



Growing together in God's Love

"The members and friends of Ridge Valley will grow as God's people by embodying the Four Acts of Love, together as a Family of Faith and individually in our personal lives"

Life in the Valley
April, 2018

'Good Friday'

Christina Rossetti

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter, weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

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From Consistory

On Sunday, April 22nd, RV will gather in a **Congregational Meeting** following the 9:30 AM Worship Service. At this time, the agenda of the meeting will include the following items:

1. The **election of three new members to Consistory**. Every year RV replaces one third of Consistory, electing three people to three-year terms
2. Election of one new member to the **St. John/Ridge Valley Cemetery Board**
3. Discussion on the **School House's** future
4. An update of **RV's 2018 Budget** situation

Please plan on attending the meeting on the 22nd as RV continues to plan for our present and future ministries and life together with one another and our God!

During April, RV's **Nominating Committee** will be hard at work, seeking *Consistory nominees* and a *Cemetery Board nominee* to be presented at the Congregational Meeting on April 22nd. Every year RV replaces one third of Consistory, electing three people to three-year terms, and one person to a three-year term on the Cemetery Board RV shares with St. John's Lutheran Church. If you would like to be considered for Consistory or the Cemetery Board, please talk to Pastor Steve or a Nominating Committee member. If you are asked to serve on Consistory or the Board, please give prayerful consideration to filling these leadership ministries at RV. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who cleaned the church in the first quarter of 2018 and also everyone who helped clean on Grubby Sunday on March 11th. Our volunteers have been doing a great job in keeping the church in tip-top shape. In April, please stop at the Sign-up Table to volunteer for a week in the second quarter of 2108.

Atibi, which provided and maintained the **Paper Recycling Bin** in the church's parking lot, has been bought by Gold Medal Environmental. If you have been frustrated that the bin has not been emptied as needed, Gold Medal has promised that they will provide excellent service to us. So..... please start to bring your papers with you to RV again and leave them in the recycling bin!

Visit our **WEB Site**, www.ridgevalleyucc.org for latest church announcements and information

Are You Found Here: Upcoming Meetings

7:00 PM	Tuesday, April 3 rd	Consistory
6:15 PM	Wednesday, April 11 th	Fellowship Committee
7:00 PM	Wednesday, April 11 th	Mission Committee
7:00 PM	Thursday, April 19 th	Board of Elders
7:30 PM	Thursday, April 19 th	Board of Elders & Consistory Workshop
10:30 AM	Sunday, April 22 nd	Congregational Meeting

Grocery Cards

Did you know that the **cash cards from local supermarkets (Landis, Giant and Redners)** RV is selling as a fundraiser for the Church Budget can be used at **Giant Gas Stations to fill your car up with gas?** Five percent of all you purchases using the cards is donated back to RV. Just another "free" way that you can help support RV as we work toward meeting our Budget in 2018! Cards can be purchased in \$20, \$50 and \$100 amounts in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday mornings.

Improvement Fund

The Improvement Fund is RV's resource for physical care and improvements on our facilities and grounds. Please bring a few extra dollars with you on a Sunday and use the envelopes in

the pews to contribute to the Fund, so that we have adequate resources in the event of something breaking or needing to be repaired. Thank you!

Fasageo's Restaurant Fundraising

Fasageo's Restaurant (724 Ridge Road, Sellersville) is offering a Fund Raising opportunity to RV's members and friends. When dining at Fasageo's, identify yourself as a member/friend of RV. Fasageo's will donate 10% of your bill to RV. Please make sure to take advantage of this opportunity to donate to RV while eating a good meal the next time you are at Fasageo's!

Good Samaritan Fund

RV's Good Samaritan Fund is used to help those who come to RV in need of financial support to purchase groceries or gas and pay rent or utilities. It is supported by your donations, primarily through your using the Communion Envelopes in your Giving Envelope Boxes. Thank you for helping RV support those in our community who need a helping hand.

Thank you for your continued support of RV's many ministries!

Ridge Valley Discussion Covenant

We will trust that the presence of God, the grace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit will guide us.

Being conscious of our own body language, we will listen carefully and respectfully to truly hear what another person is saying.

We will speak in the first person (I believe, I think, I feel) and from factual information, reflecting back what we have heard in order to confirm our understanding.

We will speak respectfully to each other and listen to understand, though we might not agree.

We will affirm the merits of ideas different from our own, while at the same time being lovingly honest with one another.

We will each utilize our own gifts for ministry. We will be mutually supportive to one another in our role as pastor, congregational leaders and congregation members & friends.

We will honor the covenant by being accountable to one another.

Worship in April

2018 Holy Week Worship

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord: The Gospel in 'Godspell'"

Good Friday

"By My Side"

Adult Choir & Special Music

Readers

March 30th

John 13: 33 - 38

Easter Sunday **April 1st**
Theme: "Save the People" John 20: 1 -18
Communion Service
Bell Choir and Adult Choir Provide Special Music

April Worship Highlights

Please join RV in Worship on Sunday, April 8th, for a special visit from the "Lost Sheep" from Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep. Don't forget your change for **April's Compassion Child Offering**. **Blood Pressure Screenings** will available after worship.

The Myren family invites you to worship on Sunday, April 22nd, for the **Baptism of Olivia Gomez**, daughter of Sal and Emily (Myren) Gomez. A *Congregational Meeting* will be held following the service.

On April 29th, new **Consistory Members** will be installed to their positions and **New Members** will be welcomed to RV's fellowship.

From Special Services

Decorating for Lent & Easter: Join us following the Easter Egg Hunt, approximately 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 31st, if you would like to help decorate for Easter.

Thank you to the following families for **sponsoring Easter Lilies & Tulips:**

Donna Yerk, in memory of Laura Yerk & Tammy Young
Linda Rogiani, in memory of loved ones and in honor of our Savior
Hank & Marge Schmidenberg, in memory of loved ones who have passed on
Sinnott Family, in memory of loved ones
Joan Freed, in memory of Calvin Freed
Pam & Dave Cressman, in memory of their parents
Leidy Family, in honor of Gram
Jeff & Patty Umbehauer, in memory of our dads
Marian Lewis, in memory of loved ones
Bruno Family, in memory of Veronica & William Bruno
Doug & Cindy Bickel, in memory of our parents and Debbie
Marvin & Gloria Brandis, in memory of our parents & grandparents
Linda Barr, in memory of loved ones
Detweiler Family
Liz Schreier, in memory of Grams
Brenda Frederick, in memory of mom & Tammy
Nancy & Jim Ruane, in memory of Tom Ruane & Mary Saurman
Jaimie & Alice Ruane, in honor of our parents and grandparents
Gruver Family, in honor of Doug & Cindy Bickel
Judy Bodkin, in memory of Bob Bodkin and loved ones

Don't forget - If you'd like to provide **FRESH FLOWERS** for Sunday's Service, simply bring your flowers in to the church on Sunday morning. We'll find a place up front to display them!

You can begin to sponsor **Geraniums for Memorial Day (May 27th)** starting on Sunday, April 22nd by using the bulletin insert on Sundays or calling the church office (215-257-7244). Cost of the geraniums has not yet been determined.

RV Music Ministry

*The **Adult Choir** practices on Wednesday evenings from 7 PM to 8 PM in the Sanctuary. **NEW MEMBERS** are always welcome in the Adult Choir! To learn more about the Choir, please contact Choir Director Nick Sinnott at 215-679-9478.*



<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Ushers & Greeters</u>	<u>Host & Hostess</u>
April 1	Jada Leidy	Ed Klavon	Linda Barr & Lola Bridi
April 8	Min Gruver	Ed Klavon	Sue & Olin Leidy
April 15	Cory Detweiler	Bill & Sue Swope	Judy Bodkin & Linda Barr
April 22	Maddie Barlow	TBD	Sue & Bill Swope
April 29	Sienna Leidy	Donna Yerk & Brenda Frederick	Donna Yerk & Doug Bickel

Please sign up at the Worship Board in Fellowship Hall to help on Sunday mornings in 2018 by sponsoring **Sunday Bulletins** (\$12.00), **Silk Altar Flowers** (\$10.00) or **Fresh Flowers** (which you provide), or serving as an **Usher/Greeter**.

If you would like to contribute food for **Coffee Hour** on Sunday mornings, simply bring your food items in and place them on the Coffee Hour counter in Fellowship Hall.

RV records most of our worship services. Please talk to Pastor Steve or Nick Sinnott if you'd like to watch one or more of the DVD's.

On Sundays, please enjoy the morning's **Worship Service** on the TV in Fellowship Hall if you are unable to walk up RV's stairs to the sanctuary.

Fellowship Activities

RV's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held the Saturday before Easter, March 31st, starting at 10:00 AM. Weather permitting, it will be held outside on the church grounds. Kids of all ages are encouraged to attend. As always, the Hunt depends on **YOUR GENEROSITY** for candy, Easter Eggs, stuffed animals and gifts. Please give generously again this year! Items for the Hunt can be left in the church kitchen any time before the 31st. If you would like to help set up for the hunt, please talk to Pastor Steve or simply come to the church about 9:00 AM. Thank you for your **support!**

Robin Myren will be leading **Card-Making Classes** on the following dates in April:

- 10 AM, Saturday, April 7th*
- 10 AM, Sunday, April 21st*

All of the classes will meet in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or to reserve your place in a class(es), please talk to Robin (267-575-6886).

New Member Gatherings will be held in Fellowship Hall on the Tuesday evenings of April 17th and 24th. If you are interested in joining RV or would like to learn more about the UCC and RV, please plan to attend, starting at 7:00 PM. New members will be welcomed to RV in worship on Sunday, April 29th.

RV will be going to see the **Allentown Iron Pigs** (the Phillies' Triple A Farm Team) play on Saturday, June 16th. First pitch is at 6:35 PM. After the game will be **FIREWORKS!** Ticket cost this year is \$11.00, which includes a \$2.00 voucher which can be used to purchase food or souvenirs at the ball park. Please reserve your tickets during April in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education News

RV's Bible Study is continuing to study Christian belief systems of the end times. In April we will be studying *Postmillennialism*. Please join us on Sunday morning's at 8:30 AM in the church office.

2018 is a Parable Game Year!

April Sunday School

"The Parable of the Lost Sheep"

Luke 15: 1 - 7

Parable Game of the Month: Bible Kerplunk

9:35 AM

Sunday, April 8th

Sunday, April 15th

If you would like to **help teach Sunday School** in the next few months, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. All lesson plans and materials will be provided by the Christian Education Committee. Thank You!

Please continue to remember RV's four Confirmands as their studies with Pastor Steve continue. They are: Cory Detweiler, Alex Detweiler, Min Gruver and Maddie Barlow. They will be confirmed at RV on Sunday, June 10th.

Mission Outreach

God's love working through your hearts and hands at RV

Feeding the Hungry in 2018



Loaves & Fishes Meal in 2018! Ridge Valley will be hosting the Loaves & Fishes Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church (102 N. Hellertown Avenue, Quakertown) on Thursday, June 7th.

Loaves and Fishes is an organization of local churches who take turns providing a dinner once a month to those in need. On June 7th RV is responsible for the dinner. The meal is served from 5:15 PM – 6:00 PM.

An **organizational meeting** will be held following worship on ***Sunday, May 6th***. Please plan on attending if you would like to help! If you have any questions, please talk to co-coordinators Amy Bruno and Joyce Justice.



Put Saturday, September 29th on your calendar as the day for RV's **2018 Dehydrated Meal Packaging Event** on behalf of ***Rise Against Hunger*** (formerly Stop Hunger Now)! This year we will again hold the event in our community, at the Perkasio Fire House. The past years' events have been very meaningful for those who participated. This year we hope to expand to involve even more volunteers!

In April, would you please contact Bryan Schlieder, RV's SHN Coordinator (610-740-9263 or bschlieder@ieee.org) if you are planning on participating, so that we have a sense of where we stand in our planning. More details about RAH and our event will be coming as September approaches.

*While at RV, thank you for your help in being a good steward of
God's creation by using*

Paper Recycling Bin in the church parking lot

Bulletin Recycling Basket in Fellowship Hall

Recycling your cans and plastics in the bins opposite the bathrooms in the kitchen

*Please treat the church as you would your home, cleaning up after yourself before
you leave. Let's show our pride in the beautiful building with which
we have been blessed!*

Caring for Families in 2018



Network of Victim Assistance As we move from winter into spring and your wardrobe changes, please bring your clothing that no longer fits to RV for our **Spring Clothing Drive**. The drive will be held throughout the month of April. Simply bring your unwanted clothing (men's, women's and children's) to RV. The clothing will be donated to the **NOVA Thrift Shop**, located at 2116 Broad Street in Hilltown Township. The Thrift Store supports the ministry of the **Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)**, which supports, counsels and empowers victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes in Bucks County and works to prevent and eliminate violence in society through advocacy, training, community education and prevention programs. Thank you for your support of this and all of RV's mission ministries!



Impact Thrift Store Mission Opportunity!

RV volunteers will be working at **Impact Thrift Store's Distribution Center** from 9 AM to Noon on Saturday, April 28th. Volunteers will meet at the Center (201 Progressive Drive, Montgomeryville) to help organize the items that have been donated to Impact to sell in their four area thrift stores. Impact donates all profits from their stores to local charities. Please sign up on the Sign-up Sheet and pick up a Volunteer Form in Fellowship Hall to volunteer, so that RV can give Impact an approximate count of how many RV volunteers will be able to participate. Don't forget to ask your friends and family to join us!

Thank you to everyone who sent a Birthday Card to our **Compassion Child Frederick Hezekiel Karim** in March. RV does not have any **Compassion Children** with birthdays in May, so we will not be making any Birthday Cards to send out in April.

The next **Compassion Offering** will be received during Worship on Sunday, April 8th, so **Don't Forget Your Change!**

RV helping those who can't help themselves – Caring for Family Pets!

RV's Caring for Families Ministry includes ALL the members of a family, even the four-legged kind, collecting items needed by no-kill animal shelters! Specific items we are collecting include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Bleach/Disinfectant Spray</i> | <i>Paper Towels</i> |
| <i>Hand Sanitizers/Wipes</i> | <i>Blankets & Towels (old and new)</i> |
| <i>Dog Collars & Leashes</i> | <i>Clumping Cat Litter</i> |
| <i>Kitten & Cat Food</i> | <i>Grocery Cards</i> |
| <i>Puppy & Dog Food</i> | <i>Animal Bedding</i> |
| <i>Training treats</i> | <i>Dog & Cat Beds</i> |
| <i>Cat & Dog Toys</i> | |

There is a display in Fellowship Hall where gifts can be left. There's also a jar where monetary gifts can be made. Each month all of the gifts will be dispersed to the area shelters. Thank you for your help!

People to Remember

Hospitalized this Past Month: Nancy Daniel

Thank you to:

- Those who helped provide the meals for this year's Lenten Dinner & Discussion
- Everyone who sent Birthday cards to RV's Compassion Child, Kiki Karim
- Everyone who donated to 2018's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- RV's March Sunday School Staff
- Doug Bickel & Olin Leidy, for their continued work around RV
- Our volunteers who removed snow from the FOUR March Nor'Easters
- Everyone who donated to provide Bibles for those in the armed forces through the American Bible Society
- Everyone who helped clean the church on Grubby Sunday

April Birthdays: 4/2 Jacob Barlow, 4/5 McKenna Wilson, 4/9 Lola Bridi, 4/11 Mary Ellen Gruver, 4/14 Brent Nace, Cory Ruane, 4/15 Jack Daniel, 4/16 Olin Leidy, 4/17 Cybill Krout, 4/18 Andy Myren, Robert Berstler, Stacy Leidy, 4/19 Clarence Batman, Kelsey Bateman, 4/20 Tabitha Almond, 4/25 Stephanie Ruane, 4/26 Terry Groff, 4/28 Zack Detweiler

April Anniversaries: 4/12 Chris & Carol Brandis, 4/18 Dave & Sandy Heitz, 4/20 Olin & Sue Leidy

APRIL 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
April 1 Easter 9:30 am Communion Service	2	3	4	5	6	7
		7:00 pm Consistory	7:00 pm Choir			10:00 am Card Class
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School			6:15 pm Fellowship Committee 7:00 pm Mission Committee 7:00 pm Choir	7:00 pm Confirmation		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School		7:00 pm New Member Gathering	7:00 pm Adult Choir	7:00 pm Board of Elders 7:30 pm Elders & Consistory Workshop		10:00 am Card Class
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Congregational Meeting		7:00 pm New Member Gathering	7:00 pm Adult Choir	7:00 pm Confirmation		9:00 am Impact Thrift Store
29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship		7:00 pm Consistory	7:00 pm Adult Choir			10:00 am Card Class

