

DOCKET

RESIDENTIAL LIVING TRIPS CONTINUED...

DAY TRIP TO OCEAN CITY, N.J. (TRIP)

Monday, June 17 – 8:00 a.m.

Summertime is just around the corner and it is time to travel with the Living Branches coach to Ocean City, New Jersey for a day trip to enjoy the ocean, boardwalk, and favorite Ocean City Foods. On route the coach will make a rest stop, and upon arrival you will be dropped off at the Music Pier entrance. Departure for home will be 4:00 p.m., with an approximate arrival at Dock Woods at 7:00 p.m. The price of the trip for transportation is \$19.60 per person. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. Guests are welcome. The Coach will pick up at each entity.

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE -“CAMELOT” (TRIP)

Thursday, June 20, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Lancaster to enjoy the hot luncheon buffet, and afternoon show, “Camelot.” The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guinevere, and Sir Lancelot comes alive in this Lerner and Loewe musical. An Idealistic young King Arthur hopes to create a kingdom with the Knights of the Round Table who fight for justice and right. His ideals however are tested when his lovely queen, Guinevere, falls in love with his favorite knight, Lancelot, and the fate of the kingdom hangs in the balance. The price of this trip, including the lunch, show, and transportation is \$72.60 per person. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. Guests are welcome. The coach will pick-up at each entity.

LEHIGH VALLEY IRON PIGS BASEBALL GAME (TRIP)

Friday, July 26 – 5:00 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Allentown to enjoy the 7:05 p.m. game with the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs vs. the Norfolk Tides (Baltimore Orioles affiliate). Upon arrival there will be time for you to purchase food and beverage. After the game there will be a spectacular fireworks display. The price of this trip is \$21.35 per person, which includes the game ticket, and transportation. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. Guests are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

RESIDENTIAL LIVING PICNIC

The annual residential living picnic will be held at the Bull Pen Pavilion at Fischer’s Park (located on Bustard Road in Towamencin Township) on Thursday, June 6, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Additional information will be forthcoming in the May Docket. Mark your calendars!



WELLNESS CENTER

Lab Services are available for Dock Acres, Dock Gardens, the Villas, and residents of Dock Manor who have joined the Wellness Center.

Please bring your request to the Wellness Center during the Walk-In Clinic Hours

Please bring your physical therapy requests and lab requests during this time. The Residential Living Services nurse is only available outside these hours by appointment.

Labs are drawn Monday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m. and Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. You must have an appointment.

To make an appointment with the following doctors:

Please inform them that you will be seen at Dock Woods.

Dr. Arthur Donley,
Podiatrist
Call 215-361-7848

Dr. Christine Kilczewski,
Brigitte Harken, CRNP,
Tri Valley Primary Care
Call 215-361-5010

Dr. Gwen Rosenthal, Optometrist
Call 610-667-4123

Dr. David Flynn,
Hearing and Associates
Call 215-855-4217

Linda Weinberg Ph.D. FNP-C, RN,
DermDox
Dermatology
Call 484-686-9114

**** Please bring your insurance cards & list of medications****

DOCK WOODS

BIG BAND DANCE BANQUET

Did you know big bands helped to guide us through the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-war recession? Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, and Benny Goodman were a few of the great musicians whose bands defined the entire era. Come enjoy this positive and optimistic music of the Big Band Era on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bistro/Fisher Auditorium. This is a reservation ONLY banquet, and reservations must be made with dining services. The price of the ticket is \$18.49 per person for entrée selections of A) Lemon Dijon Herb Crusted Pork Tenderloin, shallot red pepper sauce, or B) Grilled Filet Mignon, balsamic red wine sauce, frizzled onions. From 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The Society Music Makers, a 16-member big band dance band will be performing some of your favorite musical selections from this Big Band era. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes! A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 4:20 p.m.

DOCK WOODS CHOIR EASTER CANTATA

You are invited to attend the Easter Cantata performed by the Dock Woods Choir on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Under the direction of Bill Kuhfuss, the choir will be presenting, “The Day He Wore My Crown.” The guest soloists are Tina Hershberger and Al Stimson, accompanied by Karen Black at the organ and Dottie Heebner at the piano. A love offering will be received following the concert. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

ART SHOW

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 26, 2019 for the Art Show to be held in Fisher Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Tuesday morning art class will be displaying their art work, along with other artists residing in our community. Light refreshments will be available as you enjoy viewing their artistic talent at this yearly art exhibit. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sally Yates at extension 16843.

NEW FOR 2019 – OPEN CROQUET

Available every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., everybody that shows up will play without a wait. Two courts, two different types of games. This year we will feature a competitive game on one court and a recreational game on the other. Come on out and jump right in on the fun!

THE SOLA GRATIA MUSICIANS

You are invited to attend the spring concert presented by The Sola Gratia Musicians at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 in the chapel. The Sola Gratia Musicians Laudate, Chamber, Cantabile, and Prima Choirs are comprised of 90 homeschool choristers, ages 5 to 19 years of age. This is their thirteenth season performing sacred and uplifting music. Following the concert an offering will be received. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 10:00 a.m. A meet and greet will follow.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, April 5 **11:00 a.m. – Computer “Help Desk” with Gail Watts (DMCL)**

Volunteer, Gail Watts, a retired educator, will be available for one hour in the Dock Manor computer lab to assist you with any questions related to your computer, iPad, or iPhone. No reservations are required.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 **2:00 p.m. – Computer Class 101 (FA)**

This month we will have a repeat class on retrieving your photos. Please bring along your laptop fully charged, if you use one. Please call Eileen Burks at 215 368-4438, extension 44121 if you plan to attend so we have enough tables set up. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 **2:00 p.m. – Erin Ramsey Concert (CH)**

You are invited to join us in the chapel for an afternoon piano concert with Erin Ramsey. Erin performed her senior recital for us last year while attending Cairn University and is returning to perform her graduate recital while finishing her Master’s degree at West Chester. Erin graduated with a dual degree program of music; piano, performance and Bible. We are pleased to have her return to share her musical talents. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 8 **1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Genealogy 101 (DMCL)**

Would you like some assistance researching your family tree? Facilitators Lyn Dimmig and Jane

Early will be available for two hours in the Dock Manor computer lab to assist you. Please call Eileen Burks at 215 368-4438 extension 44121 if you would like to sign up for the 1:00 p.m. 1-hour session or the 2:00 p.m. 1-hour session. Space is limited. Please direct any questions you may have to Jane Early at 215-361-6857, or Lyn Dimmig at 215-412-0116.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 **2:00 p.m. - DA, DG, DM, VL Resident Meeting (CH)**

An agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting. If you have an agenda item please contact Deborah Bell at 215-368-4438 extension 44110. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity of DA/DG/VL at 1:20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 **2:00 p.m. – RL April Birthday Celebration (FA)**

ALL residential living residents are invited to attend the monthly birthday celebration. If you are an April birthday celebrant, please call Eileen Burks at 215-368-4438, extension 44121 by Tuesday, April 9 if you plan to attend and receive your birthday plant. This month we will be introducing to you for the first time guitarist/vocalist, Dan Flok for the afternoon entertainment. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 **10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - “Candy Crafters” Easter Candy Sales (CC Lobby)**

Easter is just around the corner, and for your Easter candy shopping, Bev Nace of “Candy Crafters” will be set-up in the community center lobby.

homemade candies and gifts for you to select from to fill your Easter baskets. Checks and cash are accepted. A portion of the total sales will benefit the DW Sharing Fund. Be sure to mark your calendars! Happy Easter!

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 **8:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast (FA)**

Our guest speakers for the men’s breakfast this month are James Mast and Ray Hurst. This month James Mast, a licensed professional counselor with the Penn Foundation, and Ray Hurst, director of pastoral care and services at Dock Woods will be addressing the mental health issues in our community. They will speak about the growth of mental issues, and the seemingly lack of resources to meet the rising demand of these issues. In addition they will share how our churches, schools, businesses, prisons, hospitals, and other groups are being affected by mental health issues, and what is being done. Please make your reservations with Eileen Burks by calling 215-368-4438, extension 44121 by Tuesday, April 9. The price of this breakfast is \$7.04 per person, plus tax. Ladies are welcome to hear the presentation at 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 **8:30 a.m. – Ladies Breakfast (FA)**

This month the guest speaker is Eric Wiesenhutter, a 99 year old American citizen who was born in Germany in 1919 and escaped Hitler’s tyranny. Mr. Wiesenhutter will be sharing with us when he was drafted in the US Army during the outbreak of World II, and became a warrant officer assigned to a company of combat

RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS AND UPDATES

This page was eliminated to protect the privacy of our residents.

EILEEN’S APRIL SIGN-UP TIMES

Monday, April 1 – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Bistro)
Tuesday, April 2 – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Bistro)

If you are not able to come during these times, please contact Eileen Burks at 215-368-4438, extension 44121.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING TRIPS

FREDDY HILL MINI GOLF Friday, April 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Come help to kick off spring at Freddy Hill Family Center on the mini golf course. Plan to catch a ride and meet up with friends and neighbors at Freddy Hill on Friday, April 12 around 1:15 p.m. We will tee off at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$4.00 payable to Freddy Hill.

PEDDLER'S VILLAGE (TRIP) Wednesday, April 24 - 12:30 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to New Hope to enjoy the afternoon at Peddler's Village, a 42-acre historical destination in the heart of Bucks County. You will have free time to stroll along or shop at the village comprised of 60 stores and six restaurants. The price of this trip is \$6.00 per person for transportation. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. Guests are welcome. The coach will pick up at each entity.

RL DINE AROUND – MOCCIA TRAIN STOP (TRIP)

Thursday, April 25 - 4:30 p.m.
The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Schwenksville to enjoy dinner at Moccia Train Stop. At the restaurant you will order off the menu, be seated at tables of 4 & 6, and receive separate checks. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 4:30 p.m.

FRANCONIA-LANCASTER CHORAL SPRING CONCERT (TRIP)

Saturday, April 27 - 6:00 p.m.
The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents and guests with reservations to the First Baptist Church in Lansdale to enjoy the 7:00 p.m. spring concert,

"Elijah." There are seats still available. The price of this trip which includes the ticket and transportation is \$15.80 per person. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVIE: UNBROKEN: PATH TO REDEMPTION (PG-13) (TRIP) Tuesday, April 30 - 1:15 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Telford to enjoy the 2:00 p.m. movie, *Unbroken: Path to Redemption*. The film begins where the movie UNBROKEN concludes, sharing the next chapter of the story. This is a powerful true story of forgiveness, redemption, and amazing grace. The price of this trip is \$3.50 per person for transportation. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity.

NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL: "MAMMA MIA" (SHUTTLE/TRIP)

Wednesday, May 1 - 12:15 p.m.
The Living Branches coach will be providing a shuttle service to the North Penn High School for you to enjoy the 1:00 p.m. dress rehearsal of "Mamma Mia." Just a reminder that there is a long intermission. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity.

PERKIOMEN TOURS & TRAVEL AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE "OVATION" (TRIP)

Thursday, May 2 - 10:30 a.m.
Perkiomen Tours & Travel will be traveling to Lancaster this afternoon. It's a spectacular musical journey unlike any you have ever seen before. Music lovers will be thrilled to see the variety of tributes on display that

span iconic artists to present-day stars. A plated meal will be included at the Eden Resort at 12:30. You will pre-select a menu choice of C-Chicken Portabella, F-Flounder Almandine, or S-Sliced Roast Top Sirloin. We will travel to the theatre for the 3:00 p.m. show. The price of this trip is \$81.00 per person, which includes transportation, lunch, tax and gratuity for lunch, show, and Perkiomen driver gratuity. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. Guests are welcome. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 6:30 p.m.

PENN MUSEUM (TRIP) Wednesday, May 22 - 12:15 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Philadelphia to enjoy the 2:00 p.m. guided tour of the Egyptian Galleries with Dr. Stephen Phillips at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Upon arrival we will have the guided tour followed by some time for you to explore the newly renovated museum. The price of this trip is \$24.25 per person for the entrance fee, tour, and transportation. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times. Guests are welcome. The coach will pick up at each entity.

Continued on back page

COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED

photographers assigned to film General Patton's march across Europe to the conclusion of the War. Come and listen to History and this amazing life story. Please make your reservations with Eileen Burks during the April sign-up times, or by calling 215 368-4438, extension 44121. The price of the breakfast buffet is \$7.77 per person, plus tax. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 7:50a.m. Men are welcome to hear the presentation at 9:00a.m. A donation will be received following the presentation.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 - 2:00 p.m. - Good Friday Service (CH)

see pastor's write-up pg. 7

MONDAY, APRIL 22 3:00 p.m. - Tasteful Traditions Class (OC1)

Did you know that April is National Humor Month? Do you have a funny story or a joke that has really made you laugh? Do memories of Tim Conway or Carol Burnett make you smile? Come share your humor as we enjoy a Good Humor ice cream bar together at this fun afternoon gathering. Remember laughter is the best medicine! See you there!

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 2:00 p.m. - Stray Cat Blues Presentation (CH)

Stray Cat Blues cat rescue has been a fixture in the Bucks-Mont area for over 20 years. Unlike the typical animal shelter, Stray Cat Blues is focused on the lost, abandoned, and forgotten cats in our midst. Through their volunteer foster network, they seek to find permanent homes for these lost animals. Stray Cat Blues also

advocates solutions for the numerous feral cat colonies in the region. We invite you to come and learn about this local group, and meet some of their furry friends! You will see the positive impact they are making for cats in our area. A donation will be received following the presentation. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 9:30 a.m. - Welcome To Laos Class (RR)

This month IVEP'er, Bong Vilayphone will continue to teach us about his country, Laos. Bong will be speaking about "Holidays" in Laos. We welcome you to join us in the recreation room for this one hour class. Mark your calendars!

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 2:30 p.m. - Amici Opera Company (CH)

This month Amici Opera Company proudly presents, Donizetti's Lucia Di Lammermoor. This fully staged opera is FREE for DW residents with their ID badge. Guests may purchase a ticket located at the chapel porch entrance hallway. The senior rate is \$22.00, adult rate is \$25.00, student rate is \$15.00, and children under 12 are \$10.00.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship (CH)

Souderton Mennonite Church Choir will be returning to serenade us with their melodious voices directed by Lori Cassel. An offering will be taken. A shuttle will begin picking up at each entity at 5:50 p.m. Please join us for this evening of spiritual refreshing as we listen to this local choir.

DINING REPORT

April 3 - Easter Sunday Sign-Ups -
We will begin taking reservations for Easter on Wednesday, April 3 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Community Lobby. There will be two seatings available, 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A menu will be available at the time of sign-ups. Pricing is as follows: DG, OC, DT - \$14.70; DA, VL, DM - \$16.30; Guest - \$19.00; Children (4-12) - \$9.25

**The bistro will be open for breakfast only. We will stay closed after brunch.

April 9 - Big Band Banquet - The doors to the Community Dining room will open at 5:00 p.m. This is a reservation only meal and meal choices were taken at the time of sign-ups. Please remember to bring your ticket with you!

April 10 - Full Service Dinner - There are two seatings for this reservation only meal; 4:45 and 5:30 p.m. Please call extension 52407 on Monday, April 1 to make your reservations.

April 21 - Easter Sunday Brunch

April 24 - Mother's Day Brunch Sign-Ups - We will begin taking reservations for Mother's Day on Wednesday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Lobby. There will be two seatings available, 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A menu will be available at the time of sign-ups. Pricing is as follows: DG, OC, DT - \$14.70; DA, VL, DM - \$16.30; Guest - \$19.00; Children (4-12) - \$9.25

April 24 - Full Service Dinner - There are two seatings for this reservation only meal; 4:45 and 5:30 p.m. Please call extension 52407 on Monday, April 1 to make your reservations.

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FUND DEVELOPMENT

Save the Date – Everence Seminar!

The Living Branches Fund Development office will be hosting a seminar provided by Everence Financial Services on Wednesday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fisher Auditorium. Come and learn from the Everence professionals about “A Helping Hand: How Everence Can Assist You.” The free seminar will give an overview of the varied services that Everence offers from a faith-based perspective (banking, investments, insurance, Medicare supplements) and includes a continental breakfast. Shuttle service will be provided for villa and cottage residents who request the service. Please RSVP to Rose Hackman, fund development assistant at 215-368-4438, ext. 44305 by May 15. Flyer invitations will be circulated to residents the end of April.

Planned Giving – Income and tax savings for you now, and support for Living Branches now and later

Your gifts can make a difference, and giving can still benefit you! Here are 5 ways:

- 1) IRA Rollover Gift – If you are 70 ½ or older you can avoid extra income taxes this year by making a charitable gift from your IRA.
- 2) Gift of Securities – Give your old stock (with a low basis) that has appreciated in the rising market and avoid capital gains.
- 3) Life Insurance Gift – Eliminate an old or unneeded life insurance policy by making a gift of the cash balance to support a charity.
- 4) Life Income – Make a gift for a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust and receive lifetime payments. Ask us for a free illustration outlining your benefits.
- 5) Charitable Bequests – Make a gift to support our work that costs you nothing today. Provide for your loved ones first and then the charity of your choice with a bequest made in your will or trust.

While tax laws may be changing, there are still many ways you can make a gift to make a difference. Even with the changes, making a gift can still provide benefits to you. Contact Univest Foundation (877-723-5571), Everence (215-703-0111), or Keith Heavener (44115) to learn more about ways you can benefit this year.

SARA SPOTLIGHT

Wear your SARA device at all times, on campus. Here is one fellow Living Branches residents story shared with us. “I strongly emphasize the importance of wearing your

Sara button at all times. It was 3 am when I suddenly woke up. I tried to get out of bed only to find I was so dizzy my head fell back on the pillow. I was completely helpless and knew I had a problem. Actually I had more than one problem I was not wearing my SARA button. I feverishly tried to get to my SARA button which I left in the other room. After struggling and many attempts to get out of bed I finally reached my SARA button and telephone. I pushed the SARA button and called 911. Within minutes both campus security and a policeman were at my door, several more minutes and the ambulance arrived. I was on my way to getting the medical help I needed. I wanted to share my story hopefully to prevent other residents from a similar experience.”

Question: What should I do in the event of an emergency?

Answer: Call 911 and press your SARA alert and hold the button down until the pendant vibrates and rapidly flashes red.

VOLUNTEERS

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, an opportunity to call attention to the many ways volunteers serve the Living Branches community. We have over 600 volunteers on our rolls, ranging in age from preschoolers to those 100+ years old. Volunteers donated over 41,000 hours of service in 2018, the equivalent of 20 full-time employees. Volunteers serve anywhere from the boardroom to the basement, providing leadership, support, compassion, and caring to the residents of Living Branches. When you see a volunteer this month, thank him or her for his or her service, which helps to bring purpose and joy to the lives of so many here at Living Branches. We will hold our annual volunteer recognition event in June this year. Stay tuned for details.

WELCOME DERMDOX DERMATOLOGY

Linda Weinberg, Ph.D., FNP-C., RN with DermDox Dermatology, will be seeing patients in the Wellness Center and/or resident’s homes on the third Tuesday of each month. She will be available to perform dermatological procedures as needed. Residential living residents please call Linda’s office at 484-686-9114 for more information and to schedule an appointment. Oakwood Court residents please speak to your Oakwood Court nurse for more information regarding dermatology services. Remember to have your insurance information ready when calling to schedule an appointment.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Whether you are an experienced gardener or just want a couple tomato plants and some fresh flowers for you to

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take, the garden committee has three plot sizes to meet your needs. Sign-ups for this year’s gardeners will take place on Thursday, April 11 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the recreation room of Dock Woods. Get your seed catalogs out and give your gardening talent a chance to grow something new. Your fellow gardeners will be there to answer questions and give advice if needed.

THE ACORN SHOP

We are thrilled to be back in the Acorn Shop to serve the needs of our residents. If you haven’t been by to see our renovated decor, please come on by very soon! Bergin’s Easter Eggs are always a hit and there are beautiful Easter decorations for 15% off! Come by on Friday, April 12, to taste samples of some of our new Cherchies soup, dips & mustards, and enter in a drawing for a door prize. Snoozies foot coverings will be on sale for the month of April, buy one get one 50% off, available in women’s, men’s, tweens, and children’s sizes!

DOCK’S GIFTS & TREASURES SHOP

Come on into the Dock’s Gifts & Treasures Shop! Donations arrive often and you never know when you will find that special something. And don’t forget to bring family and friends, too! All clear glass bowls, plates, serving dishes, pitchers, glasses, etc., are half price for the month of April! The shop is open Monday through Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We are located next to the Dock Manor lobby. Also, keep us in mind when you do your “spring cleaning.” Donations are accepted during regular business hours. Receipts for your donations are provided upon request.

LENT AND EASTER

During the Lenten season there will be a prayer activity available in the chapel to help connect with God in an experiential way. It is located on the left side of the chapel under the stained glass window and is based on the Lord’s prayer. A new activity is available every week on Thursday. All are welcome to participate.

A Good Friday service will be held in the Dock Woods Chapel on Friday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m. We will remember together the death of Jesus through scripture, song and prayer. An Easter service of celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus will be held on Sunday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m.

ROAST PREACHER

My Dad died last week - and I really miss him. It’s not like it was a surprise to us – he had been dealing with prostate cancer for almost 9 years, but it wasn’t until Christmas that it raised its ugly head.

This 2-month interval of decline has given us as a family time to reflect on our lives together – to tell and re-tell the stories of our favorite memories with him, and to say “goodbye” to a man who left his loving fingerprints all over us.

My dad was a heavy equipment operator throughout his life. He helped to create some of the major arteries that crisscross Lancaster County. He was known across the county as an “artist” with the road grader for his ability to almost “make water flow uphill.” But a major “road” my dad helped build in my own life came from his modeling of deep respect for others – even those who disagreed with him. He was always open to connecting with those who saw things from a different perspective. In fact, it was during my teenage years – those years when parents and their kids seem least likely to connect with each other – that dad and I would have our regular Sunday “discussions” about what the preacher said that morning. While mom was making dinner, I would point out to dad in my “infinite wisdom” how wrong and out of touch the preacher was that morning. It was our “Roast Preacher” moment from which this column gets its name.

But in those moments of heated discussion and disagreements, my dad helped carve a road in my life of mutual respect for others who differ from me and a willingness to engage in respectful dialogue with each other. In this world in which it seems civility in conversation with others who disagree with us is a diminishing art, my dad gave me a different path to follow and I am profoundly grateful to this artist who helped sculpt this truth into my life. The two words at the end of my column each month are more than just the ending to an opinion – they are an invitation to continue the dialogue. They are part of the road Dad taught me that relationships are more important than being right. So....Let’s talk

Pastor Ray Hurst