



**MARCH
2019**

THE SPIRIT SEEKER

Cresskill Congregational Church, UCC

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Dear Members and Friends,

Spring is almost here. No, seriously. I am looking forward to it because spring is the season of new beginnings. Fresh buds bloom, animals awaken, and the earth seems to come to life again. Farmers and gardeners plant their seeds and temperatures slowly rise.

Nola Taylor Redd, contributing writer to Live Science, explains that what most people call spring relies on the astronomical definition of the word. Spring is generally considered the period between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. Defined by the angle of Earth's tilt

toward the sun, astronomical spring relies on equinoxes and solstices to define it.

In the hemisphere that is tilted closer to the sun, temperatures become warmer. Warmer temperatures means the ground, which may have frozen over the winter months, grows softer and more yielding to plants. Spring is often marked by increased rainfall, which helps to water the infant seeds taking root in the ground.

Animals that spent the winter in hibernation come out of their dens, while those that traveled to warmer regions return. Many animals give birth in the spring.

Many faith traditions celebrate the return of spring in their own way too. People of the Jewish faith celebrate Passover, which commemorates when the Jewish people were freed from slavery to Egypt, according to history. The day falls on the first full moon after the northern spring equinox and lasts for seven days.

Christians celebrate spring marked by Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his triumph over physical death. Jesus gave new life to those who put their faith and trust in him. As spring gives the earth new life, we are given new life in Jesus.

So then on Wednesday, March 20, Spring will be here. As it arrives, let us use it as a time of renewal of faith, family, and self. May Spring awaken us from our winter slumbers and long days, to the bright sunshine of God's best life. Since spring will happen during our liturgical season of Lent, you may consider new ways to live out your faith or to renew it. Coming to church, developing a devotional time, spending quality time with friends who love and support you, or doing good for others are all great ways to renew your faith. Please consider how you might renew your life and faith this spring.

Praying God's blessings to you,

Rev. Dr. David C. Bocock, Pastor

Prayers

Please pray for:

Selenia Ortiz

Jessica Boyette and her friend for safety & direction.

Ally, Donna, Steven, Samantha & Madison

All of those who need our prayers

Our country's leaders and those who make decisions

Abby and Penny; 6 yr old twins who lost their mother to cancer

Philip in North Carolina

Bill, whose wife died suddenly

The family of Christian Gloria, who died at the Cresskill Monument

Ann, Mary, Tim, Cathy, Laura, Jean, Marielle,

Rachel, Phil, Steven, Carol Ann, and Carol

All the caregivers who unselfishly give of themselves to care for others

Eli, for safety and making good choices

Rachel, safe trip to China

America, for healing, peace and love

Marilyn Rohrbach, dealing with the death of her husband

Bella, expecting a baby very soon



Prayer for Peace - Personal Peace

It is human nature to worry, become fearful, or desperate when one's life is in excessive turmoil. But Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Some other verses regarding personal peace are:

- Live in Peace (Mark 9:50)
- Jesus overcomes trials and sorrows (John 16:33)
- Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Christ gives peace and rest to all who come to him in faith (Matthew 11:28-30)
- Jesus gives us peace of mind and heart (John 14:27)
- Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

Health and Healing:

Annabelle, fighting breast cancer at age 93

George Zimmerman, good results of his MRI

Caitie Sher, recovering from surgery

Ed and Karen Minkler

Britt, Joann and Kurt for healing

Carolyn and Jim Smith

Ruth Braun, fluid in lungs

Vinny, Tommy and Nicolas, for healing

Nellie Hutchinson, struggling with so many problems

Mabel Farrell, 99 years old

Ray Lazzaro, Olie and Bruno

Christine Jackson-Elder struggling with severe health problems

Dr. Anthony Walko, for a speedy recovery

My sister, Jeanne

Joe Yates, for continued health

Ed Delworth and family, for health

Susan and Pete Laudenback

Zosia, a three year old with vision problems

Bo, for good health

Christina Abreu and her baby, Julianna Marie

Bernice D'Ippolito

Wolfgang Soine

Jeanne, Dee's sister

Anna's granddaughter, Ally

Caroline Hargrove, with anemia

Donna and Phil Daly, for a speedy recovery

Judy Russell, Henry Hecht, Anna, Pat Fritz

Nigel for health

Ruth Braun's son Steven who has health problems



Bread and Broth DVD Series (Lenten Book Study) will be during Lent. Please join us to watch “Making Room for Neighbors” by Max Lucado.

We will be meeting on the following Wednesday’s at 6:30pm: March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10.

The Board of Christian Education will be providing the bread, soup and dessert on the first night.

Women’s Book Club will be meeting on Thursday March 7th at 7pm in the Social Hall to discuss the book “Heads You Win” by Jeffrey Archer.

Healthy Choices and Wellness will be led by Barbara Emer. Look for more details for this session, meeting on Saturday, April 13.

Sophie’s Porch will begin meeting on Thursday evenings after Easter.

Mens Book Study and Breakfast is being planned. Look for more details coming up in April.



March Birthday Wishes To:

Geoffrey	Rickly	8
Walter	Kruger	9
Fred	Rogers	12
Matthew	Foster	13
Emily Mae	Hallmeyer	13
Stephanie	Micucci	16
John	Pontician Sr.	17
Patricia	Dobish	20
Jeremy	Plasencia	27
Carol	Rogers	29
Barbara	Soine	30

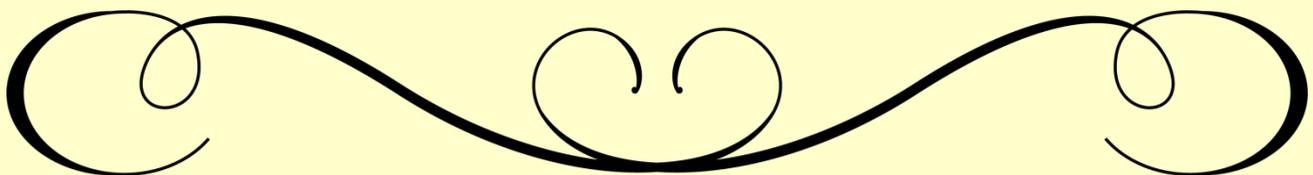
The White Elephant

The dates for the first half of the year are on Fridays and Saturdays 9am-2pm:

March 22 & 23
 April 26 & 27
 June 7 & 8

We are always accepting donations – just call the church office to set up a delivery date.

Come and see our new and exciting items for sale!



Food Pantry

We will be receiving donations for the Dumont Food Pantry every 3rd Sunday of the month.

Please donate non-perishable food stuff. All items donated will be dedicated during the Sunday worship service.

Have you remembered us in your will?

If not, consider adding this: "After all of my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to The Cresskill Congregational Church." And that's it. Your gift will provide a lasting benefit to the congregation for many years to come.

-Prayer-

On my bad days
I seek you, On my
good days
I Thank You,
On my great days
I praise You,
But everyday I need You,
Thank you God for always
being there for me. Amen

Food for Thought

Don't eat breakfast cereals
that change the color of the milk☺

Michael Pollan



Facebook

We offer and post a midweek devotional on Facebook every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon. Pastor Bo records this 7-10 minute devotion based on the upcoming Sunday's sermon. The videos remain on Facebook indefinitely which means you can look at them anytime you wish.



From the church's 100th Anniversary Cookbook

SNICKERDOODLES Edith Wallace

1 c. butter	1 tsp. baking soda
1 ½ c. sugar	¼ tsp. salt
2 eggs	2 T. sugar
2 ¾ c. flour	2 tsp. cinnamon
	2 tsp. cream of tartar

Mix shortening, sugar and eggs thoroughly. Blend in flour, cream of tartar, soda and salt.

Form 1-inch balls. Roll in mixture of 2 tablespoons sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon.

Place about 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes at 400 degrees.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies.

I Thought of You Today

I said a prayer for you today,
And know God must have heard-
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke no word.

I did not ask for wealth or fame,
I know you wouldn't mind-
I asked Him to send treasures,
Of a far more lasting kind.
I asked that He'd be near you,
At the start of each new day...
To grant you health and blessings,
And friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you,
In all things great and small –
But it was for His loving care,
That I prayed the most of all!

Sojourners Prayer Group

Rumi – Guest House

*This being human is a guest house
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out for some new
delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.*

~Rumi

Maulana Jalaluddin **Rumi** was a 13th century Persian poet, an Islamic dervish and a Sufi mystic. He is regarded as one of the greatest spiritual masters and poetical intellectuals.

Storms of Life

At some point in life most of us face many types of health, financial, family or other serious problem. Recently, it seems that “storm clouds” have encircled many due to lost jobs, poor health and the economic situation in our country. It would be quite easy to begin counting our problems instead of our blessings.

Life is precious. It was given each of us by God. He understands that we face difficulties in this short sojourn on earth. Yet, trials and sufferings are a part of life itself, brought on by the sin in the world since Adam and Eve.

Tragedies may come, jobs may be lost, diseases may rack our bodies, or business losses may cause financial disasters. There may be times when we feel we are all alone and overcome by life's difficulties. God did not promise to take away our troubles. But, He did promise that the Lord would never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). When trials surround us, He offers comfort and hope through His Word (Romans 15:4). He gives us peace through Christ (John 16:4; Philippians 4:7). If we are in Christ then nothing can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:35-39).

When the storms of life comes our way, let us call to mind the words of the apostle Peter, “casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

*John K. Wills
Owingsville, KY
Bulletin Digest*

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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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*Ash Wednesday is March 6
at 7:30pm*

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days

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