



Between the Bricks

March-April 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Read 2 Corinthians 4: 8-18

In the Preacher's Sourcebook of Creative Sermon Illustrations, author Robert Morgan tells the following story entitled:

"Easter is Coming"

During morning worship on Palm Sunday, 1994, a tornado struck the Goshen United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Alabama. It happened during a dramatic Palm Sunday presentation. Suddenly, electricity went out and the power failed. The participants in the drama tried to continue without the sound system until a window broke crashing down to the floor as wind began to pour into the Church through the broken window. People started screaming and then, without notice, the roof collapsed on top of the congregation, killing twenty people and injuring many more. Among the fatalities was Hannah Clem, the four-year-old daughter of Pastor Kelly Clem.

The night after the terrible tragedy, Pastor Kelly tried to sleep but she found it difficult. In and out of sleep all night she tossed and turned replaying the horror of the tragedy over and over in her mind. An unusual dream came to her. She saw herself trying to lift and toss bricks aside, clearing away rubble, trying to rescue victims. She kept doing the same thing over again. Everything was grey and dull in her dream. But as her dream progressed, she stepped back from the scene and right in the spot where Hannah had been buried, she saw children dressed in beautiful, bright colors. They seemed oblivious to onlookers and were playing and laughing with each other. They were playing on a hillside of the greenest grass Kelly had ever seen. When Kelly awoke, a peace settled over her and strengthened her for the many funerals she would conduct ahead, included that of her own daughter, Hannah.

The next day, a reporter asked Kelly if the disaster had shattered her faith?

It hasn't shattered my faith at all," Kelly replied.....

(continued)

Between the Bricks is the mortar that binds the individual bricks together to form a strong, unified structure. This newsletter, published for the members of the Old Brick Reformed Church, is the mortar that binds us together, and helps us to minister as a vital congregation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday
Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor

Reverend George Kaden
pastor@oldbrickchurch.org

Director of Music

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Administrator

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Webmaster

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

"I'm holding on to my faith. It's holding me. All of the people of Goshen are holding on to each other, along with the hope that ***Easter is coming!***"

That is Paul's message in 2 Corinthians 4 as well. While we face trials and hardships in the world; while suffering and pain come our way, as Christians we are never crushed or driven to despair because we're always able to cling to the hope that "Easter is coming!" Jesus is alive. God raised him from the dead.

We know, as Paul says: "...this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

We've all been through quite an ordeal since February of 2020, but we must not be discouraged. We need remember...**EASTER IS COMING!**

A blessed Easter to you all,

Pastor Kaden



NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

See Joshua Chapter 21 vs. 45 and Hebrews Chapter 4 vs. 12

Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

What do these words mean to you? These words give me hope. Even with the current state of the world, there are still hopeful signs that good things may be coming our way. Vaccinations will allow us to see and interact with our friends and family in a more fulfilling way, Old Brick's pews will fill up once more, and the young people will be able to return to a life with less screen time and more personal interaction. I look forward to it!

Over the past few weeks, the Consistory and Administrative teams decided to apply for the Paycheck Protection Plan for the Church. Laura Hogan and I put the final finishing touches on the application today and submitted the document and all the necessary paperwork (every little bit helps).

As Easter season approaches, I look forward to happier (warmer) days ahead for all of us.

May Jesus bless you and keep you safe.

Thomas Bynoe, VP of Consistory

WORSHIP SCHEDULE...



Every Sunday - 9:30 AM



March 7: **Third Sunday of Lent**
Sermon: *Are You Walking on Water Or Sinking?*

March 14: **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
Sermon: *No Where Else To Go*

March 21: **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Sermon: *You Are The Christ*

Holy Week

March 28: **Palm Sunday**
Worship in Sanctuary at 9:30a
Sermon: *Are You Avoiding the Cross?*

April 1: **Maundy Thursday**
Virtual Worship will be held Via Zoom at 7:00p

April 2: **Good Friday**
Sanctuary is open 12-3p for prayer and private meditation.
(Study guide to assist reflections will be available in the sanctuary)

April 4: **Easter Sunday**
Virtual Worship will be held via Zoom at 9:30a
Sermon: *He Lives!*



April 11: **Second Sunday of Easter**
Sermon: *There Is Hope*

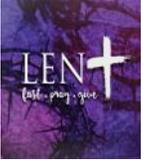
April 18: **Third Sunday of Easter**
Sermon: *From Regret To Restoration*

April 25: **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Sermon: *He Is Our Strength*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Old Brick's Confirmation Class 2021: Our confirmation class of *Anna and Kammi Haeusser, Lilly Bynoe and Brooke Baum* has been meeting every other week on Zoom. The class is going well and Confirmation Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd.



Lenten Series: This Lenten season Pastor Kaden will be preaching a series of sermons on the life of Simon Peter, one of the most notable disciples of Christ. Join us each Sunday as we examine Peter's life and journey with Jesus, all the highs and lows Peter faced as he grew in his relationship with Christ.



Easter Dedications: Once again beautiful Lilies and Tulips will be displayed in Old Brick's Sanctuary for Easter in **remembrance** and in **honor** of loved ones.



To dedicate one or more *Easter Lily* or *Tulip plants* (\$15 each) please fill out a form in the Sunday bulletin, contact the church: 732-946-8860 or email: secretary@oldbrickchurch.org. Your order needs to be in by *Sunday March 21st* in order to be included in our Sunday Easter Bulletin.

Consistory Meetings: *Thursday, March 11th at 7pm* and the Quarterly Administrative/Consistory meeting will be held *Thursday, April 8th at 6:45pm*. Our meetings continue to being held remotely through Zoom until further notice.

Love Lifts Us Up: Old Brick Church continues to support the work and ministry of LLUU to families who have a seriously ill child in the Pediatric or Neo-natal intensive care unit at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. This inspirational ministry, over the past 3 years, helped over 175 families in need of comfort and assistance with basic necessities like *baby formula, diapers, blankets and knitted caps, car seats, pack 'n plays, baby clothing, strollers, gift cards and uber cards* which provide these families a means to visit their sick child at the hospital.

These families in need write us very emotional thank you notes expressing gratitude for help to ease their struggle of having a very ill child in intensive care. We trust the work of Almighty God, knowing God is blessing our efforts to touch people's lives and help them through very trying days. It's rewarding work that touches deep chords of compassion. Thank you all for your continued support and generosity!

To join or help out with our Love Lifts Us Up ministry:



Visit us on Facebook - Love Lifts Us Up; Contact Pastor Kaden at: Pastor@oldbrickchurch.org. or Sign up for our email list.

If you'd like to make a contribution, donations may be sent to:

**Love Lifts Us Up
P.O. Box 382
Ocean Grove, New Jersey 07756.**

All contributions are tax deductible as LLUU is a 501c3 Tax Exemption.

OUR OLD BRICK CHURCH FAMILY



Pastor Kaden has informed the Consistory that he will be retiring this coming June 2021.

He has submitted his notification to the Classis of New Brunswick and to the Consistory who has begun discussions with the Classis concerning the steps that will follow.



While Pastor Kaden has formally submitted his paperwork for retirement to the denomination, we are hoping that he will remain with us through September or October this coming fall.

We will keep you updated about this matter. Please keep Pastor Kaden and Janet, as well as the Old Brick Consistory in your prayers as we all navigate through the days and weeks ahead.



Pastor Kaden has indicated that if anyone would like to speak with him about this matter to please not hesitate to do so.

Congratulations and best wishes.



The Rugnetta's recently welcomed a new baby girl to their family on February 26th when *Danielle* gave birth to their second child, *Georgia Elissa*! Mom, baby, Vincent and John are all doing just fine.

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating a birthday in March and April.



In March: Dewey Holmes, Joanne Chernoff, Jeremy Gauntt, Kammi and Anna Haeusser, Odette Meglio, Rev. Ronald Ratmeyer, Caitlin MacDonald and Jillian Wojtaszek.

In April: MaryEllen Devries, Julie Baum, Barbara Tilton, Holly Kelly and Jennifer Gauntt.

We will miss you at Old Brick.



We are saddened but very happy for our dear friend *Melonie Ghans* as she will be moving to Texas to live with her son Wayne and his family. This is a wonderful move for Melonie but we shall miss her dear presence among us.



Melonie,
God bless you and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May God lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Your spiritual family at Old Brick Reformed Church

REMINDERS



Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, March 14th: remember clocks “Spring Forward” an hour.



Remember The Three “P’s”

PRAY - For the ministry of Old Brick Church every day.

PRESENCE - Make attending worship a priority in your life.

PARTICIPATE- In Old Brick Church’s ministry, investing your time, talents, and treasures in helping us to grow Old Brick Church.

HOLY WEEK

Due to the Coronavirus we will be holding some of our worship services *virtually* through Zoom to comply with state health and safety guidelines. Please refer to the schedule of services below for Holy Week.

Information for the Virtual Services via Zoom and how to participate will be provided in future emails.

Palm Sunday, March 28th:

We will have worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st:

Virtual Worship through Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 2nd:

The Sanctuary will be open from 12-3pm for prayer and private meditation.

Easter Sunday, April 4th:

We will have Easter Sunday Virtual Worship through Zoom at 9:30 AM.

THIS EASTER SEASON, REMEMBER...

YOU TOOK MY PARKING SPACE AT CHURCH

This should wake us up. One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

When you receive this, say a prayer that's all....
This Easter Season let's remember, "Who took our place"

QUOTES ...On HOPE

O little town of Bethlehem!
The hopes and fears of all the
years, are met in thee tonight.

- Philip Brooks

Romans 5: 1-5

- the Apostle Paul

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing,
Hope, and comfort from above;
Let us each, thy peace possessing,
Triumph in redeeming love.

- Robert Hawker: Benediction