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Berwickchurch.com

THE DOVE



B E R W I C K C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C H U R C H

SPRING IS COMING! REALLY???

TIME TO START PLANNING FOR PLANTING

It has been a long, very hard winter! It has been a long, very hard year! Signs of Spring will soon be visible. Temperatures will rise, snow will melt, birds will return, potholes will be filled!! Farmers will watch for the best time to plant – when ground is warm enough and not too muddy! There are also signs of Spring from our Covid winter: case numbers are going down, along with hospitalizations; schools are operating; legal restrictions are being lifted; vaccines are being distributed. It is time to plan for planting seeds of hope. March and April will be a time of watching closely what is happening around us to know when and how to proceed.

RESTART OF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

During March, Pastor Kay would like to again begin the weekly newsletter, but with help from all of you. We usually think of Lent as a time of giving something up to realize what sacrifice means. However, we have had a year of Lent. We have had a year of giving up and experiencing sacrifice. Over the month of March, take a look around and see what you are grateful for and what brings joy to your life. **Take a picture of something meaningful and send your photo to Pastor Kay for placement in the newsletter.** Her email address is phoenixcamper@gmail.com. SHARE JOY!

EXPERIENCING MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday falls on April 1, no foolin! Pastor Kay is currently planning to have the service via ZOOM. She will be designing a Maundy Thursday bag for you to pick up at the church, or be delivered to your home, that will hopefully make your experience more meaningful.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

On March 16, the Church Council will be reviewing options for Easter celebration. A letter and survey has been sent out to provide your input regarding in-house worship. The weather might also allow outside worship and outside flower decorations. An outside Easter Egg Hunt will also be discussed. After the current winter, the weather is bound to be better than what has already been experienced. Normal cold may seem like balmy island weather and playing with eggs in snow might be an exciting adventure when temperatures are above freezing!
- Pastor Kay

PASTORS:

Rev. Kay Miller-Todd &
Rev. Richard Miller-Todd
(Schedule varies)

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conrey
(Schedule varies)

Sunday Services
(Currently on YouTube or
Zoom) .

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ANNUAL "VALENTINE BRUNCH"

Due to Covid, we could not sponsor our "Widow/widowers Brunch" as we normally did by taking them out for brunch. This year, however, we improvised. Thanks to sponsors Karen and Nelson Pearce, Donn Henderson, and Shirley Holmes. We delivered delicious Bundt cakes and bouquets of flowers to our Widow/Widowers. For the ones living out of town, cards were sent.



Thank you to Karen and Nelson for helping deliver Valentines. Thank you also to Amanda Briggs for helping me deliver Valentines on one of the coldest days ever! (It was so cold at 30 degrees below wind-chill, we didn't get any pictures of the recipients!)

— Shirley Holmes



CO OP UPDATE

I am so proud of our co op team! Covid has proved to be very challenging, but we have overcome!! We are thriving even if we no longer get donations from Panera, Fareway or Hy-Vee. We have been so blessed with benefactors that donate money, groceries, time and prayers. Shelly and Amy have taken over the ordering and are having a fun time doing it. They are VERY creative. Shirley is still available for advice or ideas. Our "guests" have felt our loving presence, and several have been asking when will we be open for church as they want to come!!! We are so blessed with the Holy Spirit guiding and providing.

We are still serving 1000 people a month. That is something to be proud of and very grateful for.

Thank you to all that have been a part of our success in whatever way.

Blessings, Patty

PS: Needed items now to create meals for the families for Easter: Canned veggies (corn and green beans), Jiffy corn muffin mix, brownie mixes, cake mix with frosting. Check sales at HyVee and Aldi's. Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- All those impacted by Covid 19 in some way.
- Our shut-ins
- Our church so that hopefully we can safely reopen when the vaccines "kick in" and the numbers of new Covid cases decline.
- Charles Neagle
- Gerald Banning
- Donn Henderson's brother, Bob
- Mike Pearce
- Mary Feters
- Zinna Pearson
- Pastor Kay's brother
- Nina Moore
- Judy Sprague as she continues to deal with the aftermath of an electrical fire at her home in December. Repairs should be finally be completed by the end of May.



OUR SYMPATHY TO

The Roby family.
Cindy's mother, Pam
Abbott, passed away
recently, and is sorely
missed.

MISSIONS WE ARE

SUPPORTING

MARCH: Morgan Scott Project—TN;
Food Co-Op: Hygiene products

APRIL: Happy Life Children's
Home (Jonathan); Food Co-Op: Canned
goods;

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP

We have been enjoying Zoom fellowship the second Sunday in every month. The next one will be March 14 at 10:00 AM so we can all visit together for an hour! Call in info will be set up and emailed.

(The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM, also by Zoom.)

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE



Pastors Kay and Rich have been snowbirding in Georgia since December. It has been a bittersweet time. Sweet because we missed the Iowa winter

(sorry folks!). Sweet to be able to be outside almost daily. Sweet to build relationships with family. However, the bitterness side has been heavy. My brother has been through an extremely hard winter. I am grateful I was given the opportunity to be nearby and to walk with both of my brothers through this difficult time. A new day has dawned, my brother has responded to his recent treatments and they will go forth for several months, hopefully. We will be coming home the end of March.

Thank you for your prayers and love.

— Pastors Kay and Rich

The DOVE

This is the first issue we have tried to email rather than send by first class mail to as many as possible. Please call Karen at 515-262-9047 if you have received it by email but would prefer to have it mailed (or the other way around).

In obtaining email addresses recently, we received a letter from Rev. David Dickbernd who served as our pastor from 1973 until the autumn of 1978. He and Sharon sent "greetings and good wishes to any of the good folks who might remember the young Dickbernds who are by now the old Dickbernds." Dave said they still enjoy receiving the Dove and keeping up with some of the happenings at Berwick Church. He said "By the way, I wonder who the young preacher guy was who started the church newsletter and gave it the name "The Dove" which is always the symbol of peace and good news."

Thank you, Dave, for starting The Dove so many years ago (which was typed on a waxy stencil and then run on a mimeograph machine). Pat and Evelyn Sprague, Charles and Hazel Neagle, and now Karen & Nelson Pearce have taken care of addressing and mailing it over the years!

*This moment, every moment, is my most valuable commodity. Not because
It could be my last, but because every Moment time Is reborn.
Every new moment brings with it a new Opportunity
To do good, to be better, to make a difference, make my mark...
No matter how small or faint my mark may be. Don't get me wrong.
I Waste a lot of moments. Idleness, self pity, envy, fear, are all
Good ways to waste Moments. I do often, but I don't beat myself up
over it. As long as I Spend a little Time admiring the color of
the sky, watching someone's eyes dance, sharing
A hug or Smiling, then Life is Good.
I don't have to Be great every moment. I just have to be Grateful.
- Jennifer Mally*

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: 515-262-0949
 Revs. Kay & Rich 515-669-2202 (Back April 1)
 Pastor Tom: 515-480-3396 (currently "on duty")
 Church Secretary: 515-262-9047 (Karen)

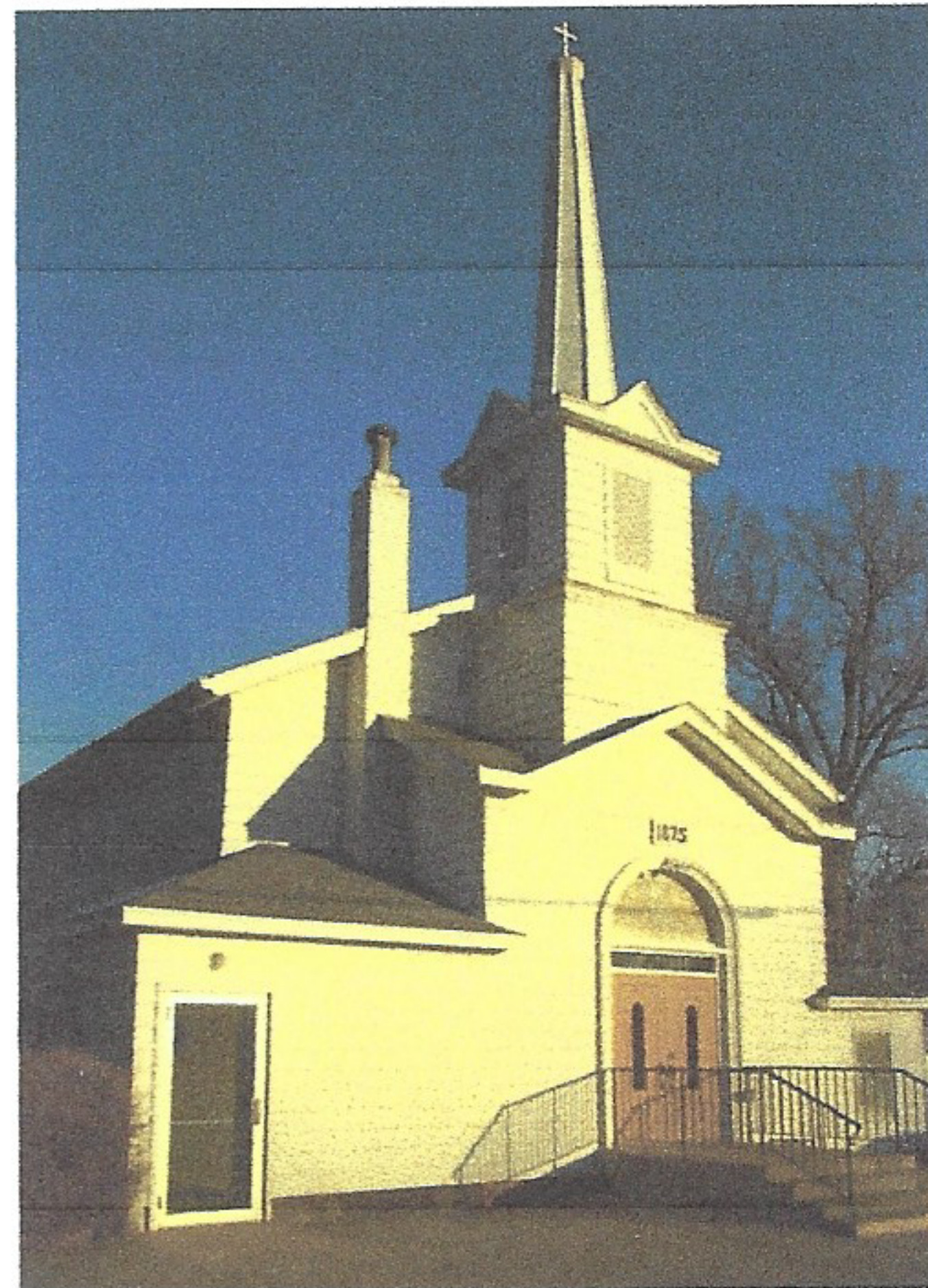
A LAY MINISTER GROWS IN BERWICK

Each year our National Association of Congregational Christian Churches publishes a booklet called Lent Devotional, in which Congregationalists offer daily personal Lenten devotional suggestions. Mostly, the authors are identified as "Dr.," "Rev.," "Rev. Dr." or Ph.D." However, lately Berwick Church has been making its contribution through "Patty Smith," identified with no theological pretensions noted. Or needed. Even her email address at the end of the devotionals, "Happy Patty," stands out from the rest.

I have read through about 75 of these pieces including three of Patty's. My assessment: Patty uses words better than the writers who are trained professionals. Patty says more, reaches to the heart more, speaks to the Congregational idea more, and uses fewer words to do it. Her titles, such as "Good Friday/Bad Friday" and "Jesus Died on Purpose – No Surprise," are unique and "of-the-people," telling the reader right away that this devotional piece is from the common Christian experience and it will speak to them. And indeed, when they read it, it does.

I interviewed Patty on Lent. We drew parallels between Lent, the Covid-19 experience and life itself for people. We talked especially of people in the age range of many of our current members, moving from birth, to the search for meaning, to seeing sickness and death, and to the hope for life. Though under the Congregational idea we are all ministers, Patty has chosen the challenge to pursue the Lay Ministry in a much more committed way. I believe "Happy Patty" will enjoy this pursuit, and that we shall enjoy watching her pursue it.

- Wm. Nelson Pearce February, 2021



Berwick Congregational Church

GOOD FRIDAY/BAD FRIDAY

Scripture: John 19:16-18

Have you ever wondered: Why did they call Good Friday, Good Friday? After all, I'm sure the disciples didn't think it was so good. They lost their best friend, and worse yet, they had doubts about if He was really who He said He was. Poor Mary, Jesus' mother, lost her son. Where is the good in all this?

We all have "Good Fridays" in our lives when we think the world will surely end. You wrecked your car, your house burned, you just received a bad health report. Like Mary, like the disciples, we must remain faithful and we will have our Easter.

God will bring us through all of our Good Fridays and Bad Fridays.

Heavenly Father, grant us the ability to hold your hand and trust you to bring us through all our trials. In your holy name we pray. Amen - Patty Smith—Lent Devotional (NACCC 2018)