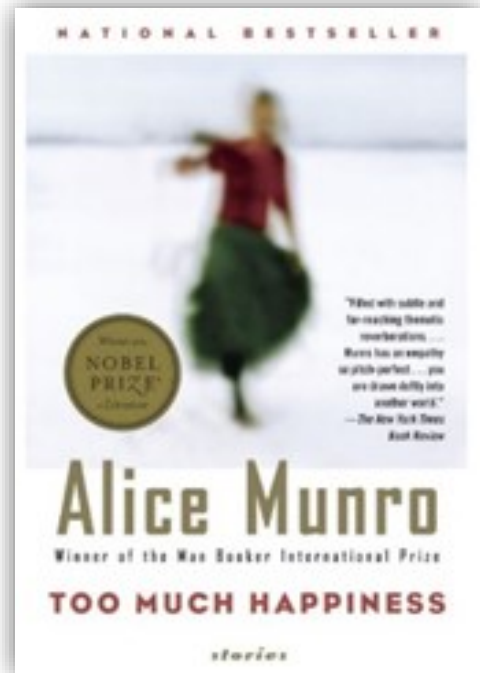




# RBC BOOK CLUB

*March & April 2022*

**"Too Much Happiness"** by Alice Munro is a superb collection of 10 new short stories. Munro is a much loved and admired author, the winner of the 2009 Man Booker International Prize. With clarity and ease, Munro renders complex, difficult events and emotions into stories about the unpredictable ways in which men and women accommodate and often transcend what happens in their lives. Join us on March 17 in the RBC parlor at 7:15pm for a lively discussion of these short stories.

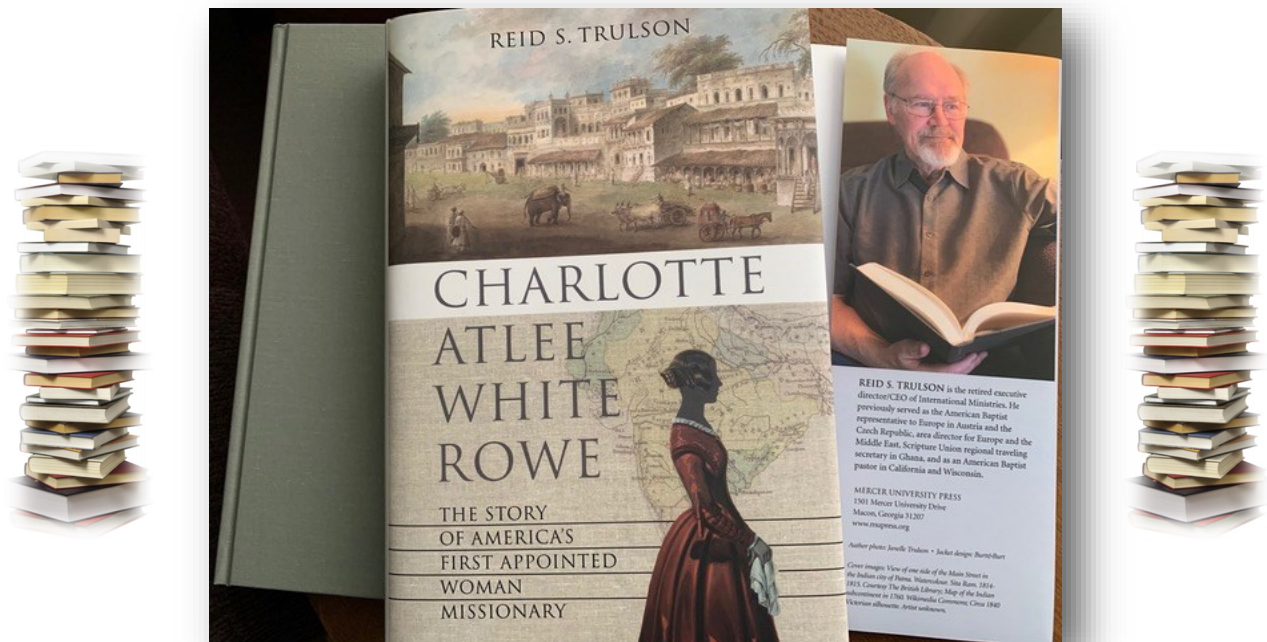


The RBC book club selection for April 21 is **"One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow"** by Olivia Hawker. This powerful novel of survival and sacrifice is set in Wyoming in 1876. The Bemis and Webber families have to rely on each other as a matter of survival when there are no other settlers for miles. But in one impulsive moment, one man is dead and the other taken to prison. The women, divided by rage and remorse, are forced to combine their families in order to survive the brutal Wyoming winter. Bonds of sisterhood are forged and tested as they work the land and raise their children.

## Two Upcoming Book Talk and Signing Events:

**"The Scandal of a Female Missionary."** How a Pennsylvania woman educator overcame scandal and prejudice to become America's first appointed woman missionary. A talk and book signing by Reid Trulson sponsored by *Lower Providence Living* magazine and Lower Providence Community Library.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022 - 2:30 PM**  
Lower Providence Community Library



**"Charlotte Rowe: Lancaster's 19th Century Missionary in India."** Charlotte Rowe was orphaned in Lancaster and overcame scandal and prejudice to become an educator in India and America's first appointed woman missionary. After a decade of service in 'Hindustan,' she taught in Philadelphia and Alabama before moving to Strasburg, eight miles from her childhood home. There she restarted the Strasburg Female Seminary as its new principal. Charlotte Rowe (d. 1863) lies buried in St. James Episcopal Church cemetery. Her life story invites examination of gender bias today.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2 - 4:30 PM**  
St. James Episcopal Church  
119 N, Duke Street, Lancaster, PA  
(This event will also be live-streamed.  
See [reidtrulson.com](http://reidtrulson.com) for coming details.)

***RBC Leadership Council members are here for you!  
Please reach out with any questions or concerns.***

## **OFFICERS**

### **Moderator**

*Presides at meetings of the Leadership Council, and at meetings of the Membership.*

**Mark Hite**

### **Vice-Moderator**

*Assumes all roles and responsibilities of the Moderator during the Moderator's absence.*

**Karen Mason**

### **Clerk**

*Keeps accurate records of Leadership Council meetings and meetings of the Membership. Keeps records of membership, conducts business correspondence.*

**Deb Savage**

### **Treasurer**

*Receives records of deposit and disburses funds as directed, keeps accurate records of disbursements and monthly reports to Leadership Council.*

**Nancy O'Neil**

*Assistant Treasurer: Weegee Neiffer*

### **Financial Secretary**

*Receives and records cash and checks, and deposits them promptly. Monitors online giving. Provides a monthly summary to the Treasurer.*

**Shawn MacCoy**

## **GROUPS**

### **Education & Discipleship Group**

*Learning and teaching how, today, to live and serve like Jesus, and supporting child and youth ministries.*

**Leader: Mary Panetta**

### **Worship Group**

*Going to God with all our hearts and offerings.*

**Leader: Reid Trulson**

### **Life Sharing Team**

*Attending to social and spiritual needs, deepening friendships through small group ministries and other activities, and making it fun and easy to become an RBC member.*

**Leader: Marty Murray**

### **Mission & Outreach Group**

*Discerningly, through attention and selfless action, bringing hope to a world in need of our caring.*

**Leader: Stan Slade**

### **Facilities Group**

*Through RBC-stewarded buildings and/or grounds, creating and preserving a beautiful and socially responsible place to worship God and/or serve the community.*

**Leader: Herb Rogers**



# ***RBC COMMITTEES 2022***

## **Finance Committee**

*Assist in budgeting and financial matters affecting RBC.*

**Leader: Mark Hite**

*Members:* Weegee Neiffer; Bernice Rogers; George Reitnour; Shawn MacCoy; Nancy O'Neil

## **Staff Relations Committee**

*Foster constructive communications between RBC and the staff.*

**Leader: Karen Mason**

*Members:* Del Engstrom; Cathy Slade; Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

## **RBC MINISTRY TEAMS 2022:**

### **Education & Discipleship Team**

**Leader: Mary Panetta**

*Members:* Ginny Dearolf; Lorri Engstrom; Marcia Ricketts; Sandi Rosenberry; Ryan Seckman (Youth Leader) Sarah Strosahl-Kagi (Pastor)

### **Selectives Team**

Karen Hite; Stan Slade; Reid Trulson

## **Facilities Maintenance Team**

**Leader: Herb Rogers**

*Members:* George Reitnour; Chris Scales Dan Stauffer; Dave Strosahl; Gene Wheeler

## **Green Team**

**Leader: Kay RolfsMassaglia**

*Members:* Mary Glassman; Mark Hite; George Reitnour

## **Life Sharing Team**

**Leader: Marty Murray**

*Members:* Tonya MacCoy; Marcia Ricketts; Sandy Smoyer; Susan Davis

## **Covid Oversight Team**

Cathy Slade  
Mary Panetta  
Reid Trulson  
Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

## **Diversity Team**

**Leader: Reid Trulson**

*Members:* Judy Denning; Charlie Denning; Shawn MacCoy; Deb Savage; Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi



In response to immediate needs resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022, International Ministries, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, has sent an initial grant of \$15,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief to the European Baptist Federation to provide humanitarian aid for Ukrainian Baptists. This grant joins a larger, global Baptist response to this evolving situation.

Since early 2022, the world has watched as tensions escalated along Ukraine's border with Russia. Sadly, on February 24, Ukrainians woke to the sounds of sirens and falling artillery as Russia launched a full-scale invasion by land, air, and sea. "The threat of this incursion is something that Ukrainians have lived with since 2014, when Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine," says Lisa Rothenberger, IM's World Relief Officer. "We have stood with our Ukrainian Baptist brothers and sisters since 2014, with our prayers and financial resources, and we continue that support today. We know that what is unfolding today will create enormous social, economic, and political challenges."

Initial relief will provide basic provisions—food, shelter, medicine, and hygiene items—to at least 2,500 people who are fleeing their homes. Displaced people will be served by distribution centers set up by the Ukrainian Baptists to provide temporary shelter and relief. In addition, the threat of the incursion and the invasion have resulted in refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. In those countries, Baptists are also responding. There will be ongoing needs both within Ukraine and in the surrounding countries.

Our global servants in Europe are all well and safe; we ask for your prayers for their continued security.

While our financial support will provide for physical needs, the need for prayer is paramount. IM Area Director for Europe, the Middle East and Liberia Rev. Charles Jones shares, "We ask American Baptists to join in prayer for our Baptist sisters and brothers, and all the people of Ukraine: for protection and provision for those who suffer, and for peace to be restored. And for our Baptist sisters and brothers and all peace-loving people in Russia, that God will give them courage to pursue peace."

Additional relief is urgently needed. Persons wishing to support relief efforts can do so through their American Baptist church, **by giving online**, or by sending checks directly to International Ministries. Please designate your contribution to "OGHS-Ukraine Relief."

Checks sent directly to International Ministries should be made payable to "International Ministries" and mailed to:

*International Ministries  
Attn: Gifts Processing  
1003 W 9th Avenue, Ste A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406*



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Tyler Parker	2
Fred Neiffer	3
Aiden Obijuru	6
Haydee Ortiz	6
Nicholas Theusch	9
Kori Theusch	12
Bill Wanner	12
Alverna Bedford	14
Bob Dearolf	14
Ken George	17
Amy Wheeler	19
Amelia Yeoman	19
Marty Murray	22
Connor Engstrom	24

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Julie Williams	2
Eleanor Strosahl-Kagi	8
Emily Scales	9
Samuel Turley	10
Rose Stauffer	11
Shawn MacCoy	14
Peg Pascale	15
Herb Rogers	15
Rebecca Romain	20
Ryan Seckman	20
Weegee Neiffer	25
Mickey McDaniel	27
Bob Yeoman	28
Bernice Rogers	29



### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

Dan and Rose Stauffer	2
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### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

Jose and Haydee Ortiz	5
Emily and Chris Scales	5
Bob and Amelia Yeoman	12
Herb and Bernice Rogers	22

*If there are any additions/changes that need to be made to the birthday and anniversary list, please contact the church office.*



# Some of the latest at Sunday Worship!

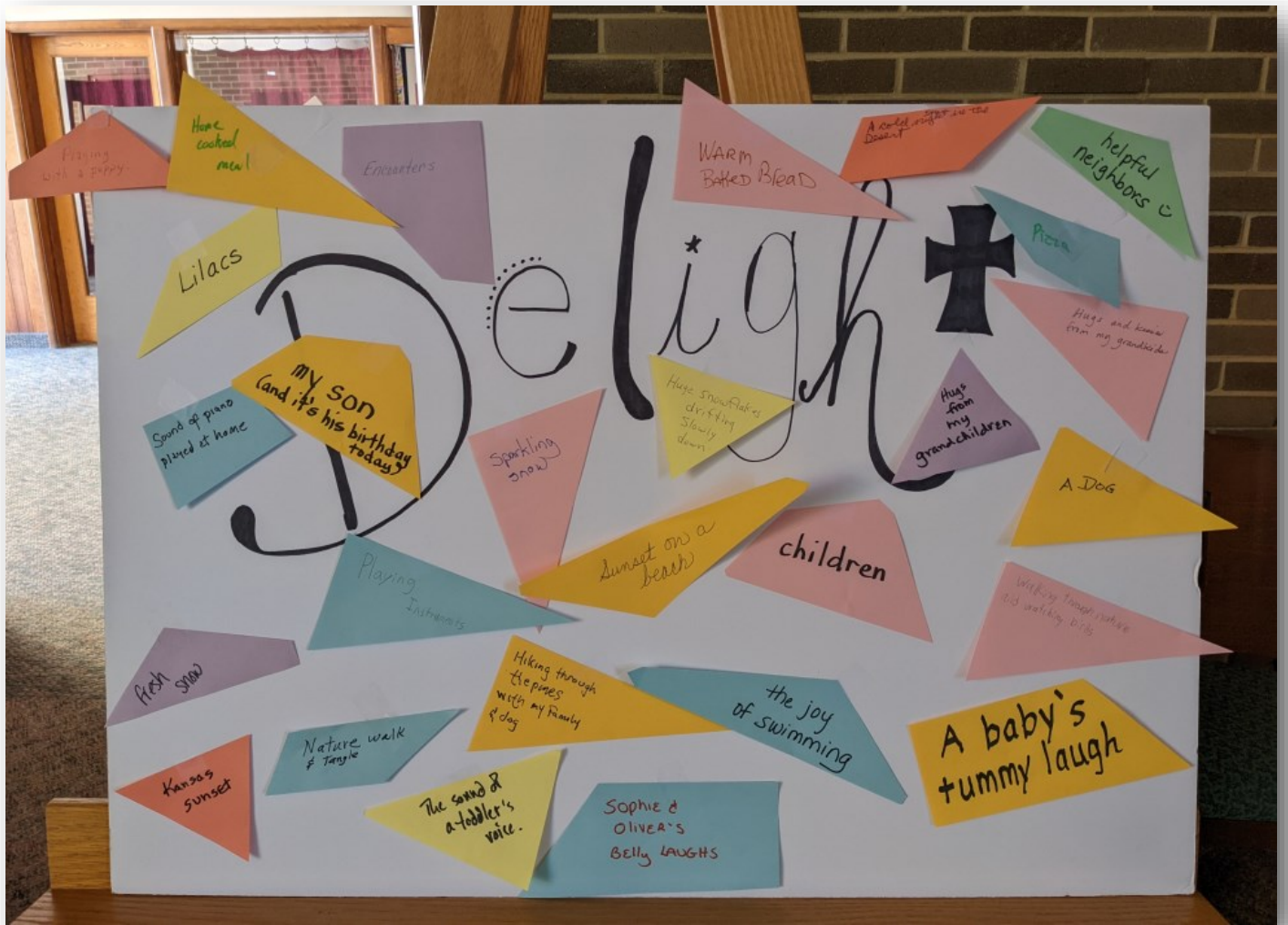


Some of our RBC kiddos learning about communion during the children's time.



Our RBC kids enjoying the space in the sanctuary where they can worship in their own way!





RBCers share what brings them delight during a recent worship service.



**Royersford Baptist Church**  
452 S. Lewis Road  
Royersford, PA 19468

***Royersford Baptist Church  
(RBC)***

*Office - 610-948-4170*

*Email - [rbcabc@rbcabc.org](mailto:rbcabc@rbcabc.org)*

*Website - [www.rbcabc.org](http://www.rbcabc.org)*

***OFFICE HOURS:***

***Monday through Friday,  
9:15 AM - 1:15 p.m.***

*RBC is affiliated with American  
Baptist Churches USA*



***STAFF:***

**Pastor - Sarah Strosahl-Kagi**

**Youth Director - Ryan Seckman**

**Worship Coordinator – Lara Cifelli**

**Minister of Music – Alex Cifelli**

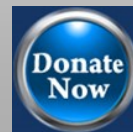
**Office Manager - Kate Ligouri**

**Technology Coordinator - Josh Kagi**

**Nursery School Director – Melissa Moffa**

*\*Please call the office at  
610-948-4170 if you wish to  
schedule an appointment with  
the Pastor or Youth Director.*

If you have been touched by the ministry of RBC, you can be part of continuing our ministry together through your financial gifts. Our website has online giving options that make it possible for you to be a part of supporting the work of Royersford Baptist Church. Your gifts and your prayers make a vital difference in the Kingdom of God.



For the latest in news and information about Royersford Baptist Church, visit our website at:

**[www.rbcabc.org](http://www.rbcabc.org)**