



# The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

May 2024

## FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

Dear Friends,

We have some very positive news this month, and we are also looking for your feedback on the ritual changes we have been using in Sunday services.

In the positive news department, the Rev. Chris Bown has agreed to volunteer in the new position of "Congregational Coordinator" for Sower's Chapel, which means that he will be paid an honorarium for serving the membership with a variety of every-day tasks in and out of the office, to facilitate good communication and effective work by all the volunteers, contractors, and so on. He will check the mail and phone messages, update the website as needed, and be a resource for anyone who needs some help or guidance in getting things done at the church.

This is a new position, and Chris is taking it on a trial basis, subject to review by him and the pastor's council on a quarterly basis. His hours will be very flexible, including time off for his retirement activities, but on average we think he may be on duty up to 10 hours a week. Please feel free to chat with Chris about this, and if you have any concerns just let him or a member of the pastor's council know.

As for the new Sunday orders of service, I am pleased that all the visiting ministers have been willing to adopt these new formats, and I hope they are "working" for you. As mentioned last month, they were heartily endorsed by the pastor's council, but even so, we want your opinions about them in case further changes are useful.

And here's something to notice about them. The original "offices" in the Liturgy were all designed with the idea of focusing on humility and self-examination, looking to repentance as we enter into a state of worship. These orders are all focused on praise and thankfulness as the first "order of business" in worship, the idea being that the lessons and sermon that follow will introduce us to the more reflective states of humility, later in the service.

In addition, the use of short musical selections following the prayers is intended to appeal to our affections as we worship, and to provide more general participation than has

been the case in recent years. And it is worth noting that many of our members have come from a background that features this sort of ritual, so the hope is that this will provide a comfortable worship experience for them, while also encouraging an enhanced sphere of holiness in the services for all of us. (It's the same idea for the use of full ministerial robes, which the Council also encouraged.)

Finally, please note the long list of special summer events that will be coming up this year, including the big General Church Assembly, various church camps, retreats, young people's events, the annual charity golf scramble, and even our own Vacation Bible School. There's going to be something for everyone, so plan ahead, and don't miss out!

Thanks for all your encouragement and support!

- Mike Gladish

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Society Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 16th with 11 members present. It was noted that in 2023 we saw significant capital improvements in the forms of comfy pew cushions, a magnificent playground set, new flooring, and fresh paint in the sanctuary. As noted and described elsewhere in the Courier, Chris Bown has stepped up to a new part-time volunteer position in the church office. His assistance in keeping us organized and supported will be greatly appreciated! Watch for much needed parking lot improvements coming soon.

*continued*

*The Country Courier*

THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

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The Board of Trustees for the 2024-25 year is as follows:

Rev. Mike Gladish (*as Regional Pastor, unelected position*)  
Miriam Heilman, Chair (*finishing out term of another member*)  
Ian Heilman, Secretary (*elected annually*)  
Bill Kronen, Treasurer (*elected annually*)  
Rachel Gruver (*1st year of 2nd term*)  
Bill Kronen Jr (*3rd year of 2nd term*)  
Trish Lindsay (*2nd year of 1st term*)  
Al Lindsay (*2nd year of 1st term*)  
Chris Bown (*1st year of 1st term*)

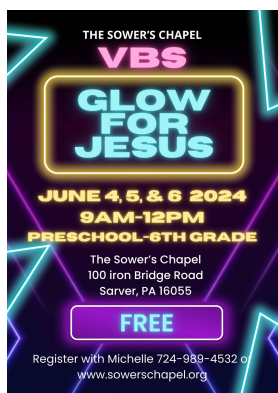
## NEW COMMUNITY COORDINATOR FOR THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

Every church has lots of things to coordinate weekly and throughout the year. Because we are without a current resident pastor, Pastor's Council and Rev. Mike Gladish, Regional Pastor, have suggested institution of a position of Community Coordinator to assist in effective day-to-day operations. At the last board meeting I volunteered to step up and help get the position operational for a 3-month trial period (or roughly, through the summer).

There are 10 specific tasks the Pastor's Council and our regional pastor identified, and I'm already on the way to sorting them out and implementing them, with lots of help of course! The Sower's Chapel is, and remains at heart, a volunteer organization.

Please contact me directly (in person, by phone or text @ 412-352-6332, or by email [chrisbown@icloud.com](mailto:chrisbown@icloud.com)) if you have suggestions, and I'll see what is do-able. Or contact one of the members of the Pastor's Council who are overseeing this venture.

— Chris Bown



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL GLOW FOR JESUS

June 4, 5, & 6

9AM-12PM

Preschool-6th Grade

FREE

Register with Michelle

724-989-4532 or

[www.sowerschapel.org](http://www.sowerschapel.org)

Registration form link for online registration:  
<https://forms.gle/w2t8vE4TLUiYreVV6>

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## APRIL 2024 CALENDAR EVENTS

- Sun, May 5: Rev. Kurt Nemitz & Rev. Mike Gladish  
Tue, May 7: 1 pm - Bible Study @ 1833 Coffee  
Sun, May 12: Rev. Garry Walsh  
Tue, May 14: 1 pm - Bible Study @ 1833 Coffee  
7 pm - Board of Trustees  
Sun, May 19: Rev. Chris Bown  
Tue, May 21: 1 pm - Bible Study @ 1833 Coffee  
7 pm - Society Annual Meeting  
Sun, May 26: Rev. George Macurdy  
Memorial Day Service  
Tue, May 28: 1 pm - Bible Study @ 1833 Coffee  
Sun, June 2: Visiting Minister TBD  
Tue, June 4: 1 pm - Bible Study @ 1833 Coffee

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## MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY PICNIC WITH PITTSBURGH NEW CHURCH

Join friends of the Pittsburgh New Church for a Memorial Day Picnic at North Park!

*Date:* Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

*Time:* 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

*Where:* North Park Gold Star Shelter  
Lake Shore Dr  
McCandless Township, PA 15101

*Bring:* Side dishes, drinks\*, fruit, and desserts  
\*this is an alcohol free event.

Check your email for an evite with sign-up list.

If you have questions, or would like to help set up or clean up, please give Barry Smith a call or send a text to 412-951-6180.



## DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have something to add to *The Country Courier*, please send your article/story to Miriam Heilman at [miriam.heilman@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.heilman@gmail.com).  
Deadline is the 23rd of each month.

*Stories about individuals other than those within your immediate family must be cleared with the storied individual(s).*

## SUMMER CAMPS

Other than for Maple Leaf Academy, I've not yet received any details about the upcoming summer camps. Last year we also received info on ANC Performing Arts Camp, ANC Tools 4 Life, ANC Summer Camp, Jacob's Creek Family Retreat, and Laurel Camp.

As soon as I get the info, I'll put it all together and send it out in PDF form for your reference. It may very well arrive in your inbox separate from the June Courier! So watch for all the schedules and contact info.



**MAPLE**  
LEAF ACADEMY 

**Fri., July 5 - Thu, July 11, 2024**  
**Ecology Retreat Centre, Mono, Ontario**

A week of friendship building, laughter, restorative relaxation, and spiritual growth for teens who will have just completed any year of high school. Our theme this year is HOPE. "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word."

To register or for more information, visit the soon-to-be-updated [maplecamp.com](http://maplecamp.com) or contact Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director, at [gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com](mailto:gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com).

Maple has been serving New Church youth since 1969; it is sponsored by the General Church in Canada and is staffed by experienced volunteers.

*After GCIC contributions, regular camper fee is \$300, with discounts for early bird registration (before May 1) or for "junior staff" (returning campers finishing high school). A deposit of at least \$50 (\$5 non-refundable) is required with registration and full payment is due by June 16.*



## SAVE THE DATE!

Dear Sower's Chapel Members,

Please save the date for our 2024 Charity Golf Outing set for **Saturday, August 31st at 2PM!**

Last year, the event proceeds were given to Freeport Meals on Wheels, Cabot Food Bank and Sarver MOPS. We want to ensure that the charities we choose to support represent causes that are important to our congregation

members. With that in mind, we are thrilled to kick off the nominations for beneficiaries of our upcoming Annual Charity Golf Outing! This event has always been a cornerstone of our commitment to giving back to our community, and your nominations play a pivotal role in shaping the impact we can make together.

We've already received a few heartfelt nominations, each one representing a cause near and dear to the hearts of our community members. The range of nominations reflects the diverse interests and concerns of our community. Please submit your nominations to Michelle Hardt ([2michellelindsay@gmail.com](mailto:2michellelindsay@gmail.com) or 724-989-4532) by April 15, 2024.

After reviewing all nominations, we will proceed with a final voting process to select the top three charities. These finalists will each receive an equal distribution of the proceeds from our Charity Golf Outing, ensuring that we maximize our impact and support a variety of worthy causes.

We encourage all members to participate in the voting process and help us make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. Stay tuned for more details on how to cast your vote and contribute to this initiative.

Thank you for your support and dedication to making a positive difference in our community. Together we can create lasting change and spread hope and compassion far and wide.

Warm regards,

*Michelle Hardt and Travis Lindsay*