

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES**  
**April 23, 2025**

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 1999: Melody Bonnette

*Not my will, but thine, be done.* – LUKE 22:4

“I don't think the Easter lily we bought last year is going to bloom again this Easter,” I said to my husband Roy. Easter was two weeks away, and all of our children would be home. I had hoped the lily would flower in time to adorn our fireplace hearth. It was a family tradition to keep last year's Easter lily in hopes that it would blossom once again. This year didn't look very promising.

I was not handling my disappointment very well. It wasn't just the stubborn Easter lily that concerned me. Our oldest daughter Misty was getting married in August to a young man she had only known a short while. Our daughter Kristen had arrived home from college with a drastic new hair color. Our 17-year-old son Christopher was far more interested in playing with his rock band than in school. Our youngest son's best friend had moved away, and Kevin didn't seem to be doing anything to make new friends for the summer.

It was two months after Easter before our lily finally blossomed, one flower at a time, until there were four beautiful blooms.

“It's just like our four children, isn't it?” Roy mused, as we admired God's handiwork. “We just need to step back and allow them to develop in their own time, to be whomever God has meant them to be.”

My husband was right. Just as my Easter lily had bloomed when it was ready, my children would do the same.

*God, give me the patience to do what I can and leave the rest to You.* – MELODY BONNETTE

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Loving Father, You have planted the seed and given life in abundance. Help me see the beauty of Your creation in the Spring, in the faces of friends and family, in the wonders of the universe that spin in perfect unison. Open my heart to trust in Your ways and to seek the path of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.*

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9:00am to 12:00noon

**Preschool:** Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:00pm

<b>Thursday, April 24</b>	7:00am to 7:00pm – Blood Drive 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group
<b>Friday, April 25</b>	<i>Arbor Day</i> <del>11:00am – Bible Study</del> <b>CANCELED</b>
<b>Saturday, April 26</b>	12:00pm to 4:00pm – Private Event in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm – Spoken Worship/ <b>NON-COMMUNION</b> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend of Easter
<b>Sunday, April 27</b>	9:00am – Traditional Worship – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend of Easter / Preschool Sunday Sunday School Following Worship <del>Council Meeting</del> – <b>POSTPONED, NEW DATE MAY 4<sup>th</sup></b> Bells Rehearsal PAL Team B Serves at HACC
<b>Thursday, May 1</b>	<i>May Day</i> 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group 3:00pm – Evangelism Committee Meeting
<b>Friday, May 2</b>	11:00am – Bible Study

## Sunday Worship Leaders

**CPIC:** Kate Klunk

**Lector:** Kathy Gates **Comm. Assts:** Kate Klunk | Karen Feeser

**Altar Care:** Sunday Morning Volunteers



**Prayer List:** We ask that you keep all our shut-ins and those needing special help in your daily prayers. We will keep the shut-ins on the list indefinitely and those needing extra prayers will be removed after one month unless we're told otherwise. To add a name to the prayer list please write it on the list on the narthex brass stand or call the office. This week keep in your prayers: *Dora, Grayson, Daniel Ard, Family & Friends of Herbert Bartell, Katherine Borsella, Patrick Brady, Susan Bucher-Laughman, Kath Campbell, Lucas Cherry, Frances Claybaugh, Tom Cowan, Oscar Crow, Pastor David DeLong, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Landon Evans, Dennis Fahey, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Bob Groft, John Hagerman, Chase Henry & Family, Carrie Hernden, Peg Hippensteel, Michael Humes, Martha Howells, Donna Jones, Debbie Kellenbenz, Craig King, Shawn Klunk, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Allen Kuhns, Jo Kuhns, David Kunkel, Russell Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Family & Friends of Bill Leppo, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Carol Miller, Merita Moore, Ed Moran, Emily Moul, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Wayne Noel, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Mary Riley, Family & Friends of Dennis Robert Rose, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Family & Friends of Jim Schuman, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Sarah Smith, Jody Spellman, Amanda Stuckey, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Erin Viozzi, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, Bill Whelan, Kathy Wildasin, Rebecca Wisotzkey.*

**St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs** gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs pre-determined by our council each year. April's offering benefits **Itete Hospital of the Konde Diocese**. Of the various partners who support Konde Diocese, through the work of our Konde Medical Needs Committee, we, as the Lower Susquehanna Synod, are the only partner providing ongoing support for the Itete Hospital. As the Itete Hospital in the Konde Diocese of Tanzania grows in its capacity to care for people as a District Designated Hospital, their needs grow. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Itete Hospital" or "April Designated Giving" on your check or the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Donations made on the *Other* line with no written designation will automatically go toward that month's ministry fund. Thanks for your support.

**Schedule Changes:** Please be sure to check the calendar above for adjustments to this week's schedule. **Bible Study on Friday has been canceled**, and the Council meeting previously scheduled for Sunday following worship will now be on **May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Also, Saturday night's service will be a regular, **non-Communion** worship.

**2025-2026 Preschool Openings:** There are still some spots left in the T/TH 3-year-old class. Please go to [stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com](http://stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com) or [stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool](http://stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool) for more information.

**Blood Drive:** Our next UPMC Central Blood Bank drive is tomorrow, Thursday, **April 24<sup>th</sup>**, in our fellowship hall. To schedule an appointment, go to [717giveblood.org](http://717giveblood.org) and click on "Donate Now."

**Diaper Drive Thank You & Request:** Thank you to all who brought in diapers and wipes for Tender Care Pregnancy Center. Your generosity will enable us to take them 747 diapers and 1768 wipes this year. And speaking of taking diapers to them – we are in need of someone to drop them off at Tender Care. **If you're able to pick up the diapers and wipes and transport them to Tender Care**, please contact Joni at 717-637-8904 or [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com).

**Piggy Bank Project:** Thank you also to everyone who brought in loose change or wrote checks for the Sunday School's collection to purchase animals, netting, and other items for communities in need. Once it's all counted, we'll share an update with the amount!

**Altar Flowers:** We are in need of altar flowers sponsors for most of May, including a vase on **May 4<sup>th</sup>**, which, believe it or not, is the weekend after this one (wow!). If you would like to dedicate a vase to a loved one or their memory (or for any other reason), please contact the church off at 717-637-8904 or [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com), or add your dedication to the Altar Flower book. Thank you in advance for helping us keep fresh flowers on the altar!

**Preschool Sunday:** Our preschoolers will be extra special guests this Sunday, **April 27<sup>th</sup>**, at our 9:00am worship and will add to the service by performing two songs during Children's Time. This will be an enjoyable time for all!

**Geraniums:** To dedicate Pentecost geraniums to a loved one, please submit a form found in the narthex or April newsletter. The Day of Pentecost is June 8<sup>th</sup>, and the deadline to order is **May 18<sup>th</sup>**. As always, we'll be planting the geraniums to beautify the church gardens. If you can help plant, please call the church office (717-637-8904).

**Honoring Our Heroes:** We hope and pray for another successful event on **May 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please join us for activities and displays at 5:00pm with a concert at 7:00pm, followed by root beer floats. All St. Mark activities are free of charge, and food trucks will be present to sell refreshments. Please spread the word to anyone who may want to attend or have a table display. Flyers are available on the office hallway table, so if you know of places to post them, please do so!

**Inspirations:** May inspiration packets are now available. Be sure to pick up one for yourself and one or more to share.

**Help Us Buy Ingredients:** HACC's Provide-A-Lunch program makes sure there is a hot meal for anyone in the Hanover area who needs one. St. Mark's two teams serve lunch and provide the ingredients for each meal. To help us continue this mission, please consider donating to our PAL Supply fund. To contribute **directly to St. Mark's PAL efforts**, please note "PAL **SUPPLIES**" (be sure to specify "supplies" so that your donation is directed to the right place) on the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Thank you!

**Mission Trip:** Gary Laabs and his granddaughter will be going to the Dominican Republic with MMI **June 21<sup>st</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>**. A box has been set up in the narthex to begin receiving donated medications to send with him, especially vitamins (not prenatal) and OTC pain medication. More information will follow as the trip date nears. No more greeting cards are needed at this time, but we will need help prepping the cards and glueing on the medical information. Please contact the church office if you can help (717-637-8904).

**New Coloring Group Here at St. Mark!** If you're an adult who enjoys coloring, either on paper or on your iPad, grab your supplies and join us for our new coloring group here in a St. Mark classroom. The group will meet monthly, usually on the second Tuesday, from 10:00am to 11:30am. May's meeting will be on **May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Call the church office or email [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com) for the schedule or if you need more information. And if you know of anyone else who'd like to come, please let them know – flyers are on the office hallway table.

**St. Mark Eats:** We invite you to join us on **May 6<sup>th</sup>** for lunch at the Railside Restaurant at 1:**30**pm. On **THURSDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>** (**Please note date change**), we'll be moving to dinnertime when we visit Dutch Country at 6:00pm. Please sign up!

**Plant Sale:** The Hanover Garden Club's Spring Plant Sale is set for Saturday, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 8:00am to 1:00pm in our fellowship hall and parking lot. The Garden Club will be selling perennials from their own gardens. These are plants that are proven to grow successfully in our area and should flourish in your yards. Free gardening advice will also be available throughout the day. Be sure to stop by the church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

**Bus Trip!** St. David's UCC is organizing a bus trip to see *Noah* at the Sight & Sound theater on **July 11<sup>th</sup>** from 10:45am to 7:30pm. Tickets are \$155.00 (ages 3-12 - \$92.00) and include bus fare, show tickets, and lunch plus gratuity at Hershey Farms. Driver gratuity is not included. Payment must be received by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Contact 717-637-2299 for more information.

**Stolte Scholarship:** HACC offers a scholarship for \$1,000 to any Hanoverian pursuing a career in ministry, missions, or humanitarian service. The deadline is this Friday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>**. Contact HACC at 717-633-6353 for more information.

**Volunteer Fiesta:** HACC is recognizing volunteers with a Volunteer Fiesta that includes food, music, prizes, and fun on **May 31<sup>st</sup>** from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. The event will be held at St. Paul Dubs Church. RSVP by **May 16<sup>th</sup>** at 717-633-6353.

**Free Folk Concert:** EUCC on Broadway presents "Simple Gifts," with folk duo Linda Littleton and Karen Hirshon. They'll play an amazing array of instruments including fiddle, mandolin, banjo, etc, with music that includes Irish jigs to American reels to Balkan dance music. Please contact EUCC at 717-632-8281 for more information.

**Penn Township Resident Reminders:** Just some reminders from Penn Township: there will be a shredding event for township residents this Saturday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>**, as well as a food drive at the Recycling Center; also, residential brush & limb collection begins next Monday, **April 28<sup>th</sup>**.