

April 1st, 2026 #1,132

The Word of the Week - Easter



With the celebration of Easter, the most holy time for Christians, coming in just a few days, I thought this would be a good word. For many of you this has never been a problem and maybe never heard it as an objection, but there has been a criticism from outside and inside the church that “Easter” is a pagan holiday or at least started that way. The word “Easter” is not in the Bible, so where did it come from? I will quote from two main sources for this information. Interestingly, other languages use other terms usually related more closely to the word Passover, which

designates the Jewish season of Jesus death and resurrection. Only in English do we call this Holy Day Easter. And there is a specific reason for that.

“The Venerable Bede explains it this way: *Eosturmonath has a name which is now translated “Paschal month”, and which was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honour feasts were celebrated in that month. Now they designate that Paschal season by her name, calling the joys of the new rite by the time-honored name of the old observance.*’ Some believe that this means that Bede is saying that Easter is based on the worship of a pagan goddess. But that is not what he is saying. What he is saying is that the month is named after a goddess. It is similar to how January is named after Janus and March is named after Mars.

The month in which Christians celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus happened to take place in that month, and the celebration took on the name of the month. So our modern Easter is named after the goddess Eostre, not in terms of worship, but in terms of timing and the old name of that month. (Stephen Bedard – History of Christianity.org)

“So, using the name ‘Easter’ is not a problem because the origin of the word does not mean that the word is bad. If we want to be consistent and avoid using [pagan] words, Christians will also have to find new names for the planets and the days of the week. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead, showing that life could win over death.” (Candice Lucey is a freelance writer from British Columbia,) *Easter*, which means “to shine” is only a name, adopted and transformed over centuries to become a Christ-centered reference to a Holy Day that celebrates the resurrection of our Lord.

Many of our secular observances, that have crept into the church, are carry-overs from some past pagan practices. But many of them we have changed and given more Christian meanings. **“For Christians, the egg is a symbol of the tomb, while cracking the egg represents Jesus' resurrection. In the Orthodox tradition, eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood Jesus shed on the cross.”** Easter traditions can be redeemed, and the fun of Easter is still permissible. (Candice Lucey is a freelance writer from British Columbia,)

Meanwhile, God examines the heart. As long as our celebration is based upon the truth of the word of God, God will be praised for the mighty things he has done, especially in the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

Save the Date:
congregational
MEETING

April 12th, 2026

Reports due from Chairs by March 20th

Directory Updates:

Brandy Hershey's e-mail is:

Brandy6320@hotmail.com (with a y)

Richard Jacob's Address is:

Richard Jacobs
Country Meadows
1920 Trolley Rd. #206
York PA 17408

Holy Week

4/02 Holy Thursday Worship - 7 PM

4/03 Good Friday Prayer Vigil
12 PM - 3 PM

4/05 Easter Sunrise Celebration - 6:30 AM at
Bermudian Church

4/05 Easter Celebration - 9 AM at Bermudian
Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On April 2 at 7:00 PM we will gather in the Gathering Place for our Maundy Thursday service.

We sit around tables set up in such a way to enable us to use various Scriptures from the Gospels to help us reenact the Last Supper of Jesus. The theme of the short meditation will be "Remaining on the Vine."

We will share in celebrating the bread and the cup of Holy Communion.

Nursery and children's class (ages 4 to 4th grade) will be provided in the main building. Come join us.



Save the dates:

Vacation Bible School
Bermudian Church
August 2nd – 6th,
2026

We will update when
registration opens!!

Wednesdays

March 25th, April 1st

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm with Pastor Gary

Life Group

Highlights on the book of Malachi

On Easter Sunday, April 5th, 2026, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt during the Sunday School Hour.

We are planning a short lesson or Easter story and activity and then the egg hunt.

Easter
EGG HUNT

There will be Sunday School for all ages.

Free Puppet Show

By Yahdah Ministries

Bermudian Church May 9th @ 7PM



Widow and Widowers Luncheon

Sunday
April 12th
At Noon

At Dover Valley
Restaurant

Please See Nancy
Smith to RSVP



CHURCH DIRECTORY

The 2026 Church
Directory will be printed
and added to your
mailbox in the next 2
weeks!



Women's fellowship

will have their

Baby Shower

to benefit

Tender Care Pregnancy

on

Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30 pm.

We hope that all the ladies of the church will plan to attend. We will have games, prizes, and light refreshments. We are pleased to have Jackie Herren of Tender Care speak with us about the work they do and the help they provide. Please ask a friend from church who hasn't attended before or bring a friend from the neighborhood. Tables will be in the kitchen area of Shepherds Hall to gather your layette items or you can bring them with you that night. It is a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship for this so important ministry. Please plan to attend. Baby bottle return is Sunday, April 26th to allow more time to fill your bottles.



We encourage you to bring a lawn or camp chair for the Easter Sunrise service!!

EASTER *with* FRANKLIN GRAHAM

WHAT IS TRUTH?

On Easter Sunday Franklin Graham will be sharing a message along with music from Michael W. Smith, Charlie Daniels and the late Johnny Cash. I am assuming that it will be broadcast on the website: billygraham.org/truth as well as the stations and times listed here: **FOXNEWS, 12:00 – 12:30 PM; NEWSMAX, 4:00 – 4:30 PM; DAYSTAR, 4:30 – 5:00 PM; TBN, 7:00 – 7:30 PM; CBN, 1:00, 4:00, 10:00 PM.**