

March/April  
May  
2014

# The Tower

Harmony  
Presbyterian  
Church



## Mark your Calendar

### MARCH 2014

- 3-5 Ash Wed. Service - 7 p.m.
- 3-9 Girl Scout Sunday  
Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.  
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3-23 Harlow Caffrey Raine baptism
- 3-26 Session Meeting - 7 p.m.

### APRIL 2014

- 4-13 Palm Sunday  
Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 4-17 Meal in the Upper Room—5  
pm/ Maundy Thursday—7 pm
- 4-18 Good Friday – 7 p.m.
- 4-20 Easter – 7 a.m. Worship  
followed by Continental  
breakfast & 10 a.m. Worship
- 4-23 Session Meeting – 7 p.m.

### MAY 2014

- 5- 11 Mother's Day  
Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 5- 18 Children's Program/Graduate  
Recognition Sunday
- 5-26 Memorial Day
- 5-28 Session Meeting – 7 p.m.

## Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As Lent approaches (*Ash Wednesday* is March 5<sup>th</sup>) I'd like to share a striking reflection on the cross from Jaroslav Pelikan's book, *Jesus Through the Centuries*:

*The wisdom of the cross was, then, the disclosure not only of human morality, but also of divine love. "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15: 13)*

That the cross reveals human morality, perhaps at its worst, is certainly clear. Although the cross was a necessary instrument in the fulfillment of God's plan, human sin is what made it necessary. It was human hands that cut and hewed the rough wood of the cross, human hands that dug the ore and fashioned the nails, human hands that wielded the hammer, and human hands that signed the orders. This collaboration of human hands, whether working with knowledge or in ignorance, confronts us with our complicity in so despicable an act.

For so many people, this is what Lent is all about. It is a time when we are reminded of those things of which we would rather not be reminded. It is perceived of as a time to dwell on the failings and shortcomings of our race, our clan, our community, and our lives.

It should come as no surprise, then, that a lot of people don't really like Lent. And that it begins during such a dull and dreary time of the year only reinforces its power to drag down our spirits and rob us of joy. Where is the wisdom in asking us to confront the darkest aspects of our nature during the darkest time of the year?

Dr. Pelikan would say that wisdom is found in the fact that the disclosure of our failed morality is coupled with the disclosure of divine love. While the cross was a necessary instrument in the fulfillment of God's plan, it remains an instrument that enables us to see the very best of what God offers us. Christ on the cross is God's gift of unconditional, limitless, transforming, and saving love. The beams and nails of the cross—the work of human hands—proclaim God's victory over sin and death, transforming God's drama of creation into God's drama of redemption. And we celebrate what God has done every time we gather to worship and pray, not just in Lent, but all throughout the year.

I hope this Lent will be a fruitful time as you grow in your faith, and as you seek to keep Christ always before you.

See you in church!

*Peter*

Rev. Peter Magnan, Interim Pastor

## REMINDER

Bible study meets every Sunday at 8:45 a.m.  
Come join us!

**Address:** 2727 Belvidere Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

**Phone:** 908-859-0355

**Fax:** 908-850-0455

**Website:** [www.tpcnh.org](http://www.tpcnh.org)

**Email:** [harmonychurch@verizon.net](mailto:harmonychurch@verizon.net)

## UPDATES

### Session Update

#### Regular March Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Regular April Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Regular May Session Meeting

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

### Deacon Update

#### Regular March Meeting

Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

#### Regular April Meeting

Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

#### Regular May Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

### The Mission Study Team Needs to Know What's on Your Mind

Beginning on March 23, the *Mission Study Team* will be inviting the congregation to gather in small groups after worship in order to reflect on these questions:

- *What's good about Harmony Church?*
- *What could we do better as a church?*
- *What could we do better for the community?*

When these meetings have been completed, the Team will be able to write the Mission Study.

Your opinions matter, so please sign up for a time, beginning on March 9, and let the *Mission Study Team* know what's on your mind.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### MARCH

#### **MARCH 2, 2014 – Communion/Transfiguration of the Lord**

*Assisting Elder* Joe Marchie *Greeters* Frankenfield Family  
*Assisting Deacon* Tina Evans  
*Servers* John Counterman, Richard Fehr, Deb McKenna, Dianne Marchie

#### **MARCH 5, 2014 – Ash Wednesday**

*Assisting Elder* Ruth Skirbst

#### **MARCH 9, 2014 - Girl Scout Sunday**

*Assisting Elder* Kate Harris *Assisting Deacon* Brittany Marchie  
*Greeters* Mark Marason

#### **MARCH 16, 2014 - Fellowship**

*Assisting Elder* Natalie Dutt *Assisting Deacon* Emily Swanson  
*Greeters* Indyk Family

#### **MARCH 23, 2014 – Harlow Raine Caffrey baptism**

*Assisting Elder* Tom Wismer *Assisting Deacon* Ray Lalley  
*Greeters* Rose Family

#### **MARCH 30, 2014 - Fellowship**

*Assisting Elder* Chuck Nowalk *Assisting Deacon* Sue Gentle  
*Greeters* Richard and JoAnn Fehr

### APRIL

#### **APRIL 6, 2014 – Communion**

*Assisting Elder* Lynn Ehrhardt *Assisting Deacon* Dianne Marchie  
*Greeters* John Counterman  
*Servers* Emily Swanson, Brittany Marchie, Lori Frankenfield, Rex LaBarre

#### **APRIL 13, 2014 - Palm Sunday**

*Assisting Elder* Scott Aydelotte *Assisting Deacon* Suzanne Swanson  
*Greeters* Evans Family

#### **APRIL 17, 2014 - Maundy Thursday**

*Assisting Elder* Natalie Dutt

#### **APRIL 18, 2014 - Good Friday**

*Assisting Elder* Ruth Skirbst

#### **APRIL 20, 2014 - Easter Sunrise - 7 a.m.**

*Assisting Elder* Bert Kuhn *Assisting Deacon* Jan Kuhn

#### **APRIL 20, 2014 - Easter – 10 a.m.**

*Assisting Elder* LanceEvans *Assisting Deacon* Emily Swanson  
*Greeters* Aydelotte Family

#### **APRIL 27, 2014**

*Assisting Elder* John Ehasz *Assisting Deacon* Brittany Marchie  
*Greeters* Winters Family

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE (cont)

### MAY

**MAY 4, 2014 – Communion**

Assisting Elder     *Becky Brandt*  
 Greeters            *McKenna Family*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Gail Bragin*  
 Servers             *Sherri Aydelotte, Jan Kuhn, Tom Wismer, Lynn Ehrhardt*

**MAY 11, 2014 –Mother’s Day**

Assisting Elder     *Nancy Farley*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Karen Rose*  
 Greeters            *Bryan and Lee Smith*

**MAY 18, 2014 - Children’s Program/Graduate Recognition**

Assisting Elder     *Barbara Cosimano*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Tina Evans*  
 Greeters            *Zagra Family*

**MARCH 25, 2014 – Fellowship/Memorial Day Weekend**

Assisting Elder     *Henry Skirbst*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Ray Lalley*  
 Greeters            *Dave and Nichole Ehasz*

## Usher Schedule

March 2	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
March 9	Joyce & Charlie Cummins, Tina & Lance Evans
March 16	Rich & Betty Salter, Joe & Dianne Marchie
March 23	Lois & Don Myles, Sheri & Scott Aydelotte
March 30	Natalie Dutt, Becky Brandt, Suzanne & Dave Swanson
April 6	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
April 13	Joyce & Charlie Cummins, Tina & Lance Evans
April 20	Russell Scott, Rex LaBarre, Lynn Ehrhardt, Mark Marason
April 27	Jan & Bert Kuhn, John Ehasz, Tom Wismer
May 4	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
May 11	Charlie & Joyce Cummins, Lance & Tina Evans
May 18	Sheri & Scott Aydelotte, Ruth and Henry Skirbst
May 25	Rich & Betty Salter, Joe & Dianne Marchie

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## HEARTS AND HANDS FELLOWSHIP

The Hearts and Hands Fellowship has been busy during 2013. As part of our local "mission project" for Harmony Presbyterian we sponsored our first Community Bazaar. In addition to the Bazaar, which enabled us to donate monies to the Rolling Thunder organization, which does an exceptional amount of good things for our local veterans, but also to our Church treasury. They were also a part of the Veterans Day program which organized the special bulletin honoring past and future veterans. This special event saw this congregation raise \$350 also for the Rolling Thunder. Quilted lap robes and crocheted lap robes were also given to this group. We look forward to getting together in the very near future to begin doing what we do for 2014. There is always lots of conversation, laughter, and hand work going on. As well as a few Bible stories or just plain "words of wisdom". Watch the bulletin for the start-up date. All are welcome!

### RING THOSE BELLS!

Christmas has come and gone – the bells rang out for all to enjoy – It's time to make 2014 a joyful year with the bells ringing more often. It's fun, we make it as easy as we can. We play for God's ears and yours. Don't be bashful, our Church was the recipient following a call from the Chester Church who were purchasing new bells, and wanting their old set to find a new home. Two of our members stepped up and made a donation to Chester Church and now the bells are ours - three octaves of beautiful hand bells. We must not let them sit in their cases. Please let Ruth Skirbst or Sandy Vliet hear a yes and we will set the dates for our rehearsals. No, you do not have to read music, just be able to count and know your colors. Hope to hear from you – would love to have a Youth Choir as well as an Adult Choir.

### HOME VISITATION

If you would like Rev. Magnan or a member of the Board of Deacons to visit you at home, please contact the church office to set up a date. The Deacons are interested in visiting, providing meals, etc. However, they can not "read minds" so please let the church know of any needs.

### CHOIR NEWS

If anyone is interested in joining the Children's Choir or the Adult Choir please see Sandy Vliet. We are always glad to have new faces and voices. Choir rehearsal is from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Children's Choir meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

### FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY

Remember the FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY is the first Sunday of every month. As you come to worship, please place your nonperishable food items in the baskets located in the downstairs hallway. Poverty and hunger, like God, do not take a vacation.

### REMEMBER THESE FOLKS IN PRAYER

Mary Collins, Michael DeMarco, Jeane Dutt, Nancy Ehasz, Paula Freese, Anne Ginley-Yerkes, Judy Grace, Winnie Kiley, Krysten Hanneken, Larry Hengst, Susan Homa-Smith, Heyer Family, William Meeryeck, Ryan McVey, family of John Milford, Verna Nuttall, Barbara Phillip, Cindy Presto, Emma Raywood, Kurt Schubert, Skirbt's great-grandson – Lincoln, Shirley Sosanski, Greg Taynor, baby Trent, Joanna Vegh, Marge Walsh, Capt Chris Wolf, family and friends of Stella Young.

**BAPTISMS**

We are always pleased to welcome God's children into our church family. Baptized on February 16, 2014 was **Travis Raymond Rhinehart**, born on August 14, 2013, son of Jarod and Brooke Ehasz Rhinehart. Baptized on February 23, 2014 was **Benjamin Patrick Keyser**, born on July 1, 2013, son of Patrick and Megan Flynn Keyser.



**SYMPATHY**

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of **John Melchor**, who returned to his Lord on January 14.  
We express our sympathy to the family and friends of **George Amey**, who returned to his Lord on February 12.  
We express our sympathy to the family and friends of **Stella Young**, who returned to her Lord on February 25.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

It is a cause for joy when visitors become friends, and friends become members of our church family. Publicly received as a new member during worship service on February 23 was **Megan Flynn Keyser**.

**CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

If anyone is interested in attending summer camp, please contact the office for information about camps and possible scholarships.

**CALLING ALL 2014 GRADUATES**

If you or a member of your family will be graduating soon from junior high, high school, or college, or will have earned an advanced degree, please notify the church office at 908-859-0355 by **May 4, 2014**, so we can include them in the bulletin for Graduate Recognition Sunday on May 18, 2014.

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**



If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary please contact the church office at 908-859-0355 or send e-mail to [tomcat507@verizon.net](mailto:tomcat507@verizon.net). Please note that the birthday and anniversary lists will be no longer appear in the Tower but will be available on our website [tpcnh.org](http://tpcnh.org).

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting was held on Sunday, February 9. Reports from the various committees and program areas of the church were received. During the meeting the following were elected to serve the congregation during 2014:

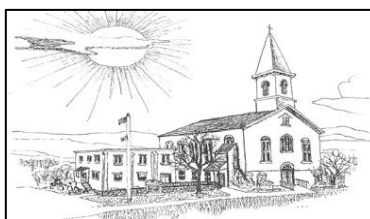
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|--|---|
| Church Financial Secretary/Church Treasurer: | Sandi Skibenes  |
| Personnel and Nominating Committee:          | Becky Brandt, chair, Ruth Skirbst, Lori Frankenfield, Natalie Dutt, David Ehasz |
| Auditing Committee:                          | Lance Evans, chair, Lynn Ehrhardt, David Swanson                                |

We commend all those who submitted reports and we thank all our committee chairs, program heads, and officers for the time they so willingly devote to Harmony Presbyterian Church.

**HOLY WEEK IN HARMONY**

- PALM SUNDAY, April 13** Procession and Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during 10:00 a.m. Worship
- MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17** 5:00 p.m. "Meal in the Upper Room"  
7:00 p.m. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated
- GOOD FRIDAY, April 18** 7:00 p.m. A worship of devotion and reflection
- EASTER, April 20** Will celebrate with Holy Communion the Resurrection of our Lord.  
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship, **followed by a fellowship Continental Breakfast.** Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

**COME AND CELEBRATE CHRIST'S LIFE!**



*In an attempt to save postage costs, the newsletter will be on the church website. **If you would be interested in not receiving a copy in the mail – please notify the church office.** Thank you.*

**HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
2727 Belvidere Road  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865