



# The Belltower

March 2024

The Newsletter of the Clover Hill Reformed Church

Sunday, March 3, at 10:00 am  
Communion  
**Third Sunday of Lent**  
John 10:1-10 Psalm 122

Sunday, March 10, at 10:00 am  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
Jeremiah 31:31-24 Romans 3:19-28  
**Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Sunday, March 17, at 10:00 am  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**Holy Week**  
O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?

Details on page 17 (Spiritual Growth Team section)

Sunday, March 24, at 10:00am  
**Palm Sunday**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47; Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 pm  
**Maundy Thursday**  
Worship & Communion hosted by Clover Hill Reformed Church  
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
  
**Maundy Thursday, 6:00 pm**  
Seder Supper Presentation/Last Supper Worship Service  
Hosted by Neshanic Reformed Church

Friday, March 29, at 7:30 pm  
**Good Friday**  
Hosted by Three Bridges Reformed Church  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19; 42

Sunday, March 31, 2024, 6:30 AM  
**Easter Sunrise**  
Rain or Shine – This Service is in-person only  
In the Clover Hill Cemetery

Sunday, March 31, 2024, 10:00 am  
**Resurrection Service**  
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

## Communication and Contact Information

Clover Hill Reformed Church, 890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
908-369-8451 / [chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com) / Website: [www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org) / Like Us On Facebook

The office of CHRC is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.  
The office administrator will be working remotely each Wednesday and available by phone (908-369-8451 by leaving a message) and email ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com))



# Worship With Us Online

Sundays at 10:00 am

Our live-streamed services will be accessible in real-time through:

**YouTube** [Click Here to check out our YouTube Channel!](#)

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## Zoom Login for meetings only

**By computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3847369806>

Meeting ID: 384 736 9806

Passcode: 5hhNCv

**By phone:**

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 384 736 9806

Passcode: 544042

**If you are not feeling well (COVID, flu, or other potentially contagious illness)  
please stay home and join us via Zoom.**

**INCLEMENT  
WEATHER  
INFORMATION**



## CHRC Inclement Weather Policy

Should severe weather threaten our area, please check your email for a Mail-Chimp announcement from Clover Hill Reformed Church or contact the coordinator of the meeting/event/activity you were planning to attend.

Sunday Mornings: In the event of inclement weather, the church will remain open for 10:00 am worship services and live stream YouTube - however, the programming may look different.

**NOTE:** In all cases, please use your personal discretion to determine if it is safe for you to leave your home and travel to church. Do not place yourself or your family in danger by driving outside your comfort zone.

We're now on Instagram!



*click, follow & like*

Our Instagram name is  
'Clover\_Hill\_Reformed\_Church\_' (that's right, there is a  
'dangling' underscore at the end).

Are you following us on Facebook?



*click, follow, like & share*

Even if you are not a Facebook user, you can still see our church's Facebook page. If you have any content that you would like to see up on Facebook or Instagram send to the Office Administration [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com).

## 2024 Consistory members, officers & team coordinators

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Beth Scibienski

[pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com)

### Elders:

Amy Frank—Vice President

[frankfmly@yahoo.com](mailto:frankfmly@yahoo.com)

Nancy Lane—Pastoral Care

[nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com)

Kirsten Posselt—Clerk of Consistory

[kirstenposselt3@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenposselt3@gmail.com)

Lori Voorhees—Spiritual Growth

[l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net)

### Deacons:

Carolyn Keck—Spiritual Growth

[carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com)

Gene Reinhardt—Stewardship

[greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com)

Barbara Sarzillo—Fellowship & Service

[barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)

Communications—

### Staff:

George Farrell—music director

[deuscaritasest@aol.com](mailto:deuscaritasest@aol.com)

Lynn- Totten—office administrator

[CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com)

Dear Clover Hill,

Isaiah chapter 43 says:

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
When you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the LORD your God,*

*I made a way through the sea,  
a path through the mighty waters,  
I drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay  
there, never to rise again,  
I extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:*

*“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

We stand on the shoulders of generations who have trusted God along the way, who have seen God provide and believed God had a future for them. As I reflect on the last two years together, I want to highlight three things that happened along our journey together:

**We met faithfully for worship, conversation and fellowship.** Whether it be discussing books, praying over zoom or conversation after worship, we explored faith together. And our curiosity provided a way forward. *Keep meeting faithfully together for worship, conversation and fellowship!*

**We leaned on one another.** Although the pastor plays a unique role in a church community, the pastor is not what keeps a church together nor is the pastor what grows a church. The glue of a church is a group of people who love God and love one another. *Pray for one another. Care for one another’s needs. Lean on one another.*

**We worked together.** Clover Hill Reformed is fueled by volunteers. Our team structure sets the agenda. The discussion and decisions are a result of your participation in a team. The worship and work of Clover Hill will remain steady, whether you have a pastor or if you are in between pastors. *If you are not part of a team, please consider this your personal invitation. Speak to someone on Consistory and discuss what your interests are and how you can best serve.*

When my dad was still alive, his instagram “handle” was @godsgottoday. It was very much his life motto. If we worried, he would remind us, “God’s got today.” It was so important to him that we had it engraved on his headstone. Meet Together. Lean on one another. Work Together. God’s got today.

Peace,  
Pastor Beth

[www.bethscib.com](http://www.bethscib.com) / Cell: 732-735-2112 / Use this [calendar link](#) to schedule time with me

To our Clover Hill family,

We began our February Consistory meeting with these words from Paul to the church in Rome:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. Romans 15:13-14*

For years, (wow, time flies) we have been relying on dedicated members of our Clover Hill family, serving together on our teams. The addition of our Pastoral Care Team completes us, addressing a critical part of our life as a church family that had long needed attention. Those of us who are participating with our sister churches at the Classis level have heard of struggles as churches seek to move from the old, pastor-centered model to a reliance on leadership from within the congregation. Clover Hill is already there. What does this mean? We are well placed to welcome our next pastor, a part-time pastor, and to continue this faith-filled journey together.

With this said, we must pause to acknowledge the relationships that have been formed over the past two years and that we're feeling "some kind of way" about the announcement that this time is at an end. Life has happened in the last two years. For some, Pastor Beth has held us and walked with us through a time of loss. For some, she has connected over a shared experience or reached out at an anxious moment. Our experiences of this pastoral relationship are unique to where we have been in our life's journeys. Beth has been a constant in our Sunday morning worship and the leader of our Sunday morning discussions around the table.

So what now? We begin by offering our sincere thanks to Pastor Beth for her time among us and we join in wishing her well as she begins her ministry in Hopewell. More will be said when we gather for a time of fellowship following worship on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

On the Sunday after Easter, April 7, we will welcome an old friend to our pulpit as the Rev. David Hill leads us in worship. The Rev. Courtney Cromie will be with us from April 14 through Pentecost, Sunday, May 19. And the Rev. Dawn Alpaugh, our Classis minister and another supportive friend of Clover Hill, will lead us in worship on May 26, the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

And we go on, ready to open our hearts to a new pastoral relationship. The service to our mission partners, the planning for VBS 2024, the search for our new pastor, the questioning and the faithfulness and the learning go on. And the essence of Clover Hill as a friendly, warm, comfortable and welcoming church family goes on.

We do not have all of the answers. We may not even know what all of the questions are. But we do know that we go into the future together. For now, we will continue, together, to BE the Church, and we will look forward, in hope, to what is to come.

If there are any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any of us.

With faith and love,

The members of Consistory

Amy Frank ([frankfmly@yahoo.com](mailto:frankfmly@yahoo.com))

Nancy Lane ([nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com))

Kirsten Posselt ([kirstenposselt3@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenposselt3@gmail.com))

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Carolyn Keck ([carolykeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolykeck64@gmail.com))

Gene Reinhardt ([greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))

Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com))

In honor of  
Rev. Beth Scibienski  
(this is not a surprise)



Please join us on  
**Sunday March 24**  
following worship in the Nevius Fellowship Hall  
for a  
**Fellowship Brunch**  
in honor of Pastor Beth

to express our gratitude and love for her gifts, guidance, and care  
she provided us these past two years.

A signup sheet is available on the  
Narthex Fellowship bulletin board  
to let us know the dish you will be bringing  
to add to the brunch.

You may also contact the church office by email or phone with your  
name, contact number and potluck dish. ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com))

The Egg Hunt and Creed Discussion  
Will be happening as well following worship March 24.

# News from the Fellowship Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com))



During our coffee hour in February our fellowship time included making vision boards led by Pastor Beth.

## Skeins of Hope

Zoom meetings will be on  
Monday, March 11, 2024,  
at 8:00 pm.

Diana Reinhardt (908-369-4362 or  
[greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))



Sunday March 24

Please join us after worship

In the Nevius Fellowship Hall

(during the brunch in honor of Pastor Beth)

for the annual CHRC

Easter Egg Hunt

(Please bring a basket)



# Message from the Pastoral Search Team

## Search Team Update:

“With God, there’s always an appointed time for things, and when you put Him first, trust in His timing, and keep the faith, miracles happen!”

— Germany Kent

The Search Team is constantly reminding ourselves of God’s Timing. The quote above helps motivate us to continue to be diligent in our approach to find the right pastor for our Church.

Although more work is needed before a potential candidate is recommended by the Search Team, we did have some positive reactions from a recent interview and we will conduct a second interview during the upcoming month.

We continue to ask for your prayers and patience as we move forward with the tasks ahead.

In the meantime, Number 6 of the “Seven C’s” from the Book “The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor is **“Competence”** (page 88).

As a shepherd for your church, you should require your pastor to be dedicated to some form of heed, feed, lead and need model for pastoral ministry. This being said, these words that I use to describe pastoral ministry are not the main point; the mind-set and activities that they portray are what is essential. As you interview a pastoral candidate, they should not be expected to recite this group of words. But what they should be expected to do is tell you what is important to them as a pastor in each of these areas.

I urge church leaders to inquire about a potential pastor’s intention to know and love your congregation and community and how they plan to go about this. Also, do they rely upon prayer and the Word of God to guide their ministry? Do they cherish the Bible and are they dedicated to preaching the whole counsel of God? Do they offer personal counsel from the Word of God? You get the idea.

What is at stake, of course, is the spiritual care of your congregation and the health of your church. I believe, any person worthy of the title of “pastor” will not only welcome such a conversation, but will be greatly attracted to a church who engages them in a deep discussion about these important matters.

Your Search Team:

Patty Agnew [paw61961@gmail.com](mailto:paw61961@gmail.com)

Janet Durborow [jdurbor@gmail.com](mailto:jdurbor@gmail.com)

Marilyn Fineman (Search Team Chair) [marilyn@fineman.me](mailto:marilyn@fineman.me)

Matt Furmato [tmfurmato@embarqmail.com](mailto:tmfurmato@embarqmail.com)

Gary Keck [gkeck6@gmail.com](mailto:gkeck6@gmail.com)

Laurel Suk [sukart24@gmail.com](mailto:sukart24@gmail.com)

Gary Tully [crusingg@aol.com](mailto:crusingg@aol.com)

Pastor, Rev. Beth Scibienski [pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com)

Linda Santa-Lucia (Classis Supervisor)

# News from the Stewardship Team

Consistory Facilitator: Gene Reinhardt ([greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))

Cash Financial Snapshot (as of 2/29/2023)	
Income Year to Date (excluding special gifts)	\$25,703.19
Expense Year to Date	\$27,421.77
<b>Balance to Date</b>	<b>-\$1,718.58</b>
<b>TD Checking Balance (Operating Cash):</b>	
	<b>\$16,336.90</b>
<b>TD Money Market Account (Savings)</b>	<b>\$39,558.77</b>
<b>TD Money Market Account (Restricted Funds)</b>	<b>\$14,281.10</b>
Accessibility Fund	\$5,089.63
Benevolence Fund	\$1,139.00
Building Fund	\$160.40
Castellano Scholarships Fund	\$700.99
Kris Kanach Library Fund	\$556.50
Mary Nevius Music Fund	\$4,914.58
Paving Seal Fund	\$1,720.00
<b>Vanguard Savings as of 2/29/2024 (opened 5/2023)</b>	<b>\$222,611.43</b>
<b>Total of all Operating and Funds Cash:</b>	<b>\$292,788.20</b>



Thank you to those that helped shovel snow this winter.



**New Cleaners Always Welcome** *Many hands make light work!*

**Next Clean Team Meeting:**  
March 13, 8 am

**Nancy Lane**  
**908-399-4791**

## Property Volunteers Wanted!

With the upcoming parsonage vacancy, there may be some extra projects that need to be done. Anyone willing to help should contact Gene Reinhardt ([greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com)).

## Next Stewardship

### Team Meeting:

**April 3, 2023, 7:00 pm**



# Message from the Pastoral Care Team

Coordinator: Nancy Lane ([nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com))

Team members: Ann Cucchiara ([uncannie \(uncannie09@gmail.com\)](mailto:uncannie@uncannie09@gmail.com)), Lori Voorhees ([l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net))



Titus 3:4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## Spiritual Spring Cleaning

Lent is a time when Christians around the world prepare their hearts for Easter. Spring is a season of growth, cleansing, and renewal. The juxtaposition of Lent and Easter is not a coincidence. So, dear friends, it is time to do a little spiritual housekeeping.

First it is time to purge. What things hidden in your basements, closets, and garages are no longer useful to you or your household? Just as you donate, recycle, upcycle, or dispose of those items that no longer give you pleasure, think of the distractions in your life that are not pleasing to God. The website, [outuponthewaters.com](http://outuponthewaters.com) suggest 25 things to give up during this Lenten season:

- screen time
- gossip
- complaining
- self-criticism
- pride
- worry
- interrupting people
- talking about yourself: only talk about yourself when asked a direct question
- shopping: only buy the essentials (like food and cleaning supplies)
- fast food: donate the money you save to a ministry or a charity
- social media
- driving: walk or ride a bike instead
- television
- Netflix
- meat
- single use plastic
- all plastic
- sleeping in/staying up late: spend that time with God instead
- make-up
- the mirror
- weighing yourself
- YouTube
- games on your phone
- Busyness
- talking first: listen more and ask more questions

Giving up 25 things is a tall order and I suspect God would think so too. Focus on a couple of things that are most pertinent to your spiritual growth.

# Message from the Pastoral Care Team, continued...

What things can be added to your house to make it a home? Just as you consider what you will contribute to create a feeling of warmth and hospitality, think about something you can take on in your life that will help you grow as a Christian. [Outuponthewaters.com](http://Outuponthewaters.com) suggests several ideas:

- Start a gratitude journal.
- Start a prayer journal.
- Throw away (or donate) 40 things for 40 days.
- Clean your house. Donate things you don't need that could benefit others.
- Declutter.
- Start walking. Spend 20 minutes in silence with God each morning
- Carve out time for Bible study.
- Carve out time for prayer. Pick up a 40 day devotional.
- Be more charitable.
- Donate your time.
- Donate your money.
- Compliment someone every day.
- Make something and give it away. An afghan, or some cookies, or whatever else you are gifted at making.
- Read a book. Visit the Chris Kanach Memorial Library in the NFH
- Adopt a child through an organization like World Vision or Compassion Canada.
- Bring someone a meal. The "I Can Do That" list continues to address needs within our congregation.
- Write a letter to someone.
- Try a creative prayer practice.
- Don't look at your phone for an hour after you wake up and an hour before you go to bed. Pick up a book or your Bible instead.

Try one or two suggestions and make them lifelong habits. Honor God this Lenten season. Have a happy Spring and a blessed Easter. (Submitted by Ann Cucchiara)

Are you or someone you know in the Clover Hill Church community in need of pastoral care? If so, please reach out to the Church Office and let Lynn- Totten (office administrator) know. 908-369-8451.



# News from the Spiritual Growth Team

Coordinator: Carolyn Keck ([carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com)) and Lori Voorhees ([l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net))

## The Depths of Renewal

*Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

—JOHN 3:14-21 (NIV)



Renewal often begins in the depths. A seed covered with soil waits for the warmth of spring to bring it to life. Then, shoots burst through the seed's hard shell and stretch up toward the sun, growing into something astonishingly huge, unrecognizable from a seedly point of view. The seed could never have imagined the plant it would become. And so too with us. We don't have the power of regeneration. But God does. Jesus came to reveal it through his last days on earth—his death on the cross, his burial, in the long, dark silence of the tomb, and then, the resurrection. As the shock of radical new life coursed through his body, Jesus stood and walked the earth,

so his friends could see him and know that all he had told them was true. Yes, there was a cross and a death, and an unbearable waiting they endured in the depths of seeming defeat. But then, a raised-to-life, victorious Jesus just as he had promised. What kind of love is this? A love that is stronger than death. One that comes not to condemn, but to renew. A love that shines truth on what needs to change, both within us and around us, and invites us to move forward, arm-in-arm.

(Excerpt from Kate Bowler's, "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent" discussion guide, p.24, 26)

## A Lenten Blessing for Remembering We Can Start Again

Blessed are we in the fog,  
that first-thing-in-the-morning feeling when we don't know what today is for.

Blessed are we not moving too soon,  
lingering in the sense that yesterday's wisdom seems long ago and far away.

Here in the not-knowing,  
is where we remember  
there is no formula we should have remembered, for you, O God have made  
this day from scratch, out of the abundance of your creativity and love.

And because of your forgiveness freely offered, joyfully received,  
we can begin again.

Renewal is the unendingly fresh spring that is for this day, the one I'm living in.  
And for this me, the one I'm becoming.


God, help me listen  
With my whole self,  
for what you can do with this whole day. Help me listen deeply each moment  
and start fresh over and over  
in the light of your rejuvenating word.

Amen.

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

These actions are not items on the Lenten “things to do list”. They are actions for a life of serving God. They do not end after Easter Sunday nor begin on next Ash Wednesday. Keep praying and working at it all.

<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>FAST</b>	When we fill our lives with obligations, relationships, or ways of thinking that distract us from focusing on Jesus, we are less able to experience life to its fullest. This week challenges you to create space in your life for the full life Jesus came to give us.
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>Pray</b>	Prayer can seem mysterious, either because of doubts about the ability of prayer or because it's difficult to incorporate prayer into daily life. The challenge for week 2 is make time in your day to read and pray the Lord's Prayer, then to create your own prayer based on the model of the Lord's Prayer.
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>GIVE</b>	When we give of ourselves by using the gifts God has given us to serve others, we are able to uniquely worship God. This week challenges you to explore your gifts and talents and then creatively use those to serve those around you.
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>THANK</b>	Thankfulness is more than an expression; it is an attitude of life. When we are thankful we are better able to experience blessings in our lives. The challenge for this week is to thank someone in your life who has expressed God's goodness to you. This week also challenges you to express God's goodness to others in your life.
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>SERVE</b>	God values everyone equally and immensely. When we express this to each other we are experiencing life with more love. This week challenges you to think critically about how your actions value others.
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>REFLECT</b>	Living a full life requires change. During this week, we will reflect on each of the previous weeks, what we have learned, and how we will recommit ourselves to those actions, even after this journey is over.



## Soul-nourishing Practices for Lent

**Fast from busyness.**  
Take a slow walk around a neighborhood park or other natural place. Listen to the sounds around you—of nature, of people, of silence—and let your soul find rest in the moment.

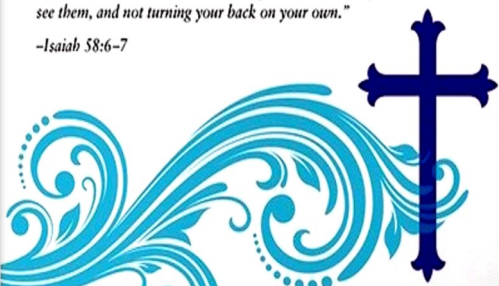
**Fast from emotional exhaustion.**  
When feeling a soul-draining emotion, such as resentment, hurt, anger, or fear, give yourself time and space to let it rise and then subside. Don't judge, bury, or ignore it, but let it play itself out before choosing a way to respond.

**Fast from negativity.**  
Pay attention to times when you find yourself indulging in skepticism or sarcasm, cynicism or contempt. Make a conscious effort to turn your thoughts around to something positive, hopeful, and life-enhancing.

**Fast from verbal violence.**  
Look for ways to replace hurtful words with healing ones. Be mindful of abstaining from television shows, films, books, articles, and other forms of media that are filled with hateful, judgemental, or cruel words, images, and actions.


*"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own."*

—Isaiah 58:6-7



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- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.



## LENT

WE CAN THINK OF LENT

as a time to

ERADICATE EVIL OR CULTIVATE VIRTUE

a time to

pull up weeds or plant good seeds

WHICH IS BETTER IS CLEAR,

for the Christian ideal

IS ALWAYS

POSITIVE RATHER THAN NEGATIVE.

catholicALLYEAR.com —VEN. FULTON J. SHEEN

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

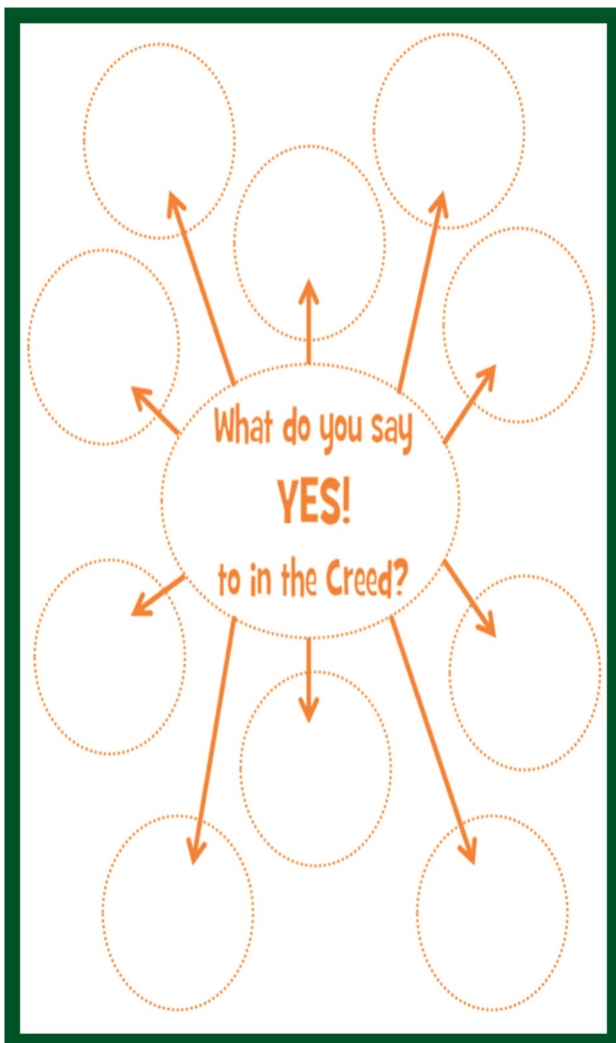
## Creeds and Confessions: CHRC Adult Education Series during Lent 2024



Sundays during Lent following worship; led by Pastor Beth

Dates: March 3, 10, 17, 24

Explore the multiple creeds and their meanings



The Reformed Church in America (RCA) is a confessional church.

This means that, as a denomination, we affirm specific statements of belief called creeds and confessions. These statements are biblically based and were written to respond to issues by explaining in detail what the church believes about those topics.

**During Lent, we'll explore the theologies and histories of the:**

**Nicene Creed** - the nature of Jesus

**Athanasian Creeds** - our understanding of the Trinity

**Heidelberg Confession** - how we teach our beliefs

**Belgic Confession** - a thorough expression of the Protestant faith

**Canons of Dort** - have you ever heard of T.U.L.I.P.?

**Belhar Confession** - our response to South African Apartheid

**Song of Hope** - a contemporary confession of faith

Explore the multiple creeds and their meanings

<https://www.rca.org/about/theology/creeds-and-confessions/>

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...



Clover Hill

Reformed



Neshanic

Churches



Three Bridges

## Holy Week Service Information

### Palm Sunday Services, March 24, 2024

Each church will hold their own service at the usual time:



**Clover Hill 10:00 am**

<https://www.cloverhillchurch.org/>

**Neshanic 10:00 am**

<https://www.neshanicreformedchurch.org/>

**Three Bridges 10:00 am**

<https://www.3brc.org/>

### Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

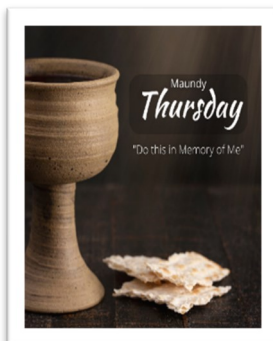
Two worship service locations offered:

**Clover Hill Reformed Church – 6:30 PM**

890 Amwell Rd, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

[www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org)

We will begin in our sanctuary to prepare our hearts. There will be a combined choir. Then we will move to the Nevius Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Last Supper around tables with a light meal.



**Neshanic Reformed Church - 6:00 PM**

715 Amwell Rd, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844

<https://www.neshanicreformedchurch.org/>

Seder Supper Presentation/Last Supper Worship Service: Using elements of the Passover Seder including a simple meal, Neshanic will highlight the cultural context of what we believe to be Jesus' last supper with His disciples. The evening will conclude with a celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

### Good Friday, March 29, 2024

**Three Bridges Reformed Church – 7:30 PM**

470 Main St, Three Bridges, NJ 08887



<https://www.3brc.org/>

'Were you there? At the cross? Were you there?'

It's so easy to separate ourselves from the journey that Jesus takes. And yet, as we hear the story, we begin to be shown that we were there.

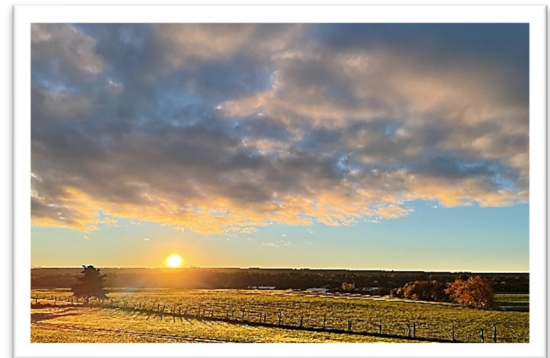
Come. Gather. Reflect. Believe.

### Easter Sunrise, March 31, 2024

**Clover Hill Reformed Church – 6:30 AM**

Rain or Shine – This Service is in-person only

890 Amwell Rd, Hillsborough, NJ 08844, in the church cemetery / [www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org)



“By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.”

1 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

### Resurrection Service, March 31, 2024

**Clover Hill 10:00 am**

<https://www.cloverhillchurch.org/>

**Neshanic 10:00 am**

<https://www.neshanicreformedchurch.org/>

**Three Bridges 10:00 am**

<https://www.3brc.org/>

If you cannot attend in person Palm Sunday, Good Friday or Easter services, you can live-stream, or watch the service later in the week on our YouTube channels.

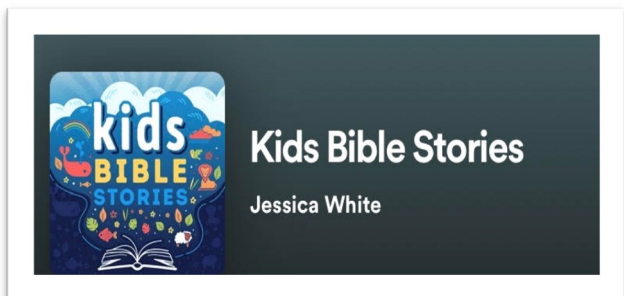
# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## Lenten Resources

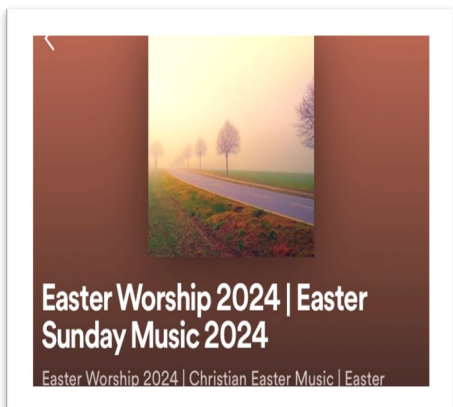
Gathered for your journey is the complete Lenten Devotional composed by Rev. Beth Scibienski along with multimedia resources for individuals and families, and craft ideas to create conversations with children as they continue to learn the story of God's Love.



<https://www.cloverhillchurch.org/lenten-journey>



- Bible Storytelling Podcast  
[What did Jesus Save Us From?](#)  
[Why did Jesus die?](#)



[Contemporary Christian Music](#)



[Resurrection eggs engage children of all ages in the Easter story.](#)

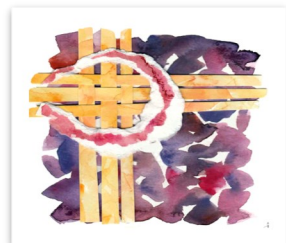
# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...



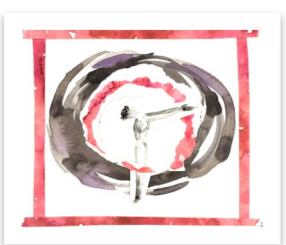
A God with a Mother  
[Revelation 12:1-6](#)  
[John 19:25-27](#)



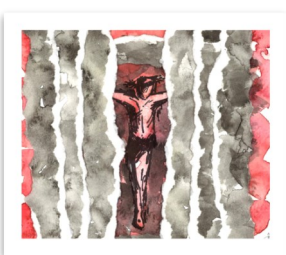
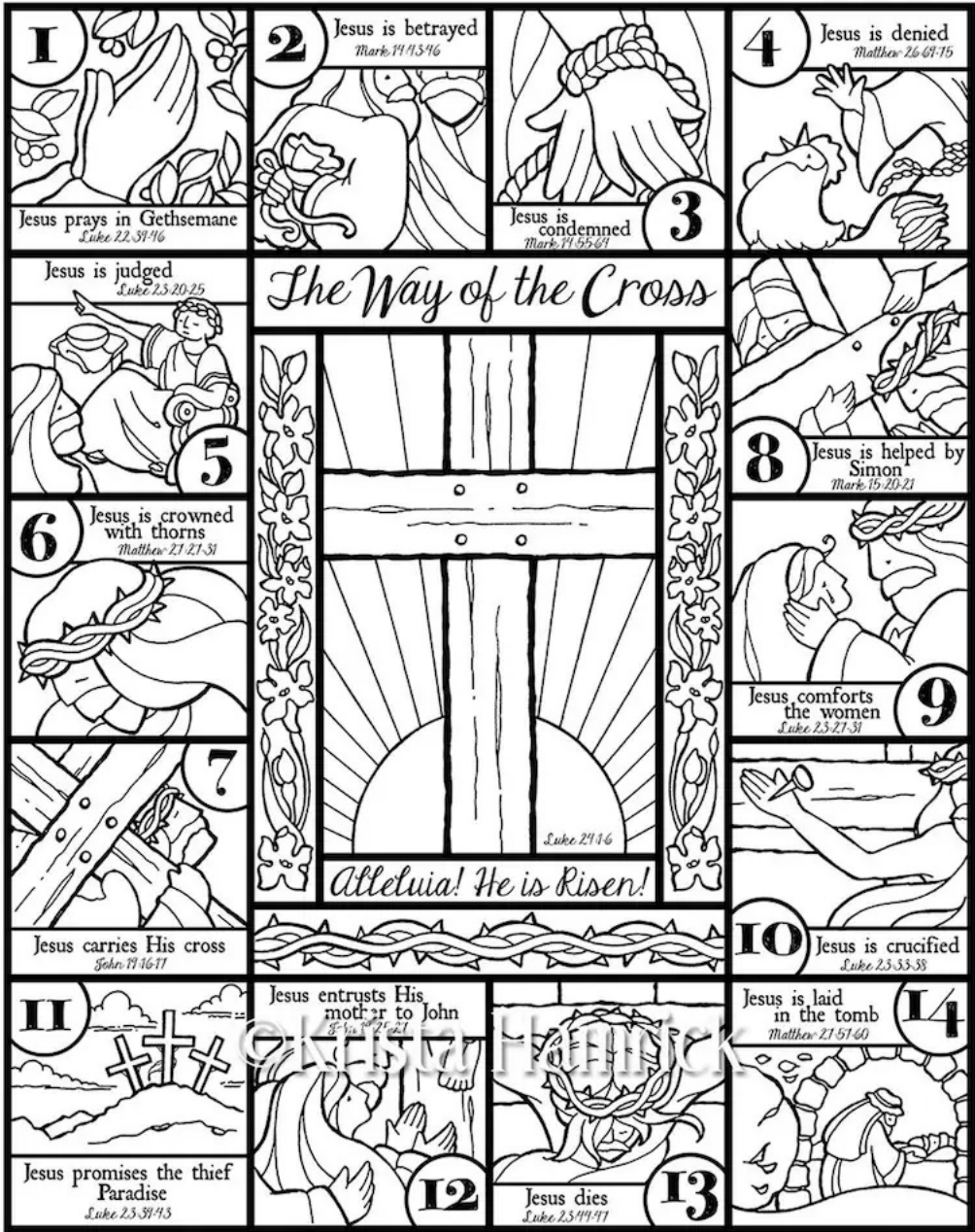
A God Who Thirsts  
[Psalm 22:12-18](#)  
[John 19:28-30](#)



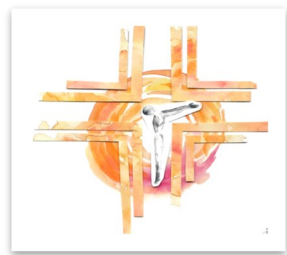
Holy Thursday-  
 God who Loves  
[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)  
[Hebrews 10:15-25](#)  
[Luke 22:7-20](#)



Good Friday-  
 God Bleeds and Dies  
[Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#)  
[Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9](#)  
[John 18:1-19:42](#)



Easter Vigil- God is Buried  
[Daniel 6:1-24](#)  
[1 Peter 4:1-8](#)  
[Matthew 27:57-66](#)



Easter Day- God Risen  
[Isaiah 65:17-25](#)  
[1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#)  
[John 20:1-18](#)



# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## Early Birds



Same day of the week –  
**different time!**  
Wednesdays at **7:00 am** on Zoom

*When we pray together, we experience God's presence.*

*For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."*

Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

**Come and be in community** with others while we seek God's guidance and comfort for the new day.

**Come join in** each Wednesday at 7:00 am on Zoom for a 10-15 minute time of devotion, scripture, sharing of concerns and joys, prayer, and lifting those on the CHRC prayer list to God.

**Come as you are** – PJ's allowed!

Questions: email Lynn-Totten (chrc1834@gmail.com)



We invite you to take a moment or so, as you can, between the hours of 8 and 11 Wednesday mornings, and pray for all of those who are called by God to be connected to Clover Hill. He will guide our Church, our country, and our world on a path of faith and benevolence to all.

## Lunch Bunch



**Come - Be - Reflect -**  
**Share an hour of enjoying a meal,**  
**touching base with God and each other**

**Date:** Tuesday March 12, 2024

**Time:** noon- about 1:00 pm

**Location:** we will meet in the CHRC  
Nevius Fellowship Hall  
or if inclement weather on Zoom

**Bring:** something to drink,  
your lunch or snack,  
and yourself

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42*

An opening prayer, 15-minute discussion on Bible/religious topic, fellowship, closing prayer will be provided to deepen our experience together.

**No need to RSVP, you do not need to attend each one, just show up!**

If you need further information, please contact the church office.

(908-369-8451 or chrc1834@gmail.com)

**"Prayer is not only asking, but an attitude of mind which produces the atmosphere in which asking is perfectly natural."**

-Oswald Chambers

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## CHRC Choir

You are invited to participate in rehearsals at 9:00 am each Sunday morning.

Choir then sings during the 10:00 am worship.

George Farrell, organist/choir director / ([deuscaritasest@aol.com](mailto:deuscaritasest@aol.com)) or cell number (732) 599-4077

Often in my life I've heard people say that God hasn't answered their prayer. I'd like to remind each of us that sometimes what is really happening is that God is not giving us the answer that we want.

Nonetheless, here's what I think is good to do when God is silent. In the gospels of Mark and Matthew, a woman comes to Jesus begging that He heal her daughter who is tormented by a demon. She wants something good, but Jesus is silent. We hear the apostles tell Jesus, "Send her away. She keeps calling out after us." AKA she's being annoying. And then what happens? Eventually her perseverance pays off. Jesus gives her what she wants. It's easy to think of this story as the exception. Like Jesus gave her what she wanted because it was a unique circumstance. Maybe He was just in a great mood. It was a one-time thing. Maybe we imagine Him telling the woman, "Hey, I'll help you this time but, you can't just keep coming to me for everything." But if that was the case, Jesus wouldn't have let this story make it into scripture. He would have kept it under wraps. But the secret's out and I don't think it was an accident. You know what I think. I think Jesus likes being bothered.

I remember when I was a high school teacher and campus minister at St. Pius X high school in Piscataway, a student asked about our campus ministry team being the host for a diocesan youth ministry day event. Since the event was going to be at St. Pius it made sense for us to be the host team, which involved directing people to places within the school, getting materials together for the event, etc. We had a number of meetings with the team members to plan what materials were needed, what food would be available, what items would be available for sale, etc. We all managed to adjust our schedules a few times to get everything planned. The student who asked about this project often apologized for taking my time. I was glad to give the time. I liked the student and her idea. So, asking me to help wasn't annoying. In fact, I kind of wanted her and the rest of the team to bother me.

One of my favorite spiritual thoughts is: Jesus doesn't just love you; He likes you. Maybe Jesus was silent while the woman spoke because He just enjoyed listening to her talk. Maybe He liked hearing her call Him Lord. Maybe He cherished the moments He spent with her. Maybe Jesus wants us to read this story and do what she did. He loves you. He savors the sound of your voice. If you're praying for something good right now, and Jesus is being silent, have faith and don't stop bothering Him. I think He likes it.

I keep asking Jesus to convince some other congregants to join the choir. Jesus has been silent, but I'm not going to stop bothering Him!!! Oh, and by the way, I'm not going to stop asking at the end of each of the pieces I submit for the Belltower for people to consider joining the choir, even if it's a minimal commitment! Sunday rehearsal at 9:00 and Worship at 10:00. Come try it out!!!

May Christ Jesus be praised in everything we say, sing, and do.

In Jesus' name,  
George Farrell

# News from the Communication & A/V Teams

Consistory Facilitator: Communication – Church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com))

## Motivational Message Coming to You from our Church Parking Lot Sign

A group of very dedicated people faithfully change the sign in the parking lot every two (or more) weeks. Sometimes the sign gives information (e.g. about Vacation Bible School), but mostly it provides words of inspiration to those at our church and those who pass by the sign.

We pull the inspiration from various places on the internet, but if you have a message you would like to see displayed, or would like be part of this group that changes the sign, just email to the office administrator [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com), and she will pass it on. Just keep in mind, we are limited to seven lines and a maximum of 11 letters (spaces included) per line.



Whether we are social distancing or gathering at church, you can always stay on top of what is going on through:

- Belltower and bulletin announcements/inserts
- Facebook
- Instagram
- church website:  
[www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org)
- emails from MailChimp
- Zoom worship/meetings/activities



If you would like to join our 'team' and help us spread the word about what is going on at our church, contact the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)).

### Communications Team Members:

Bob DiMilia, Janet Durborow, Marilyn Fineman, Ken Skillman, Lynn– Totten

**All social media items must go through the church office before they can be posted. Please send all write ups to Lynn– Totten at [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com) Thank you!**



If you take pictures at any church event please share with the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)) so we may include them in our social media and Belltower. Not all pictures will be used but it is good to have them on file.

Please be aware we have a Family Photo Release form on file in the church office that limits the publication of the minors in our church family. Please check with the office admin before posting any photos on social media platforms.

## Belltower Deadline

Please submit all write ups to be included in the April issue, to the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)), by Thursday, March 21, 2024.

# MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Consistory</b> The Consistory will meet Tuesday, March 12, at 7:00 pm Zoom					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School / Communion 11:00 am Creed Study In the NFHall		11am-2pm NFHall in Use	7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in Use	11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist		
10 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School 11:00 am Creed Study In the NFHall 11:00 am Cemetery Assoc. meeting Upper Room	8:00 pm Skeins of Hope meeting Zoom	11am-2pm Upper Room in Use 12noon Lunch Bunch NFHall (inclement weather on Zoom) 7:00 pm Consistory meeting Zoom	7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00 am Clean Team Meets 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use	11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School 11:00 am Creed Study In the NFHall		11am-2pm NFHall in Use 1:30 pm Fellowship & Service Teams meeting in the NFHall	7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use	11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist 7:00 pm Search Team meeting in the NFHall Belltower Deadline		
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School 11:00 am Fellowship Brunch in honor of Pastor Beth & Creed Study & Egg Hunt in the NFHall		Prayer “Refresh” 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Search Team meeting in the NFHall	7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use	11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by Organist 6:30 pm <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Worship Communion at CHRC	7:30 pm <b>Good Friday</b> Worship at Three Bridges Reformed Church	
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b>						
6:30 am Sunrise Service in the Clover Hill Cemetery 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship No School						