



Marple Presbyterian Church

105 N. Sproul Road
Broomall, PA 19008-2023
Phone: 610-356-1098
Email: marplepc@gmail.com
Website: www.marplepres.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Sunday, March 16 - 10:30 a.m. Worship, Second Sunday in Lent
Pastor Jim Reisner Preaching – Sermon – Rebuked**

To Christians Jesus is the Incarnation, God's love in person on earth.
God's love is visionary, perceiving behind the armor most of us don
an individual unprecedented and unrepeatable.
And God's love doesn't seek value, it creates it.
Christians recognize their value as a gift rather than an achievement:
it is not because we have value that we are loved,
but because we are loved that we have value.

....

*Love measures our stature; the more we love the bigger we are.
There is no smaller package in all the world
than that of an individual all wrapped up in himself.*

William Sloane Coffin
The Courage to Love; Credo

We welcome you to join us in-person or virtually. You can access the live stream on
Twitch [HERE](#).

The live stream link and weekly bulletins are also available on our
website, www.marplepres.org.

Adult Class – Mission Study

During the Season of Lent and beyond, Pastor Reisner will be leading an adult class that
will meet after church in the newly-renovated library. This week's class will look at what
elements make up a mission study, and how the church will go about gathering
information and data from the congregation and community.

In preparation for the class, participants can review Isaiah 61:1-3.

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN THRIFT SHOP

Saturday, March 15 10 am – 4 pm

Tuesday, March 18 10 am – 3 pm

March 19 – Session Meeting at 7:00 pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.

JOYS AND CONCERNS ON ZOOM

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3 – 4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, April 6 – Worship and Communion

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship, Deadline to order Easter Flowers

Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm – Maundy Thursday Worship Service in the Chapel

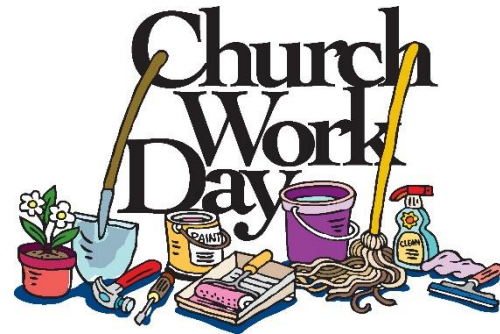
Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 27 - Cantata

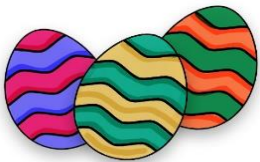
SPRING CLEANUP DAY – Please join us for our annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 5th from 10 am to 1 pm. As they say, *many hands make light work!* There are multiple ways for anyone who comes by to help. Please bring a rake (grass rake or hard rake) as our main task will be to rake out the gardens, spread mulch and repair lawn areas dug up by the snow plowing.

We have plenty of tasks to do inside the buildings for those of you who prefer to be inside. It is a great way to get to spend time serving the church together, so mark the date on your calendar and we'll see you there.

The rain date is April 12th from 9 am to 12 pm.



EASTER EGG HUNT– Please join us after the service on Easter Sunday for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will be holding an Egg Hunt for children in the Courtyard immediately **after** **worship on April 20th**. There will be candy, games, and lots of fun for everyone. We hope to see you there!



We appreciate donations of individual miniature non-peanut Easter candy and help filling all the plastic eggs. Candy donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex or dropped off at the church office for the next few weeks. Feel free to chat with Debbie Pettinelli for more information.

LENTEN *Schedule*

Sunday, April 13th • 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Worship Service
Sermon: The Two Parades

Thursday, April 17th • 7:00 pm, Chapel

Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Communion
Sermon: Commanded to Love

Sunday, April 20th • 10:30 am

Easter Sunday Worship Service
Sermon: Like Him We Rise

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

105 N Sproul Road, Broomall, PA 19008
610-356-1098
www.marplepres.org



Easter Flowers Order Form

Please fill out this form and return to the church office with your payment no later than Sunday, April 13th if you would like to place a flower in the sanctuary for Easter.

Given by: _____ Envelope No. _____

In honor memory of: _____

In honor memory of: _____

In honor memory of: _____

In honor memory of: _____

In honor memory of: _____

In honor memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to
Marple Presbyterian Church.

Quantity

Paid via Cash

\$9/each

Check # _____

TOTAL

History Spotlight

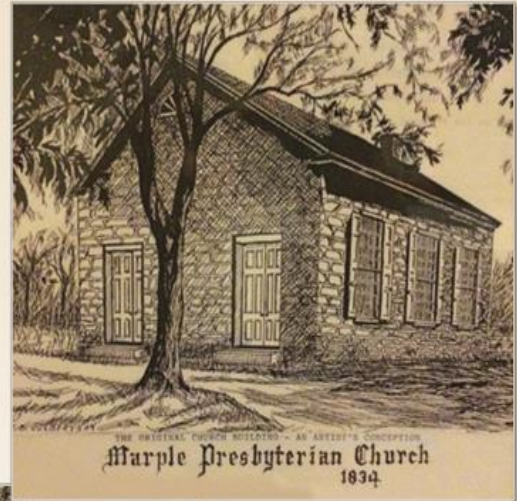
The First Church in Marple

by Doug Humes

Photos courtesy of the Marple Historical Society

Marple Township did not have a church building for its first 150 years. Early settlers were Quakers, who could journey to Springfield Friends Meeting, right over the Marple border, a relatively short commute by horse and wagon, or Newtown Square Meeting, also relatively close. Church of England worshippers found their way to St. David Church near Radnor. Church attendance in those early years was one of the principal forms of socializing and entertainment in the sparsely settled farm community, and so a long wagon or carriage ride on Sunday morning would have been a highly anticipated event, well worth the travel time.

When Scotch-Irish settlers began arriving, they brought their religion, Presbyterianism. The 1720 Middletown Presbyterian Church in Lima was their nearest option. Tired of that ride, in all kinds of weather, Marple farmer John Cragi offered up land at a convenient corner intersection, while Howell Jones agreed to provide building stone from his farm along Darby Creek. In August of 1834, the cornerstone was laid for Marple Presbyterian Church. Volunteers constructed the first small church, which



A sketch shows the original church building, opened in 1835

A photo, circa 1920, shows the church with its 1867 vestibule in front, the 1915 addition for Sunday School at the rear, and the adjacent cemetery, along today's Sproul Road

opened its doors in May 1835. The original building had a 50x42 feet interior with box pews, which were rented to parishioners for \$15/year. Ten pews were rented in the first year, with the new minister paid \$150.

The first mention of the church in newspapers concerned the meeting of the Delaware County Temperance Society and its call for the friends of the Temperance Cause to meet at the church on August 5, 1841 "for the purpose of devising and adopting some means of

inducing the Legislature of this State to exert its lawful and appropriate influence in diminishing and mitigating the miseries entailed upon Society by the Vending and Drinking of Intoxicating Liquors."

By 1870, the church had 70 members, in a township of only 858. The following year, a young doctor fresh from Civil War service and then medical school, Dr. John G. Thomas, put down roots in the community and joined the church. He volunteered as superintendent of the Sunday School, serving for 50 years, and



The new 1953 church building

Courtesy of Marple Presbyterian Church



The sign in the graveyard, with various church buildings in the background

also served as treasurer for 51 years. Dr. Thomas died in 1939 at age 95 and is buried in the front row of the church cemetery along Sproul Road.

The church expanded as it grew, adding a vestibule in 1867, various additions over the years, and constructing a new modern church dedicated on September 27, 1953, with three of the six then-living former ministers in attendance, and greetings sent by the others. The Church continues as a vital member of the community, offering Sunday services, Sunday School, youth groups, choir, a thrift shop and its annual Strawberry Festival in June.

For more on the history of Marple, visit the Marple Historical Society website and Facebook page, and join the Society to learn about coming events: MarpleHistoricalSociety.org. 🌍

During this time of pastoral transition please be aware that the Deacons will be available for addressing and communicating any pastoral needs. You can email or text/call:

Joyce Holmwood jholmwood433@comcast.net 610-888-7458

OR

Linda Pursley lpursley1981@gmail.com 631 942- 5758

or any Deacon listed in the bulletin.