



April 2024

Volume 135

KNOX NEWS

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, God will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Romans 8:11

Cultivating faith in a rocky world entails believing and claiming that the power of God is in us. We have not been given a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and discipline (II Timothy 1:7).

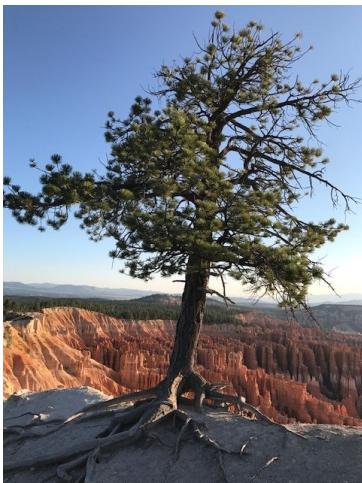
So, for all the times when we feel overwhelmed, for all the times we feel tethered to a past we cannot change and intimidated by a future we can't control, we are invited to think of the empty tomb and Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead. That power lives in us together. That power is available and already at work in us. So, we cultivate dynamic awareness of the power available to us.

We let our roots go down deep in trust. We nourish our faith with scripture, sabbath rest, confession, pardon, worship, reflection. We tend to the power of God that allows us to grow.

We let our branches stretch out into the life of the world. We build partnerships, we bless the children, we feed the hungry, we strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak and help the suffering. We tend to the power of God that allows us to go.

The power at work within, the same power that raised Christ from the dead, allows us to grow in faith and go with Easter joy.

Tom



May there always be a little light in your darkness.

May there always be a little faith in your doubt.

May there always be a little joy in your sorrow.

May there always be a little life in your dying.

May there always be a little hope in your despair.

May there always be a little courage in your fear.

May there always be a little slow in your hurry.

- Macrina Wiederkehr



APRIL CALENDAR

April 7

Bruce Reyes-Chow
6pm—Trinity Hall

April 3 & 17

Spirit Moves Yoga
6pm—Fellowship Hall

April 9

Women's Small Group
7pm—Lounge

Stephen Minister's Meeting
7pm—108/109

April 12

David LaMotte Concert
7pm—Trinity Hall

April 13

Eva Rose Foundation Awareness Walk
12pm—North Olmsted Community Park

April 14

Rise Against Hunger
11:45am—Trinity Hall

April 15

Deacons
7pm—Lounge

April 21

Mental Health Session
11:15am—Trinity Hall

April 23

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

April 25

NOICA Cooking Club
6pm—Trinity Hall

April 26

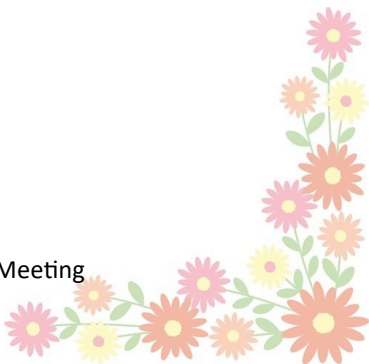
Men's Retreat
Beulah Beach

April 28

Honors Brunch
11am—Trinity Hall

April 29

Committee Planning Meeting
6:30pm—Trinity Hall



April Calendars

APRIL HYBRID WORSHIP

April 7

**Communion Sunday
Intergenerational Service**
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
I John 1:1 - 2:2
All Forgiven

April 14

Healing Prayer
Rev. Susanne Bendoraitis
Mark 10:46-52
Releasing What We Covet

April 21

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 10:17-31
What Do You Want?

April 28

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 12:28-34
What Matters

Spring is here and it's time once again for the Honors Brunch. If you are 80 years old or better, mark your calendars for Sunday, April 28, at 11:00 AM. The Deacons are inviting you to come and enjoy food and fellowship in Trinity Hall. We hope to see you there!

HONORS BRUNCH

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

As the end of tax season nears, it's a great time to put aside all those confusing forms and instead, reflect on our blessings. While you're crunching numbers, remember that all we have comes from God. Tithing is a wonderful way to express gratitude and continue the good work our church does in the community. Consider using part of your return to bless others. Whether it's a familiar 10% or an amount you have prayed about - God will use it for transformative work in the world through our ministry.

How do your gifts bless others at John Knox?

A blessing of a warm dinner at the monthly community meal

A blessing of an adult weekly mentor for an at-risk student

A blessing of Sunday morning worship service which inspires a deeper connection to God

A blessing of providing a comforting quilt to someone with cancer

And so many more!

There are multiple ways to contribute financially to John Knox.

1. Give online. Scan the QR code below or visit our website at www.johnknoxpc.org/give.
2. Set up reoccurring gifts. This can also be done through our online giving platform by clicking "give multiple times" instead of "give once", or you can contact our Finance Manager, Mindi Schibley.
3. Mail a check to the church. Our address is 25200 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070.
4. Drop an envelope in offering box near the sanctuary or at the office. We'd love to see you. Make sure to say hello when you come by.



Staff Appreciation Lunch

As a THANK YOU to our wonderful Staff for helping us Cultivate our Faith, Congregational Life will be hosting the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 14. Help us by adding your personal message of gratitude to our staff. We will be collecting notes, cards, and emails from the congregation April 7 through May 5. You can drop your notes in the box located at the Welcome Desk or email Emily at emily.guzik@gmail.com. Thank you!



Save the Date for the Clothing Drive May 30 - June 4!

This year the clothing drive will be a collaboration between the youth and the Building & Grounds Committee. We will be running it for one week only during the first week of June. We will be accepting all of your clothes, soft items, and for the first time, household items (books, small items, decorations, small appliances, etc.). Proceeds will go toward supporting youth mission. More information to come.



Get CONNECTED

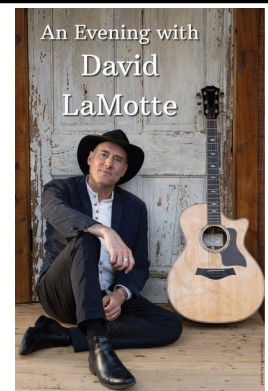
John Knox Spring Men's Retreat

We are excited to announce we're having our Men's retreat starting on Friday April 26, and going through Saturday April 27. As before, we will be having the event at Beulah Beach just west of downtown Vermillion along the shores of Lake Erie. During the retreat we will be enjoying Christian fellowship, stimulating programming led by Pastor Tom and others, taking a deeper dive into God's Grace, as well as examining the conversation surrounding God and Science; and can scientists also be Christian. All that have attended past retreats have enjoyed time for group and quiet reflection, and the ability to rest and relax before re-engaging the world. We will be starting the weekend with a dinner (Dutch treat) at Quaker Steak and Lube (5150 Liberty Ave, Vermilion, OH 44089) on Friday at ~5:00 PM. After dinner we will head over to Beulah Beach (6101 W. Lake Rd. Vermilion, OH 44089) where we will unpack and have our first program. Additional programming will be held on Saturday. The event will end between 8:30-9:00 PM Saturday allowing us to return home for Saturday evening. The cost for the weekend will be \$90, covering the overnight stay (in cozy cabins) and 3 meals on Saturday. You are welcome to bring a snack to share during the weekend event. If the cost puts an undue hardship on attendees, we will make scholarships available. RSVP by to the Church Office (440-777-3744), or Welcome Desk sign up list. Questions? Bruce Knowlton (brucek2080@gmail.com) or Bruce Steinetz (bruce.m.steinetz@nasa.gov) or Pastor Tom.



David LaMotte Concert

David LaMotte is a well-known folk singer, author, and champion for issues of social justice. David will be offering a concert in Trinity Hall on Friday, April 12, at 7:00 PM. On Saturday, April 14, he will be offering a workshop entitled "Worldchanging 101" at Rocky River Presbyterian Church from 9:00-11:30 AM. This workshop will focus on the three prongs of the Matthew 25 Initiative that we are part of as a presbytery. Registration is required for the workshop. Visit preswesres.org/worldchanging for more info on both events & to register for the Worldchanging 101 workshop.



Mental Health Retreat

Mental health is multifaceted. Body, mind, and spirit are all involved, as is community. Rev. Lois Annich, is a teaching elder in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, Pastoral Counselor and Executive Leadership Coach. Please join us in welcoming her on Sunday, April 21, at 11:15 AM in Trinity Hall. She will be speaking about the importance of open-hearted sharing, safe communal spaces, and compassion for others and ourselves. We are excited for her to follow up with future presentations on other important aspects of mental health-- so stay tuned!

BE THE BRIDGE

Bridge the Gap

The Social Action Committee is sponsoring a program titled "Bridge the Gap". This is a workshop to teach ways to have conversations with people whose opinions you may strongly disagree with. Think politics, Thanksgiving Dinner, race, LGBTQ+ issues for example. Why do they believe what they do? This is not a course on persuasion, but one on listening, learning, gaining insight and building relationships.



Facilitated by Bill Shaul, leader of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry at Federated UCC in Chagrin Falls and NE Ohio ambassador for Braver Angels.

Join us on Sunday, April 14, from noon to 1:30 PM at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River. A light lunch will be provided. Walk-ins are welcome but it would be most helpful if you would register. To register, click [HERE](#). Any questions, contact Tim Smith, td4453smith@gmail.com or 440-779-1206.

Cooking Club

Plan to join us on Thursday, April 25, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, in Trinity Hall as our friends from NOICA teach us more about their traditions; participate in the preparation of tasty recipes and, of course, enjoy the fruits of our labor.



Reservations are a must so our friends know how much food is needed. You can reserve your spot now by contacting Connie Smith at connie928smith@gmail.com.

Don't wait there are only 20 seats available.

Save the Date

The challenges our brothers and sisters from the LGBTQ+ community face are real and heartbreaking. Many are ostracized from their family and church. We are called to welcome them. Join us on Sunday, May 5, following worship, as Be the Bridge, with the support of Session and the Mission Committee, will host a program designed to help us live into being a "Welcoming Church." The program will offer speakers from PFLAG, a national organization focused on creating a caring world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. A light lunch will be available so please RSVP by clicking [here](#).



ANNUAL ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS DINNER

#UnityInDiversity

Please plan to attend our Annual Abrahamic Traditions Dinner on Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 PM in Trinity Hall.

There will be a featured speaker from each faith community as well as opportunity to strengthen our greater community by building friendships across faith traditions. Be the Bridge is coordinating the event with our friends from NOICA who will provide the meal. Vegetarian options will be available. When food is involved, registration is a must. Just click on this link now to RSVP <https://form.jotform.com/240617561560050>.

JKPC Mission



Meal Packaging event

If you have ever packaged meals for Rise Against Hunger, you know what a fun and rewarding event this is. Mark your calendar for April 14, 2024. There will be a light lunch for the workers in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM. Packaging meals will begin at 11:45 AM and 10,000 meals will be complete by 4:00 PM or sooner. This is an intergenerational event that needs 40-60 volunteers. We need people with muscles to lift 50 lbs., young legs that can walk/run to the weigh stations and people comfortable in sitting to weigh and seal the bags. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk.

Why do we pack the meals? Wherever there are people facing hunger, whether by a natural disaster or a war, Rise Against hunger is there. In 2022, Rise Against Hunger distributed 67.6 million meals serving 38 countries and impacting 4,489,000 lives!

Many of you may remember going to Bethany Presbyterian Church to help with their Community Meal. Since COVID, their need for help with the meals has changed. What they do need are "Wellness Items". There is a list of items needed at the Welcome Desk. Please pick one up and help us with purchasing several of these "Wellness Items". A labeled drop off plastic box will be by the doors to Trinity Hall for the month of April. Thank you!



Safe Sleep Awareness Walk



Mission committee is happy to be sharing news about our new mission partner, the Eva Rose Foundation. The Eva Rose Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which promotes safe sleep for infants and young children. This foundation was founded after the tragic passing of Eva Rose Hughes due to an unsafe sleep accident at her babysitter's. Her mom and dad, Athena McGinnis and George Hughes, and their families have dedicated themselves to sharing the importance of safe sleep practices for all children. The foundation spreads awareness and also partners with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, where they build beds that are donated to children who are sleeping on floors or are in co-sleeping situations. For more information on the foundation, please visit the website, evaslight.org.

Please join us on Saturday, April 13, at North Olmsted Community Park as we honor Eva's memory at the 2nd Annual Steps For Safe Sleep and raise awareness for this very important ministry. Hope to see you there!

JKPC Mission

INTERNATIONAL

John Knox and several other churches have been supporting FUNDENOR AQ'AB'AL' in the Alta Verapaz mountains of Guatemala since 2010. In 2020, a non-profit named Guatemala Family Development was formed to help expand the support annually for Fundenor. As a result, support has grown for medical, clean water systems, scholarships for young women, and construction. Please visit guatemalafamilydevelopment.com for more information.

Currently, our medical team leaves April 6 and will return April 15. We have asked you to pray for the team and/or the following individuals who are prepared to see over 800 patients at 5 clinics over 3 hours travel each day:

Bill Fike, Ken and Paula Langdon, Tim Claiborne, Stephanie Thompson, Becky O'Donnell, Patti Filus , Avirl Drew, Margie Drew, Dave Seaman, Kirsten Boone, Denver Jenkins, Joe Obermeier, Bill Horschke, Sandee Seib, Kathy Leopold, Annemarie Supanick, Loretta Planavsky

This trip will also take 50 more water systems to install in schools, community buildings, and churches. This will mean 500 systems have been installed over the last 3 trips! Much healthier children and adults due to pure water.

Last year, support went to 7 women in a residence and 33 more in communities and required \$40,000. Our prayers are to raise \$50,000 so that 10 more girls can be added. This is a significant blessing to the families in the communities.

Over the last 5 years, \$20,000 was raised for construction, and 2 community buildings have been built for Fundenor to teach better farming and health issues and for libraries for community uses. Perhaps in 2025, there will be another construction trip.

John Knox has played a significant roll in the rural area of the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. Thank you for your prayers and support. It is making a difference!

Dearest John Knox Family,

We hope all of you and your families are fine. We are fine. We have completed our second graduation ceremony in the past 5 years. We have had many challenges and faced very difficult situations, but God has been close to us.

Officially, there are 280 pastors and leaders with new tools and the knowledge to do better work in their churches. We want to say thank to all of you that have been with us in this adventure and also to those that started with us, but have been called to other ministries. Also we want to let you know that we have another 100 new pastors that will be starting new classes soon.

May God Bless you all.

Ariel and Arlene
Esteli, Nicaragua



John Knox Church

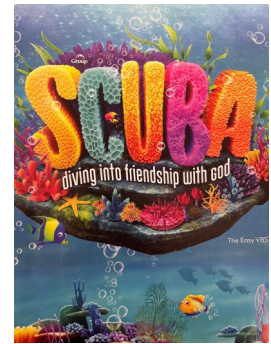
CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

What a surprise it was to see snow on the ground for our Easter Egg Hunt and Funfest! The snow, however, did not dissuade the 50 plus children from finding the Easter eggs hidden for the youngest 1-4 year olds, the 5-7 year olds, and the 8-11 year olds! It was an easy hunt with the bright eggs glowing from above the white snow! And 3 children got an extra prize when they found the 3 golden eggs. Meanwhile in Trinity Hall families followed their children to discover the crafts and play games. It was reported that making a bunny from a washcloth was a big hit as was making a sun catcher egg. In games, the Catapult-a-Peep was popular and many a child and their parent were seen racing chicks with a straw across a field to a burrow at the end! A BIG thanks to our volunteers: Linda Albright, Sue Isaac, Sue Twining, Sandy Legg, Beckie Tweedle and our youth: Micah and Trinity. A special thanks to our "Photo with the Easter Bunny" crew: Kathryn Stoltz, Lillian Predota and Jonah. We were glad to have Pastor Susanne help us with the games, and Pastor Tom chatted with our guests making them feel



welcome.

Mark your calendars! VBS is Monday, June 24-27. It will be in the evening from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. A light dinner will be served. The theme is SCUBA: Diving into Friendship with God. We will be under the sea for 4 days exploring what it means to be a friend of God. Watch for planning meetings and registration coming up this month.



Exciting News Coming Soon for John Knox Families! Get ready. Save the date for Sunday, April 21 for an announcement during worship that will unveil our new approach to engaging children, youth, and families within our church community. You won't want to miss it!

Youth Sunday School happens every Sunday at 10 am in the youth wing. There will be Poptarts, treats, and a video and discussion to help us look at characters from the New Testament. Hope to see you there.

Youth, join us April 14, 10-2 pm to help out with Rise Against Hunger. During the service we will help unload the supplies for this important event, participate, and help clean up after.



Livin' La Vida Local, the youth local mission trip is coming up June 30- July 3.

Registration is available from Susanne. It will be a great time! You will not want to miss. We are serving at Building Hope in the City for three days this year leading their kid's camp. Questions? Contact Susanne at sbendoraitis@johnknoxpc.org.

Young Adult and Crew Alumni Progressive Dinner, join us April 11 at 6:30 pm. We will kick off the night at Susanne's house for appetizers and then continue on to a full progressive dinner just like when we were in youth group! We are looking forward to reconnecting, having some delicious food, and talking about the future of a Young Adults Group here at JKPC. Bring yourself and bring your friend or partner. Sign-up by emailing Susanne at sbendoraitis@johnknoxpc.org

Youth Group Calendar

Youth Sunday School Sundays 10:00AM

April 14 Youth Help with Rise Against Hunger 10 am- 2pm

April 21 Youth Group 4-6 pm

May 5 Youth Group 4-6 pm

May 19 Spring Ice Cream Social Fundraiser 4-6 pm

***** June 30–July 3: Livin’ La Vida Local 2024 *****

June 30 4-7 pm - Orientation

July 1 8 am – 5 pm

July 2 8 am - 5 pm

July 3 8 am – 8 pm (post event celebration)



Dean’s Greenhouse has offered their fundraising event to the preschool again this year. The event will run May 1 thru June 15. Keep us and Dean’s in mind as you begin to plan your spring gardens. More information will be in the May Knox News.

Openings are available in our preschool classes for the 2024-2025 school year. If you or anyone you know are looking for a preschool, please have them contact Nancie at director@jkpreschool.org , www.jkpreschool.org, or at 440-777-5878.



JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2024
Volume 135

KNOX NEWS

Bruce Reyes-Chow

A better story of faith exists, and it has the capacity to heal the world--if we only embrace, articulate, and live it more courageously.

About The Events
Join Bruce Reyes-Chow for a reading, signing, and conversation about his latest book. Bruce is an author, pastor, avid soccer fan, and moderator of the 218th General Assembly. He brings all of this experience to bear as he shares his belief that there is a more loving, more genuine vision of God than the one we see being performed around us.

Event Locations:
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 7
Preaching at 11:00am
Book Discussion following the Breaking Bread Lunch at 12:45pm

John Knox Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 7 at 6:00pm
In Trinity Hall
Light Refreshments provided

Books will be available for purchase at both events.

JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25200 Lorain Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Phone: 440-777-3744
E-mail: info@johnknoxpc.org

Website: johnknoxpc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

You're not alone.
God cares about you. So do we.