

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Second Sunday of Easter

April 7th, 2024

9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation
Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Second Sunday of Easter

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the Red Sea
into freedom's land.

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

† **Gathering Hymn: Thine is the Glory - ELW 376**

1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

*The assembly and
presiding minister
greet one another.*

† **Greeting**

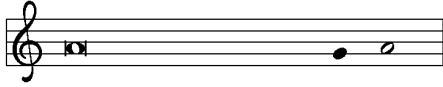
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

(scriptural
reference:
2 Corinthians)

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie Eleison
means "Lord
have mercy."

† Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



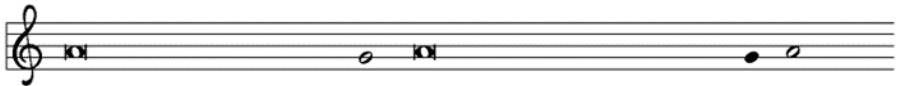
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



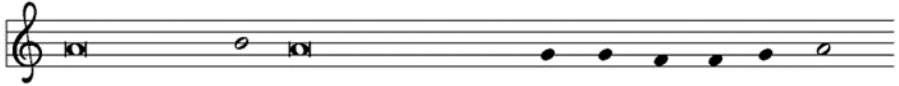
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Along with the return of the Alleluia, the Hymn of Praise returns on Easter Sunday to signify the joy of the resurrection.

† Hymn of Praise



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Prayer of the Day highlights

† Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. By the

themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Season of Easter features stories from the Book of Acts following the news of Christ's resurrection and the development of the early church.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

To put this reading into context:

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

Hear now the reading.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133



¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!
²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.
³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life
for- | evermore.

*We welcome the
gospel by singing the
Gospel Acclamation.
We rise, if able, in
anticipation of Christ
being revealed to us
through the Living
Word of the Gospel.*

† **Gospel Acclamation: Halle Halle Halle** ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Traditional Caribbean

*Before and
after the
reading of the
Gospel, we
give thanks and
praise to Jesus
Christ, who is
revealed to us
through the
Gospel reading.*

† **Gospel: John 20:19-29**

To put this gospel reading into context:

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the

nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children grade 1 and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the “learn and grow in faith” class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school – grade 6) meet after worship.

Sermon: Deaconess Anne Paine

Silence for Reflection. Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

Questions about faith can be hard to verbalize and hard to think through. Do you have questions or doubts about any aspects of your faith? With whom might you feel comfortable discussing your questions?

† Hymn of the Day: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain - ELW 363 v. 1, 2, 4, 5

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot

through the Red Sea waters.

- 2 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from the Light to whom we give
laud and praise undying.
- 4 Neither could the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own,
you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore
passes human knowing.
- 5 Alleluia! now we cry
to our Lord immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia! with the Son
God the Father praising;
Alleluia! yet again
to the Spirit raising.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community and
around the
world. The
prayers are also
responsive,
emphasizing*

† Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

our own participation.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

- + The Church*
- + Creation*
- + Nations and leaders*
- + Those in need*
- + This faith community*
- + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. Be especially with the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and Haiti. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray especially for family and friends of Diane, Helen, Carl, Pam, Joe, Tanya, Joe, Frank & Vicki, Gary, Willie, Char, Susan, Rich, Gus & Michele, Jeanette, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Dick, Sandy, family and friends of Jim, Jeanette, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† **Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today by using the QR code to the right or at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support



Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.

The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen ELW 377 vs 1

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

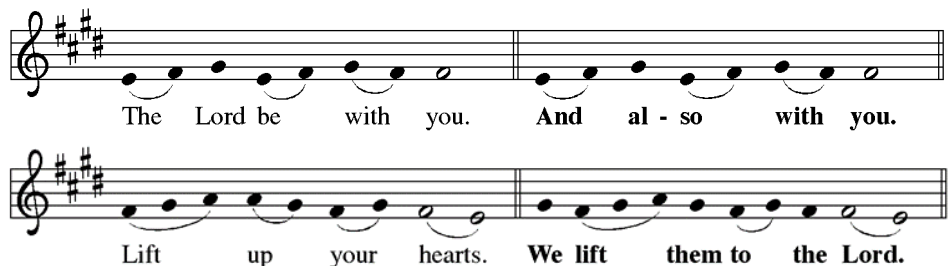
Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

† Invitation to the Table

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil.

Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle to the front in a single-file line. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail.

Gluten-free bread is available on request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: The Strife is O'er, the Battle is Done - ELW 366

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
 - 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst;
Jesus their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
 - 3 The three sad days have quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!
 - 4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;
the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!
 - 5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,
from death's sting free your servants too,
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!
- Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909

Communion Hymn: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing - ELW 386

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 1 O sons and daughters, let us sing
with heav'nly hosts to Christ our king:
today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia!
- 2 That Easter morn, at break of day,
the faithful women went their way
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
Alleluia!
- 3 An angel clad in white they see,
who sits and speaks unto the three,
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."
Alleluia!
- 4 That night the apostles met in fear;
among them came their master dear,
and said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,

the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen - ELW 548

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;
God, the wonder of our days.
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Christ, our present, past, and goal.
- 3 Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Spirit, grace by whom we live.
- 4 Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*The dismissal sends
us out as Christ's
Body: fed,
nourished, & ready
to serve. Worship*

† Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

has ended, & our
service begins!

Postlude

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You are warmly invited to gather upstairs in the lounge for coffee fellowship!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Isaac Krankowski	Reader: JoAnne Wancata
Ushers: Dave Blocksom & Stan Zeager	Counters: Dave Blocksom & Donna Handy
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey
Cantor: Bryan McGucken	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Apr 7, 2024

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Family & Friends of Diane Alusheff, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Forshey, Joe Gray, Frank & Vicki, Gary Kaiser, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Susan Omerod, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Gus & Michele Robles, Dick Schlupe, Sandy Towberman, family & friends of Jim Weber, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal & his family & people of Manipur, India, & the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and Haiti.

For those celebrating their birthdays: Trey Harrison (4/8), Matthew Inman (4/9), Serena Cottrell (4/10), Toni Kulma (4/10), David Paine (4/10), Abby Alusheff (4/11), & Ed Fink (4/12)

Reconciling in Christ "Cottage Mtng" (Small Group Discussion) April 14th after worship. The RIC process asks the RIC team to host one-on-one conversations with as many people as possible in the congregation as a part of the RIC journey. Because Good Soil's support of RIC is so widespread already, our RIC team is hosting 2 "small group" discussion events (4/14 and 5/19) for anyone who'd like to do their conversation in a group setting rather than one-on-one with an RIC team member. Then after May 19th, the RIC team will figure out who did *not* attend either small group opportunity and reach out to those folks for a one-on-one conversation. Light breakfast items and refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there! More info at reconcilingworks.org

The annual Secret Sisters Tea is April 14th at 2:30 at Good Soil. At this time the names of the prior year’s sisters are revealed. Further the next year’s secret sister will be drawn. The Secret Sisters is a group of women in the church who remember their sister in special ways during the year. They pray for, send an occasional card and sometimes give a small gift, such as at a birthday. The year ends at the afternoon tea. All Women are welcome to participate, or just come to the tea and see what it is all about. *If you have one, you are invited to bring your own teacup, but if you don’t there are extras available.*

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule.



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. Coffee volunteers aren’t expected to provide snacks or baked goods but can if they would like. Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or the QR code to the left.



Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up for or share our newsletter *Seeds* with this QR code to the right or this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp>



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Apr 7	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Thurs, Apr 11	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda	5:45 pm
Sun, Apr 14	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
	<i>RIC Discussion event: One-on-One’s with Small Groups</i>	11:00 am
	<i>Secret Sister Tea</i>	2:30 pm
Sun, Apr 21	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am

