



## **The Open Door - April 2026**

*The Reformed Church of Bushkill*  
5969 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
(570) 588-6773 / [bshklch@ptd.net](mailto:bshklch@ptd.net) (E-mail)  
[www.bushkillchurch.org](http://www.bushkillchurch.org) (Website)

**"Striving to Do What Christ Tells Us through Scripture"**



**We recently held a game and movie night where a lot of fun was had playing some board games, Bible trivia, snacks and the movie "Cabrini".**

**Watch for more fun activities from the Saturday night Bible study group.**



### **Pastor's Corner**

#### **He is risen!**

My heart overflows with the joy of our Resurrection Sunday celebration. Resurrection reminds me of the incredible power of our shared faith. This faith is grounded in Matthew 28:6-7: *"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples..."*

These words are our post-Easter marching orders. We have seen the empty tomb, and now we are called to "go and tell" that hope is alive! One of the ways we continue to build this community of hope is through our worship services, Bible studies, fellowship gatherings and soon, our Monthly Tuesday Movies. It's a wonderful time to gather, relax, and see how God's story reflects even in the stories we watch together.

Let's carry this Easter joy into our neighborhoods and workplaces. May we live as "Resurrection people"—full of hope, practicing deep kindness, and resting in the peace that Christ has truly made all things new.

I am so grateful to walk this journey of faith alongside each of you.

With deep joy and blessings,  
Pastor Marisol

## Holy Week Schedule

All of Lent has been preparation for Easter. However, Holy Week is a special time of real concentration on all that Jesus went through for us.

On Maundy Thursday, April 5, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and remember that Jesus told us to do so in remembrance of Him. We will worship that night at 7:00 PM.

We worship together the following evening, Good Friday, as well. This service is also at 7:00 PM. We will commemorate Jesus' trial and death, and the forgiveness that comes through it. Please join together in worship as we remind ourselves of the crucial events that happened in the days before Jesus' resurrection.

We'll hold one service on Easter at 10:30 AM. We will not be serving breakfast that day.

The *Open Door* is for everyone and it is a great way to update everybody on what is going on in the church and what your ministry doing, as well as those seeking out a church online.

Articles for the May *Open Door* are due by Monday, April 15th.

Leave them in the church office mailbox across from the nursery, stop by the church office or e-mail directly to the church office:  
bshklch@ptd.net

We will serve a Community Dinner on Thursday, April 16th from 5:00-6:30 PM. and will be dine-in only.

The Community Dinner will be served on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

We will have a Movie Matinee at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, April 21 in Rottenberg Hall. The movie this month is "The Hill".

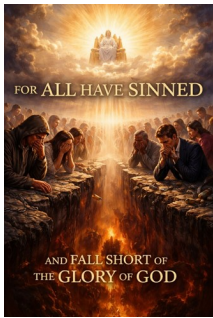
## You of Little Faith? - Maria Romero-Tomba

Matthew 8:26 tells the story of Jesus and the disciples being caught in a storm as they sailed the sea of Galilee. The lesson of this event, related by the apostle Matthew, teaches us that real and symbolic storms will arise as we navigate life's course. When storms arise, will our Christian faith waver, or will we fall flat?

Recently, as a church, the tranquility of the path we were on was suddenly and unexpected caught up in the middle of a storm which no one saw coming. With any unexpected event, there is shock, bewilderment, disbelief, pain and tears; and like the disciples of yesteryears, fear. Our Spiritual life as we knew it would no longer be the same. We asked what was happening. Unfortunately, we did not have the physical presence of Jesus who would have been able to calm our emotions, but fortunately for us, when His work was done on Earth, He left us PEACE. John 14:27 tells us Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (NIV)

This is the question we need to answer for ourselves: Where is our Peace? Where is our Trust? and where is our Faith? John 14:1 reminds us "Do not let your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me." (ASV) Remember, God is always in control. We do not need to second guess Him. Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (ASV) With that in mind, we need not act impulsively, but maintain our trust, faith, peace, and love in our Heavenly Father and one another.

## Romans 3: The Mirror, the Mercy, and the Hope of God! - *By Bryon Kenne*



Take a few minutes to read Romans 3, and then consider this question: if the Jews were originally entrusted with the revelation of God, who is entrusted with His revelation now?

If you have a mirror nearby, take a glance into it and notice who is looking back.

Last month, as we explored Romans 2, we discovered how easily the human heart can drift into self-righteousness. We saw that when pride, judgment, and hypocrisy take hold, they create distance between us and God. And as Christians, we want our walk with Christ to be fruitful, faithful, and glorifying to Him. What Romans has already begun to show us is that love, not pride, is the path to healing. In Christ, love becomes both the medicine and cure. Through love comes hope, not condemnation.

Then we come to Romans 3, and Paul wastes no time. He pulls back the curtain on the human condition and reminds us of a truth we do not naturally want to hear: none of us is righteous on our own. He strings together passage after passage, especially from the Psalms, to make his point unmistakably clear: “There is no righteous person, not even one” (cf. Romans 3:10).

These are hard words. It humbles us. It strips away every illusion of moral superiority. It reminds us that sin is not just someone else’s problem. It is ours. Romans 3 is a mirror, and when we look into it honestly, we do not see innocence—we see need.

As I read through Romans, I often read alongside the book of Isaiah. Again and again, Isaiah helps illuminate what Paul is saying and deepens our understanding of God’s character and His plan of salvation. Consider Isaiah 45:21b–23:

“For there is no other God but me,  
a righteous God and Savior;  
there is none but me.

Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth!

For I am God, and there is no other.

By myself I have sworn;  
from my mouth has gone out in righteousness  
a word that shall not return:

‘To me every knee shall bow,  
every tongue shall swear allegiance.’”

Amen.

Paul’s early quotations in Romans 3 describe the spiritually lost. They do not seek God. They do not understand the danger they are in. And one line especially stands out with heartbreaking force: “They do not know the way of peace” (cf. Romans 3:17).

Do we not still see that all around us? A restless world, desperate for peace, searching in every direction and still coming up empty. People long for peace in their minds, in their homes, in their relationships, and in their souls. But peace cannot be found apart from the God who is both righteous and Savior. This is why the Church matters. This is why our witness matters. We are called to point our neighbors, our communities, and our world to the peace that is found only in Christ Jesus.

And that brings us to the very heart of Romans 3.

Romans 3:21–26 is one of the clearest and most beautiful summaries of the gospel in all of Scripture. After exposing the universality of sin, Paul turns to the greatness of God’s saving work. He tells us that although all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we can be put right with God through His grace, made possible by the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and received through faith.

In this passage, Paul reveals several glorious truths about God.

First, we see **God's righteousness**. The Greek word δικαιοσύνη (dikaioṣuné) appears repeatedly in this section. It carries the sense of righteousness, justice, and moral rightness. God is not only righteous in Himself; He is the source of all righteousness. He is true, just, and utterly faithful. Our faith rests on the confidence that God is exactly who He says He is.

Second, we see **the glory of God**. Paul tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (cf. Romans 3:23). God's glory is His holy magnificence, His radiant perfection, His majestic presence. Sin is tragic not only because it breaks rules, but because it causes us to fall short of the life and fellowship we were created for in Him.

Third, we see **God's redemption**. Through Christ Jesus, God provides redemption for sinners. The Greek word Paul uses, ἀπολυτρώσεως (apolutrósē), points to a ransom price being paid to set captives free. In Christ, we see that salvation is not "cheap grace." (See Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book suggested below) It is costly grace. Jesus gave Himself so that those enslaved by sin could be liberated by the mercy of God.

Fourth, we see **divine forbearance**. Paul reminds us that God, in His patience, passed over former sins. This does not mean God ignored sin. It means He withheld immediate judgment in order to fulfill His righteous plan at the cross. God is patient, holy, and purposeful. His mercy is never careless; it is perfectly joined to His justice.

This passage teaches us something essential: every one of us has sinned, but in God's grace, forgiveness is offered to every one of us through Jesus Christ. Romans 3 leaves no room for pride, but it leaves abundant room for hope.

So, what do we learn here?

We learn that sin is universal. No one stands innocent before God by personal merit.

We learn that justification comes by faith. We are made right with God not because of our works, but because of Christ.

We learn that grace is the foundation of salvation. What we could never earn, God freely gives.

And we learn that the cross is where God's justice and mercy meet. At the cross, God remains righteous while also making righteous those who trust in Jesus.

So, returning to the question asked at the beginning: if the revelation of God was once entrusted to Israel, who now carries that revelation into the world?

By the grace of God, we do.

When you look in the mirror, you are not looking at someone who is perfect. You are looking at someone who needs grace every day. But if you belong to Christ, you are also looking at someone entrusted with the good news of the gospel.

Romans 3 reminds us that we are not saved by being better than others. We are saved by the mercy of God. And because we have received mercy, we now carry that message of mercy to others.

The mirror shows us our sin.

The cross shows us our Savior.

And the Church is called to show the world where peace can be found.

Amen and Amen

Book Recommendation: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*.



Thank you to everyone who donates to The Angel's Closet, we appreciate all of it.

We could use new bibs, white onesies in 0-12 months, boys sleepers in 0-6 months, boys pants in 0-6 months, size 1 and size 5 diapers.

Thank you.



Happy Birthday greetings for the month:

Ruben Quijano - April 14

Liz Craver

Jennifer Schoonover

Volunteers are needed to make dessert for the monthly birthday celebration. See Kristen or call her, 570-994-3056, if you can help.

## Financial Report - Joe Bush

Month of February 2026:

Income: \$8,949.00

Expenses: \$21,799.29

Total for 2026 through February

Income: \$17,997.36

Expenses: \$54,855.34

Once again, snow removal and office heat repair was the highest cost to date.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

God bless all,  
Joseph Bush

Our longtime member, Lydia Mozon, has moved to Georgia to be near her daughter.

If you'd like to send her a card, here is her new address:

Attn: Lydia Mozon, Rm. 134  
Brickmont Senior Living  
2782 Dallas Hwy.  
Marietta, GA 30064

If you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor Marisol, call the church office, 570-588-6773.

If you have a mid-week prayer request for our e-mail prayer team please e-mail Jen Schoonover, schoont@ptd.net or call/text her at 570-534-5752.

The church receives points back from Staples for recycled ink cartridges, which we use for office supplies.

If you have any depleted ink cartridges, please consider leaving them in the church office mailbox located near the nursery or see Mary after the service.

Please bring in your Mignosi's Foodtown receipts.

There is a bin in the narthex for them. Mignosi's generously donates 1% of the receipts minus a few ineligible items.

Thank you!

The *Our Daily Bread* devotional is always available in the narthex as well as large-print editions.

Feel free to take a copy and some extras for your friends and family.

If you'd like to be on our mailing list to receive the *Open Door*, any other mailings and weather-related updates, please e-mail, bshklch@ptd.net or call the church office, 570-588-6773.