
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Spring 2022

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is starting & Easter is almost here. With all the troubles in the world these days, it's easy to get depressed. Many good things will arise from the troubles that have plagued us for two years & even from the ashes of the war in Ukraine. We just need to look for them. It's easy to see the negative in this world. What we need are more people to point out the good works that are happening.

When Jesus was placed in His tomb, there didn't seem to be much good in our world. The apostles feared for their very lives. That changed on Easter morning. All the evil, hateful, violent things that had taken place just three days before were for naught. Christ had prevailed. God's love for us shined through that rising morning sun & the risen Son who defeated death.

Our jobs as Christians is not to judge others or to make others think as we do or to surround ourselves with only people who we think are worthy of our presence. We are to love all people, encourage all people, help all people. When we do this, we change the world for people in need. All at once the world changes from scary & cruel to a place of hope. Just like that Easter Sunday so long ago. - *God's love and mine be with all of you, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS



After having to reschedule twice, once due to bad weather & the other because of no heat, the SCCC Annual Meeting was held on February 13, 2022. The 2021 Annual Report & proposed revised budget, which had been previously e-mailed & hard copies made available in Memorial Hall, were both approved. Kathy Plaisted was nominated & approved to serve as Chair of Missions & Benevolence. On February 20, 2022, she & Lindsey Harwath, who had volunteered to serve as Chair of Communications & Outreach, were installed as new Deacons. We look forward to working with them on the Council.

President's Report:

Happy Spring, almost! I trust this finds you all well. To those remaining at home, you are missed. We are seeing the light at the end of the very long COVID tunnel & it's getting safer to socialize, thankfully. We'll all be together before much longer.

Speaking of moving forward, the Council has voted to resume Sunday School & Fellowship on May 1st. We'll still have Susie's wonderful treats, just adding coffee & juice. We'll need volunteers to make the coffee each Sunday, so please add your names to the sign-up sheet & let Pastor Paul or someone on the Council know when you can "host"!

It's so wonderful to have full membership on our Council after vacancies arose. I am very grateful that Kathy Plaisted & Lindsey Harwath stepped up to take up the

positions of Missions & Benevolence and Communications & Outreach chairmanships, respectively. They are capable & caring persons & we are blessed to have them in our church.

As we consider all our blessings, let us keep the people of Ukraine in our prayers. We will be sending a contribution to help soon. In the meantime, I hope you'll find the words of St. Francis uplifting. His prayer, in part: *"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy..."* Amen. - Emily Schroeder, Council President



Missions & Benevolence:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Missions & Benevolence Deacon. My husband Bruce & I moved to South China 12 years ago to live with his Aunt Theresa. After many years of attending talent shows, turkey pie suppers, etc., two years ago we started coming to services on Sunday. It didn't take long for us to feel a connection to something special.

I look forward to learning the inner workings of attending Council meetings & the duties of being a Deacon. Thank you for putting your faith in me. Also, a shout out to Glenna for her help thus far & all her dedication over the years. - Kathy Plaisted, Deacon

thank you!

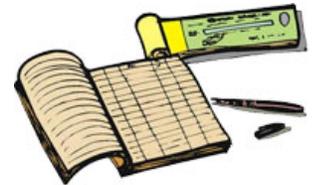
NOTE: Church will be open on Saturdays from 12 noon – 1PM through April to provide members, friends & others in our community the opportunity for a quiet time of prayer & personal reflection. It will not be an organized service, simply a time & place to bring our concerns to God. In addition to those fleeing from & fighting in war-torn Ukraine, there is much sadness & suffering in our world which can become overwhelming.

If you would like to help with the crisis in Ukraine - or any other type of disaster – please refer to the Maine Emergency Management Agency web site at: <https://www.maine.gov/mema/response-recovery/disaster-recovery/donation-management> for vetted sources to provide guidance on how you can help.

Finance & Stewardship:

Happy Spring!

As anticipated, our revenue for the year to date as of the end of February is less than our expenses. As of February 28, 2022, our budgeted actual revenue for the year to date is \$8,440.98. Our expenses as of February 28, 2022 total \$10,977.65 for a shortfall for the first two months of the year of \$2,536.67. Our budgeted revenue of \$8,440.98 is \$5,560.56 less than anticipated, primarily due to less than needed fundraising & offerings revenue. Our 2022 budget has an expected offerings shortfall, so our deficit to date was anticipated.



In April, we will be closing out our three annuities at the end of their five-year terms. For the time being, those monies

will be deposited into bank accounts until we decide how best to invest them.

Statement Balances as of 2/28/2022:

Faith Ames Music Fund.....	\$2,075.44
Memorial Fund Savings.....	\$27,390.16
Checkbook.....	\$5,956.62
Total Available Funds.....	\$35,422.22

Delaware Life Annuities as of 3/29/2022:

Memorial Fund #1.....	\$28,433.64
Memorial Fund #2.....	\$28,433.64
Meader Family Fund.....	\$36,199.59
Total Annuities Value.....	\$93,066.87
Total Financial Assets... ~	\$128,489.09

Thank you all for your continued support & generosity! Now let's see what we can do to grow our membership! – Respectfully, Finance Chair John Glowa



Building & Grounds:

There are no big projects planned until spring yard work, but we will be cleaning up downstairs before kids return to Sunday School. I'd like to utilize the closet for cleaning supplies & build shelves in the craft room. In addition, Ian will review the music files as a lot of them date back to the 1960s-1970s.

The lack of heat on February 6 was an "easy fix" because we had run out of propane. Sheldon & I cut the feed in case there was a system malfunction. The tank was subsequently topped with 440 gallons & we're now on automatic delivery. I've lowered thermostats to 60°



for now, except for the sanctuary which will be at 70° for services, but we should try to reduce our use as weather gets warmer & closely monitor expenses. I will be checking for air leaks under the sanctuary in the near future to address any loss of heat. – Regards, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Building & Grounds



Christian Education:

Good news! The Council, Pastor Paul & our teacher, Lydia, have agreed to start Sunday School again on May 1st! Please let one of us know if you have children to enroll & please feel free to invite interested friends & neighbors as well.

Just a reminder: be sure to take your returnable bottles & cans to Roddy's Redemption on Rt. 3. When you ask, the staff will donate your deposits to the church & that money goes toward Sunday School expenses. Every bit helps! – Thanks, Emily Schroeder, Elder



Communications & Outreach:

Spring is finally here, birds are returning, baby animals are in the fields, & summer will be here before we know it!

Russell is continuing to rock the camera & keeping those videos coming on YouTube & Facebook for all who are away or home

due to illness. Jayne is a continuing bright light, posting almost daily inspirations of faith on our Facebook page. Debbie is still killin' it with candy sales. Thank you all for your service.

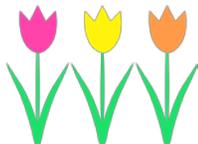
I look forward to spring & summer & all the opportunities we will have to be together as a community.

One of my favorite passages of scripture is from the 6th chapter of Luke (31-36). *"Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."*

To me this is the most important scripture modeling how we, as Christians, should walk through our world, communicate, & reach out to others. To freely give & love without expectations. When we keep God's ultimate commandment to love all others, then we will truly be loving Him with our whole hearts.



Thank you for the opportunity to be the new Communications & Outreach Chair. – Lindsey Harwath



Worship Committee:

Good news! The Council has voted to resume Sunday School & Fellowship beginning on May 1 (Adult Bible Study TBA). We're gradually getting back to our routine practices & it is a great feeling!

We have already been enjoying an informal Fellowship time after church by buying & munching on Susie's delicious treats. We would like to continue with that, with the addition of beverages to accompany her goodies. I have created a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in making a pot of coffee just before the service begins & putting out other drinks, such as milk & juice, just after the service ends. If you don't know how to use our coffee maker, never fear - we will provide free training! Flocks will not be providing additional food items. Tables & chairs will be set up for those who would like to sit & visit with each other while you eat & drink.



We have received \$40 so far for bulletins. These contributions help pay for the paper & printing. A sign-up sheet is available for anyone who would like to remember a loved one in the bulletin. We have budgeted \$200 in revenue for the year, so \$40 for two months is great. Thank you very much. Expenses so far this year are \$0.

Since Ian was hired, he has been choosing the hymns for the service. Before COVID, the Worship Committee met each week to discuss & decide on which hymns to sing. I am perfectly happy to have Ian continue to choose, but if you would like to resurrect the Worship Committee and/or would like to serve on it, please let me know. I am open to any ideas.

Services during Holy Week:

- ✠ April 10, Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
- ✠ April 14, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
- ✠ April 15, Good Friday: Stations-of-the-Cross, 6:00 p.m.
- ✠ April 17, Easter Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for all that you do for our church family. We are so blessed to have each other. - *Respectfully submitted, Janet Preston, Worship Chair*



PLEASE BE AWARE that a scam message pretending to be from Pastor Paul is being sent from "onlinechurch04358@gmail.com" - it is NOT from Paul! Please do NOT open it or any links it may contain. Just delete it & let him and/or someone on the Council know if you've received any strange or suspicious e-mails.



Thank God, in both sorrow & joy
Remember God, no matter how we feel
Understand God, seek to follow Him
Surrender & submit to Him
Thank God, again, & **TRUST** in His Goodness



Positive Quotes:

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." - **Maya Angelou**

"You can often change your circumstances by changing your attitude." - **Eleanor Roosevelt**

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." - **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"I don't like that man. I must get to know him better." - **Abraham Lincoln**

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." - **Winston Churchill**

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated." - **Confucius**



SYMPATHY & CONTINUED PRAYERS for the families & friends of those who have passed into God's hands:

- Norman Bragg (12/16/21)
- Phyllis Herrick (12/25/21)
- Ariel Faris (1/2/22)
- Donna Moore (1/20/22)
- Donna (Farrington) Doore (1/31/22)
- Pastor Jim Ferrone (2/27/22)*

*Pastor Jim served at South China Community Church from 1994 until his retirement in late 2011. A memorial service will be held at SCCC in May.



Bedtime prayer can be a meaningful way to spend time with God every evening, talking over your day, sharing your concerns with Him, & thanking Him for His love & care. But why should we take time to pray before bed each night?

Praying as you fall asleep gives you the chance to look back over the day & thank God for His help & His blessings. We often miss the hand of God in our lives as we run from one activity to another. We lose sight of the good gifts our heavenly Father is giving us ([James 1:17](#)) & focus instead on our troubles & worries.

Scripture tells us to “fix our eyes on Jesus” so that we do not “grow weary & lose heart ([Hebrews 12:2-3](#)). Whether life feels overwhelming or dull, a time of prayer at the end of each day can help you refocus on God’s goodness & reflect on your priorities & purpose ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

Relationships flourish when they are nurtured. Spending time talking with God before bed is a way of loving Him & deepening your relationship with Him. The evening is a lonely part of the day for many people. Choosing to pray before bed each night means that you can look forward to enjoying time with One whose love for you is deep ([Ephesians 3:18-19](#)) & constant ([Romans 8:37-39](#)).

Redeem the time you lie in bed waiting for sleep to come. If your mind is a blank, worries & temptations will creep in to fill it. Pain that was background noise during your busy day can blare like a siren when you are lying in the quiet & the dark. Reaching for your phone to distract you will only keep you awake. Rehashing conversations & running the numbers will only feed your anxiety.

Instead, release your worries & the pressures of the day by taking them to the One who has the power to help you & give you peace. Calm & relaxed, you will likely drift off to sleep long before you have prayed for each of your family members & friends & that is perfectly okay. (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>)



- † TBA: ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM [SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES MAY 1]
- † SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: APRIL 3 - MAY 1 - JUNE 5 - JULY 3
- † COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 6PM: APRIL 12 - MAY 10 - JUNE 14 - JULY 12
- † PASTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: MAY 29 - JULY 31
- † RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS: TBA
- † THURSTON PARK MEETINGS: 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 6:30PM: APRIL 21 - MAY 19 - JUNE 16 - JULY 21
- † APRIL 10, PALM SUNDAY SERVICE, 10AM
- † APRIL 14, MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 7PM
- † APRIL 15, GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 6PM
- † APRIL 17, EASTER SERVICE, 10AM



On the Lighter Side...

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.

So, if a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

It's weird being the same age as old people.

Q: What do you get when you cross a rabbit with shellfish?

A: An oyster bunny

Q: What is the Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music?

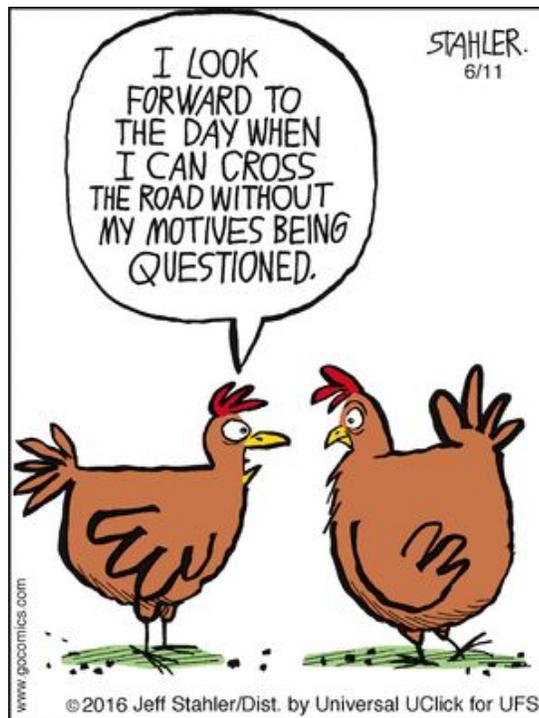
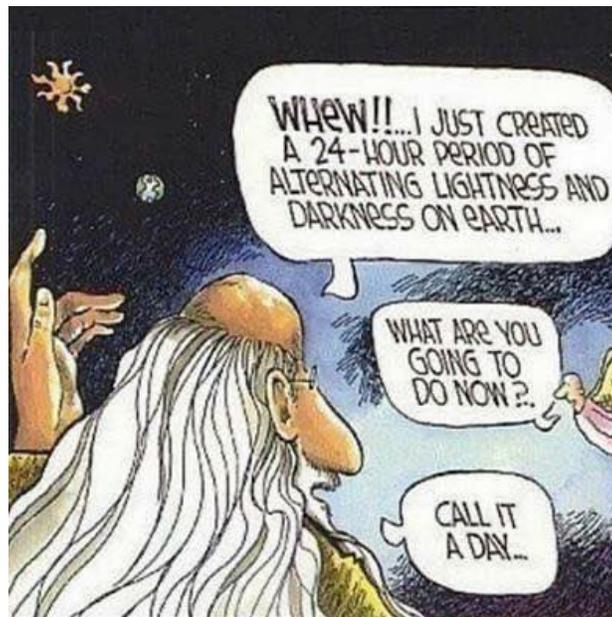
A: Hip hop

Q: How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?

A: Eggs-ercise

Q: Where does the Easter Bunny get his eggs?

A: From an egg-plant



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“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” - John 13:34

