

# The Link



April 1, 2018

## From our Pastor...

I recently found this meme (pronounced *meem*) on Facebook that truly sums up my feelings about our recent winter:



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I hope and pray Spring is officially here. I love Spring. Spring represents new life and new beginnings, more so than the start of the new year. There's a reason why the ancient Church placed Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. What that very was is unknown to me, but I imagine it has something to do with Spring.

Easter is a time of new life for many. Traditionally, Easter Sunday was the day when new members would be admitted into the church. Under that system, candidates for membership would spend six months to a year learning about the faith and what this new life means. In his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus tells him that a new birth through the Holy Spirit is necessary for this new life. Being born again and Jesus' resurrection are intimately connected. Regeneration, as we like to call it in Reformed circles, is an action done by the Holy Spirit to us. We are regenerated by the Spirit to be new creations in Christ. We, like David in the Fifty-First Psalm, ask for a changed heart and a renewed spirit. A new, regenerate life is just that, it is *new*. Paul says we must put to death the old self of sin and the flesh and put on the new self of holiness in Christ.

What we celebrate in Easter is Jesus' resurrection. Paul tells us that in this Christ has victory over the grave, and that victory is passed on to us as believers and co-heirs. Because of the resurrection, new life can indeed be ours! Without the resurrection, regeneration



**Altavista Presbyterian Church  
Session Highlights  
March 25, 2018 meeting**

- Decided the following regarding disbursement of the \$7,200 gift from Covenant, Lynchburg PC & the \$200 gift from the German theology students: donate \$3,600 to Frannie's House, match the Ryan Hedgpeeth love offering which will be collected on April 1, 2018, & donate the remainder to Habitat for Humanity.
- Reviewed the February, 2018 Treasurer's Report.
- Approved minutes of the February 25, 2018 Stated meeting & the March 18, 2018 Congregational meeting as presented.
- Elected the following officers of APC, Inc.:
  - Mark Younkin as President & Director
  - Ron Coleman as Vice President & Director
  - Dennis Janiak as Treasurer & Director
  - John Erb as Secretary & Director
  - Kelly deBernard as Director
- Called a Congregational meeting for April 15, 2018 following Worship for the purpose of electing two elders for the Class of 2020.
- Received a letter from the Session of Westminster PC regarding the recent move of the Presbytery office from Westminster PC to the recently vacated Covenant Lynchburg PC building.
- Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	<b>February-2018</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	9,046	17,355
<b>Non-Pledges</b>	2,141.25	3,322.50
<b>Plate Offering</b>	81	240
<b>Total Expenses</b>	10,121.10	20,604.27

## Happening This Month!

### Prayer Fellowship — April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

The Prayer Fellowship is meeting every **Second and Fourth Wednesday** in the Pastor's Study at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to join us in prayers for our church, community, nation, and the world. If you have any prayer requests for the Fellowship, please contact the main office.

### Youth Group — April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Youth Group is meeting every **Second and Fourth Sunday** in the Youth Room at 5:00 PM. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. Pastor Ed will lead a series of discussions on the basic Reformed theology. The Youth will be treated to a meal and will fellowship throughout the evening.

### Koinonia Luncheon — April 1<sup>st</sup>

This year, in lieu of an Easter breakfast, we will have an Easter luncheon! Please join us after worship on Easter Sunday for great food and grand fellowship.

### Bible Studies — April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>

Two Bible Studies are starting this month! On **First and Third Tuesdays**, the BYOD: Bring Your Own Dinner Bible Study will meet at 6:30 PM in the Downstairs Classroom. Bring your favorite fast food or leftovers and join us for a variety of topics. On **First and Third Thursdays**, the Morning Bible Study will meet at 10:00 AM in the Downstairs Classroom. This study is exactly the same as the evening study, so don't worry about missing anything.

Pastor Ed will continue to lead us through the beginning chapters of Genesis. This month we'll look at chapters three and four.

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### *Birthdays*

### *Anniversaries*

<i>7</i>	<i>Janelle Larkin</i>	
<i>8</i>	<i>Mark Younkin, Annie Shelton Shirley Vuncannon</i>	
<i>11</i>	<i>Georgie Roark</i>	
<i>12</i>		<i>Kevin &amp; Kelly deBernard</i>
<i>13</i>		<i>John &amp; Cynthia Erb</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>Ted Phillips</i>	
<i>15</i>	<i>Beth Steele</i>	
<i>16</i>	<i>Dennis Janiak, Jane Strebel</i>	
<i>18</i>	<i>Katy May Kauffman, Travis Taylor</i>	
<i>19</i>	<i>Frank Podrebarac</i>	
<i>30</i>	<i>Alice Barkdoll</i>	

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 1</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>April 4</b>	<b>April 5</b>	<b>April 6</b>	<b>April 7</b>
Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 I Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Acts 3:11-16	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 5:17-32	Acts 2:22-36	Ephesians 1:15-23	II Corinthians 4:7-18
<b>April 8</b>	<b>April 9</b>	<b>April 10</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>April 14</b>
Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 I John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Romans 6:1-11	Ephesians 2:1- 10	Galatians 2:11-21	John 17:1-5	Romans 6:15- 23	Romans 8:18- 30
<b>April 15</b>	<b>April 16</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>April 21</b>
Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 I John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36-48	Ezekiel 36:22- 36	Genesis 17:1-8	Genesis 39:19- 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Colossians 2:6-15	Acts 4:23-37
<b>April 22</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>April 24</b>	<b>April 25</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>April 28</b>
Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 I John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Jeremiah 23:1- 8	Ezekiel 11:14- 21	Jeremiah 31:10-14	John 10:1-18	1 Peter 5:1-11	Acts 20:17-38
<b>April 29</b>	<b>April 30</b>					
Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25- 31 I John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Psalm 18:1-19					

### *Easter Prayer*

*Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness ... Freedom ... and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# MONTH of APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 AM-Easter Sunday Worship/ Communion/ No Children's Church  Koinonia Luncheon immediately after Worship	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed  5:00 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg. @ Church  7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>3</b> 12 Noon -Men's Lunch -Hibachi Grill  6:30 PM Bible Study in Adult SS Room – BYOD	<b>4</b> No Second Helping Lunch	<b>5</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 AM –Worship/ Children's Church  5 PM Youth Group Mtg. @ Church	<b>9</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM Women's Fel. Mtg. at the home of Barbara Podrebarac  First National Bank Stockholder's Luncheon in FH  6 PM C.E. Mtg.	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship @ Church  11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch  5:30 PM Property Mtg. in Adult SS Room	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10 AM –Worship/ Children's Church  Called Cong. Mtg. after worship  11:30 PM Session Mtg. @ Church	<b>16</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>17</b> 12 Noon -Men's Lunch -Mama Rosa's  6:30 PM Bible Study in Adult SS Room – BYOD	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM APC Serves Lunch @ Daily Bread  11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch  1PM DAWN Board Mtg.- Adult SS	<b>19</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 AM –Worship/ Children's Church  5 PM Youth Group Mtg. @ Church	<b>23</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH  May Link Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship @ Church  11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 AM –Worship/ Children's Church	<b>30</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH					

## BITE

We take for granted God's blessings in our lives. Why on this blue-green globe in this vast, infinite space have we been granted life in this brief period of time? Given food, freedom, family, and love, we have been blessed beyond all measure.

Our cups runneth over with colas, smoothies, and brews. We walk in the valley of the shadow of death and emerge from Intensive Care. Our daily bread drips with butter and is laden with ham. We live in peace, our enemies at bay. Compared to the multitudes who contend with strife, oppression, and poverty, we have been abundantly blessed.

We count our blessings, but there's one that we often forget. It's minor until we need it, has been almost nonexistent throughout history, and is still unavailable for many today, It's a blessing I can describe in one word.

Dentistry.

Phoo, you say, flashing your snow-white incisors. But, yes, I reply. Let me tell you a tale about teeth. Although ancient people had no sugar in their diets, they still had dental problems. They ate grain, which had to be pounded and ground, and in the process the grain picked up grit and sand. As a result, the molars of ancient people wore down.

They also had cavities. The Egyptians did minor oral surgery as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century B.C., but did not treat cavities or replace missing teeth. Indeed, a mummy of a wealthy young man that archeologists discovered indicated he died from a sinus infection caused by numerous decayed teeth. By 700 B.C the Etruscans had a high standard of dentistry They used human and animal teeth for artificial teeth, held in place by gold bands. Ancient Chinese used arsenic to treat decayed teeth and acupuncture to treat pain associated with dental decay. They used chew sticks for cleaning teeth and invented the tooth brush as we know it today.

Two 13,000-year-old front teeth discovered in Italy contained the earliest known use of fillings, made out of bitumen, or tar. A 6,500-year-old skull found in Slovenia contained a cracked tooth that had been filled with beeswax. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century metal fillings were used to fill teeth. One of the soldier killed in 1873 at Little Bighorn during Custer's Last Stand had six fillings of tin and gold. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, human teeth mounted on ivory or bone bases were in high demand. The teeth were obtained from soldiers' corpses, (known as "Waterloo teeth"), or from executed criminals or grave robbers, or were bought from desperately poor people.

Only the wealthy could afford the appliances. Contrary to belief, George Washington did not have wooden false teeth, but wore a denture plate of carved ivory fitted with human and animal teeth. But few, rich or poor, were exempt from dental decay and pain. Washington suffered from dental problems much of his life. The Empress Josephine Bonaparte, wife of Napoleon, never smiled in her portraits. She had beauty and prestige, and a mouth full of black, rotten teeth.

Today, modern dentistry offers us pain-free preventive and restorative procedures and well-fitting appliances. We have cleaning, fillings, bleaching, braces, retainers, crowns, implants, bridges, and plates. But these advances come with a catch.

To take advantage of them, we need an additional blessing—enough cash to pay for our bite.

—M. Liebchen

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