

...to the extent that even the apostles admitted, “if Christ is not raised, your faith has no basis.” The evidence is very compelling and invites us to a rational belief.

The other way of knowing is less tangible: the internal witness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. In 1 John 3, the Apostle says, “*And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*” Likewise Paul says in Gal. 4 and Rom. 8 that the Holy Spirit speaks into our hearts and by Him we cry out, “Abba, Father!” This is a personal knowing, a relational knowing. On one hand, it feels abstract compared to the empty tomb we can go visit; yet, it is just as powerful. We need both—a cognitive knowing and a personal knowing. Easter reminds us that we indeed do have both. This Easter, I pray, may you know him better and see him more clearly!

-Pastor Jacob

Have you ever thought about how you know that what you believe is true? If this sounds to you like something that philosophers ought to be arguing over, you’d be right. There is an entire philosophical discipline devoted to discussing what knowledge is and how we know things to be true. It’s called epistemology. But, let me encourage you that this is a question with a lot of practical significance for you and me, and the Easter holiday presents a great opportunity for us to think about this. No, this won’t be a discussion about philosophy, so don’t give up on this parchment article too soon!

I was sitting down this week, finding myself at the intersection of a series on 1 John and the beginning of the Easter season and looking at a particular Greek word that means “to know.” As I did, I was struck by the fact that Easter invites us to know in at least two different ways that Jesus is indeed resurrected and that we have eternal life through him.

The first is through our cognitive faculties, that is our ability to think and reason. We are invited to look at the evidence: to see the tomb where Jesus’s dead body was laid, that had been guarded by elite Roman soldiers, empty on the third day—the body of Jesus no longer there; to see that his earliest followers claimed to see him alive—especially that those first witnesses were not the sort of witnesses that would have been fabricated, because they were women and 1st century bias regarded them as unreliable; to see that the apostles who likewise claimed to see him resurrected went to their deaths proclaiming that they had seen him alive, with nothing to gain by lying and everything to lose; to see that eye witness testimony and the proclamation of the historical resurrection remained central to the Early Church proclamation about Jesus of Nazareth...

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CELEBRATE
EASTER

Palm Sunday Breakfast: @9:00 am	March 24
Palm Sunday: @10:15 am	March 24
Maundy Thursday: @6:30 pm	March 28
Easter Egg Hunt: @10:00 am (8:00 for volunteers)	March 30
Easter Morning Hymn Sing: @9:00 am	March 31
Resurrection Sunday:	March 31





- Mar. 3:** Gospel Tide Shoe Drive End
- Mar. 5:** Deacons Board Meeting
2:00 pm
- Mar. 7:** Church Board Meeting
6:30 pm
- Mar. 10:** Daylight Saving Time
- Mar. 11:** Golden Heirs Luncheon
12:00 pm
- Mar. 15-17:** Spring Youth Retreat
- Mar. 24:** Palm Sunday Breakfast and Palm Sunday Celebration
9:00 am and 10:15 am
- Mar. 28:** Maundy Thursday
6:30 pm
- Mar. 30:** Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 am
- Mar. 31:** Easter Morning Hymn Sing and Resurrection Sunday Celebration
9:00 am and 10:15 am



Birthdays & Anniversaries:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 Dickie and Sue Poffenberger | 14 Anders Kehr |
| 5 Connie Garrett | 15 Brittney Smith / Isaac Fickett |
| 9 Wade and Lindsay Dorsey | 17 Steve and Crystal Eby |
| 10 Eden Harrison | 18 Tina Sundergill / Judah Nowell |
| 11 Sue Poffenberger | 29 David Porter |
| 13 Scott Oberholzer | 31 Dennis Kahuthu |

News from the Church Board

As the calendar turns to March, and our first meeting following Congregational Council, the first order of business for our board will be reelecting officers. Thank you to Rod Miller for serving as Board Chair and Debbie Pitsnogle for serving as Board Secretary in 2023! The board will continue the conversation about our property facelift this year, about our organizational structure and tangible needs there, as well as continuing to define and seek to pursue the vision that God is giving us for our future.

In the News

Look to this feature for important Paramount BIC news and announcements



It is so exciting to have a church with a growing number of children, and we recognize that God is entrusting us with their care. Would you be interested in helping our children come to know, love, and serve Jesus, by serving as a teacher or helper? Contact Susan Milford today!



The easter egg hunt outreach is scheduled for Saturday, March 30. Interested in helping or attending? Here are some important details:

- A brief egg pack (and final planning meeting) will be held Mar. 24, after church. Please stay a few minutes and help us pack some easter eggs!
- The event is from 10 am - 12 pm. Volunteers, please plan to arrive to help set up and serve at 8:00 am
- If you'd like to help with the event, a signup sheet is posted on the office bulletin board. We'd love to have you serve with us!



The spring youth retreat, themed *Roots to Fruit, What's in Between?*, is March 15-17! Details for the event, including schedule and stuff to bring can be found at paramountbic.org/youth.



Our March Blessing Box Item of the Month is canned goods. Things like fruit, vegetables, and soups are very helpful. Thanks for being a blessing!



The church library team would like to make us aware of a new book to be featured in the library! *You and God*, by Fred Miller is an invitation to a heart-felt journey of discipleship to Jesus. Check it out today!