



Church on the Cape Newsletter



May 2026

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

—Tenneva Jordan

*Mother's
Day*



Source: Newsletternewsletter

From The Pastor's Desk

The Garden - A Place Of New Creation and Order

"I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the son of God discloses..."

For many people both regular churchgoers and those who are not so regular, this is a favorite hymn text, written by C. Austin Miles. What is often overlooked is that this is the story of Mary Magdalene's Easter morning encounter with the resurrected Jesus. The story is told as a first-person narrative in Mary's voice as she relates her inner reflection on meeting Jesus in that garden-cemetery.

For many of us, the mention of a garden at the beginning of the poem immediately catches our attention! The gardening season is in its early days, but already in full swing here. Whenever I am able I start many seeds inside and nurture them under grow lights until the weather makes a dependable shift to hospitable temperatures!

Starting seeds and propagating plants with cuttings is one of my favorite activities.

I think that is because I am inspired by observing



the emergence of new-life. One of my favorite late-winter seeds to sow is what is often called "Florist's Cineraria." The seed is like dust. If you sneeze you would blow it all away! When carefully sown and nurtured, though, the tiny seedlings become a lovely plant with daisy-like flowers in spectacular colors!

Because it likes shade when outdoors, it is adaptable to indoor growing. I love to get a head start on the gardening season by having these

plants blooming indoors while it is still frosty outside!

No one would ever expect that this beautiful plant would arise from the dust that comes in a tiny envelope! That, for me, is part of the joy of gardening. It is a resurrection experience every time I bury a seed in soil and watch life emerge. It is like going to the garden of resurrection every time I watch this new life emerge and turn into something delicious or beautiful or both!

The garden is also a place of new creation and order. When I create a garden anew each spring, I imagine what God felt like in creating the earth. My garden is a tiny expression of the creative energy that God imbues humans with when we are made in God's image. We become co-creators and garden-companions. It is, for me, like a return to Eden and a restoration of what God intended when the first humans were created to tend the first garden. I rue the day they left that garden and had to contend with the challenges of the outside world—like weeds, rabbits and ravenous insects! Nevertheless, the garden is a place where I feel the spirit of God in creating a place of beauty, order and abundance.

Perhaps, then, that is why the Gospel of John situates Jesus' resurrection in a garden. Perhaps that is why Mary supposes the risen Jesus is the gardener—because maybe he is! Jesus not only models the new life of resurrection when he comes out of the tomb, he plants the seeds of new life in each of us and seeks to tend those seeds until they reach maturity and bear fruit.

I know not all of you are literal gardeners. Some of you have even declared you have brown thumbs! Truth be told, my thumbs and fingers are brown from the soil more often than they are green! I pray, though, that every one of you, whether you can make actual plants and gardens grow or not, will realize that you are a garden. You carry the spiritual seed of new life in the garden of your heart and Jesus is the gardener who watches over you, nurtures, waters and protects that seed and seeks to bring it to full maturity. Welcome the Gardener! Water the seed! Watch the garden grow! Rejoice in new life!

Source: Rev. Greg Smith

Scripture Readings



MAY 03 | 5th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

- Prov 4:10-1
- Ps 119:9-32
- 1 Pet 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14

MAY 10 | 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home (White or Gold)

- Ezk 34:1-7
- Ps 115
- 1 Pet 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21

MAY 14 | Ascension of the Lord (White or Gold)

- Dan 7:9-14;
- Ps 24:7-10;
- Eph 1:15-23;
- Luke 24:44-53

MAY 17 | Ascension Sunday (White or Gold)

- Isa 45:1-7
- Ps 21:1-7
- 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11

MAY 24 | Pentecost; Heritage Sunday; Aldersgate Day (Red)

- Num 11:24-30
- Ps 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)
- 1 Cor 12:3b-13
- John 7:37-39

MAY 31 | Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday (White or Gold)

- Gen 1:1-2:4a
- Ps 8 (UMH 743)
- 2 Cor 13:11-13
- Matt 28:16-20



Robert Lauren Clark
April 12, 2026

Thank You!

Thanks to our church family for continuing prayers for Janet's recovery. The on-line live Service of Worship is a blessing to Janet, as it is to so many others of this faith community. Thank you, Mike Kelly and team for this connective ministry.

Gratefully, in Christian love,
Joan and Jim Lennon

COTC HELPING OTHERS

Jean Moulton and her crew were here on Thursday, April 23, to replenish the stock of chicken pot pies in the Ministry of Caring freezer.

Here are Ginny Hammar, Jean Moulton, Shirley Bradbury, and Debbie Parsons (from left to right). If you need a meal, please reach



out to the office to be put in touch with a Ministry of Caring team member.

Your newsletter is especially grateful to Margaret Myatt, our Website Manager, for allowing it to publish her excellent article with photos below on the COTC Easter Sunday Service and Easter Egg Hunt.

It Was a Hallelujah Easter!



It was cold and rainy outside, but inside it was bright and victorious! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for that.

We enjoyed celebratory music from classic hymns, a melodic choir anthem, an upbeat finger-snapper from the Song Sisters, and together we all belted out Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Thank you, Pastor Greg, for an inspirational message, *"Shaking Things*

Up!"—and instructive, too! There really were two earthquakes during that holy time. WOW!

[Re-live it again by clicking here.](#)

For the young folks, there were two story times. But was the best yet to come? After the service, during a delicious coffee hour, there was an Easter egg hunt hosted by Joy the Bunny—and Joy said she had a wonderful, joyful time with all the kids. Thank you, Joy, and thank you to all the Easter egg hunters.

Please enjoy the photos below.



**The Easter Bunny “Joy” was Joined By Eleven Beautiful Children
Along With Their Treasures From The Easter Egg Hunt.**





Source: www.churchonthecape.org



Joyful Reunions in Heaven

Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist who died in 1977, requested this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth but could not stay." No one can stay, of course. We're all moving toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (*The Book of Common Prayer*).

On **Memorial Day**, we remember people who have perished in war, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. May God hasten the day when humans can solve disputes peacefully. We also remember loved ones whose stay on earth is over.

A memorial stone at Ohio's College of Wooster, placed by a class years ago, reads: "United in time / Divided in time / To be reunited / When time shall be no more." Christians believe that death does not end all. When our earthly life is over, we have the promise of eternal life — and joyful reunions — in heaven.



Source this page: newsletternewsletter

April Sunday School News

Despite a chilly start to the month, which forced the annual egg hunt inside, we are finally seeing and feeling spring. April has been a busy month for our Sunday School children. It began with a beautiful Easter service, complete with two stories from Pastor Greg, and, later, a visit from Joy the bunny. Many thanks to Kather Berger, Margaret Myatt, and their committee, for putting together the egg hunt.

The next week's lesson introduced the children to 'doubting' Thomas. The children talked about the challenges of believing something you cannot see, and believing something that you can't easily prove. They played two games. The first was a fact or fiction game. The children listened to statements and had to decide if it was fact or fiction. There are more trees on earth than stars in the galaxy. Yes, that's a fact; there are an estimated 3 trillion trees on earth and "only" an estimated 400 billion stars in the galaxy. The next activity involved having the children touch something and guessing what it was, without seeing the object. Lastly, the children listened to a story of Jesus appearing to his disciples. Thomas wasn't there and he had some trouble accepting that Jesus had been there, because he didn't see him. The children practiced saying the important words of Jesus, "peace be with you" with their Sunday School friends.

The following week the children listened to, and acted out, the story of the Walk to Emmaus. The children practiced walking to Emmaus and Jesus, AKA Remy, appeared to them to ask what they were talking about. The astonished friends filled them in on the rolling away of the stone, no Jesus, and Jesus showing up in different places. The friends invited this stranger to have dinner with them. When Jesus, (Remy) broke bread, the friends realized who they had been spending time with. Sometimes when you see a familiar face in an unexpected place, you don't recognize that person.

The last Sunday of April wrapped up with the familiar 23rd Psalm. Isabella held down the fort and searched for sheep, helping her teachers find them, when they could not. They listened to the beautifully illustrated St James version of the 23rd Psalm. A lengthy discussion followed about Jesus as our good shepherd, and how we can also be good shepherds to others. Isabella said she was a good shepherd when she made Amelia laugh when she was sad and then shared that Jake was a really good shepherd because he always removed small items Amelia could choke on. The last part of class involved a board game with the sheep trying to get to Jesus. Much to Isabella's delight, she reached Jesus first.

God bless these precious children, and God bless the dedicated Sunday School teachers.
Article by Carol Nason



STILL WORTH MORE THAN YOU KNOW



A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, "Who would like this?"

Nearly every hand went up.

"I'll give it to one of you," he said. "But first..." He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. "Who still wants it?"

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. "How about now?"

The hands rose again.

"My friends," he said, "you've just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20." Life can feel the same

way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change.

In God's eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, "You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Camp Mechuwana

Registration is open for the Summer 2026! Camps fill quickly so early registration is encouraged. Pick up a registration form in the lobby, or online at: <https://www.churchonthecape.org/campmechuwana2026>

Mechuwana continues its long history of ensuring that no camper is turned away for financial reasons. We will work to ensure that anyone who wants to attend a week of camp can. To request financial assistance, please contact the camp office by phone or email. We also offer a volunteer credit of \$150 for each adult who volunteers as a camp counselor or dean during the 2026 season. That credit can be applied to one camp registration for a child in your family. Volunteers must meet certain criteria to fill this role. Please contact the office for more information about how to receive this credit.

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes, confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; You are among people like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual Hymn Sing and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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