



EASTER EGG HUNT and PANCAKE BREAKFAST



This Easter, our church family did something truly special, our first annual free pancake breakfast and Easter egg hunt! What was forecasted to be a typical gloomy, rainy NY April day turned into a beautiful reminder of God’s faithfulness, as the sun broke through and shined over us from start to finish. It felt like heaven itself was smiling on what was taking place.

Around 80 people from our community gathered with us, and what a joy it was to not only celebrate together, but to serve together. Scripture tells us in **Acts 20:35**, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*,” and that truth was evident among us that morning. From the first pancake flipped to the last egg found, the day was filled with hope and love.

A heartfelt thank you to Tony and Trudy Bush and Cindy Keeseey for leading the charge and making sure no one left hungry, and to “Uncle George” for cooking the sausage to perfection. Dave, as always, was faithfully behind the scenes arriving early, brewing coffee, and making sure every detail was in place. Pastor Justin’s sister Kendra, brought joy to the children with her incredible face painting, turning little faces into masterpieces.

We were even blessed with a special visit from the Easter Bunny! Thank you to Joe and Sandy for bringing smiles and laughter to so many families as they captured those memorable moments together. Then came the egg hunt! Pastors Josh and Justin quickly learned that what takes 3 hours to prepare lasts about 3 minutes when the kids are released... but what an amazing couple minutes it was. As children ran with excitement, searching and finding each hidden egg, I couldn’t help but think of the words of Jesus in **Matthew 7:7**: “*Seek and you will find*.” There was something deeper I was reminded of in that moment... to see those children searching with joy and expectation. That’s how we are invited

to seek after Christ! With that same trust, joy and eagerness... because when we do, we will find Him.

More than anything though, this day reminded me how blessed we are as a church family. So many willing hands, so many generous hearts and so many people who simply want to see the love of Christ reach beyond our walls and into our community. For a first-time event everything flowed beautifully, the food was plentiful, the fellowship was rich and the laughter was constant. Most importantly, the Gospel was shared... because at the center of it all is this unshakable truth.

The tomb is empty. He is risen. And, because He lives, there is hope for us all. With love and thankfulness.

Kingdom Kids Spotlight

Each month, we are excited to spotlight one of our amazing kids from Children’s Church or Youth Group! We believe the next generation is not just the future of the Church — they are a vital part of it right now. God is moving in the hearts of our young people, and we want to celebrate what He is teaching them and how they are growing. We pray these stories encourage you and inspire you to continue praying for and investing in the next generation.

This Month’s Spotlight

Name: Gabriel Bush **Age:** 7

Grade: 2nd



Monthly Kids Spotlight Interview Questions

1. **What is something you learned recently in children’s church that really stood out to you?**
 - When we were talking about how powerful God is and how much He loves us.
2. **How have you seen God working in your life lately? Or helped you?**
 - We talked about how God helps us know right from wrong and how we can ask Him questions about anything.
3. **What is one way you tried to show God’s love to someone this month?**
 - On the bus someone was picking on kids and I stood up for them.
4. **What has been your favorite part of church or children’s church this month?**
 - I love doing crafts. My favorite was when you made the big cross and we wrote down things to forgive and be forgiven and stapled it to it.
5. **What have you been up to outside of church this month?**
 - I’ve gone to a couple Syracuse Crunch (hockey) games with my dad and brother.
6. **Do you have a favorite scripture verse?**
 - John 19:19 NIV. “Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

NO LUCK NEEDED

March comes strolling in and no one really knows how to feel. You have some signs spring and better weather are coming, and you have the brutal slap back to reality that we have no say in the matter.

Everywhere you turn you see 4 leaf clovers and hear talks about luck. Lucky breaks, pots of gold and needing fortune to fall your way. I understand why people reach for it... life can feel uncertain, we've all had our share of hard roads, nights where nothing made sense and mornings where we've wondered what would come next. But please hear me plain and simple, there is no such thing as luck for the child of God. See luck is what you cling to when you don't know who's in control... but we do know.

The world says, "Wish upon a star", but we don't bow to creation... we go straight to the Creator. The One who hung every star in its place invites us to come boldly to Him and His throne of grace... with confidence. Not guessing, not "wishing", not hoping chance swings our way... but trusting His hand, His will, His timing.

Hebrews 4:16 (KJV) *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

That's the truth whether we realize it or not, we were never meant to rely on chance or wishful thinking. Luck says, "Hope something good happens." Christ says, "Come to Me and receive what you need." God doesn't deal in accidents or random breaks. His providence is steady, even when life feels shaky.

Proverbs 16:9 (KJV) *"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."*

That means even when we don't see it clearly or understand fully... He's guiding. That's not luck, it's Lordship, it's not chance... it's Christ.

Some of us have been living like we need both Jesus and a little bit of luck on the side. That's divided ground and it won't hold you. Either He is enough, or He isn't, and I'm here to tell you... He is!

Through every scar, every wrong choice, every hard lesson, I've learned... I'd rather be in the hands of a sovereign loving God than riding the waves of blind luck any day. Just like people or religion, luck will fail you... Jesus never will!

SHARE YOUR FAITH:

When you hear someone talk about luck, don't brush it off... lean in. That's an open door to gently but boldly remind them, we don't trust in chance, we trust in Jesus.

You don't need a sermon or fancy words. Just tell the truth of what He's done for you. Share how God has carried you, guided you, and provided for you. Real stories, honest testimonies of His grace. Those take root far deeper than anything rehearsed. Simply point them to the One who holds all things together, not just when life is good... but especially when it's not.

PRAYER:

Father, Thank you for this day on Your beautiful creation. We come to You, not hoping for luck, but resting in Your sovereignty. Forgive us for the times we've trusted in chance instead of Your hand. You are not distant, and You are not uncertain... You are faithful. Teach us to walk by faith, not by superstition. Strengthen our trust when life feels unstable. Remind us that You are ordering our steps, even when we don't understand the path.

Help us to speak boldly and live clearly, so others see that our hope is not in luck... but in You alone. We trust You, Lord. Fully. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

"May the Lord be your confidence, and His love guide your steps each day."

PASTORAL HAPPENINGS

March has been full, in the best kind of way. We've seen God move, not in loud spectacle, but in steady, faithful work among His people. This month, our focus has been on investing in the next generation, as donations to our "Noisy Can" are going toward sending our children and youth to Camp Shiloh this summer. For some, it will be their first time stepping into that experience... for others, it's another chapter in a story God has already been writing in their lives. Either way, we know He will meet them there.

We are blessed beyond measure to have families who are committed to keeping their kids rooted in the church, and a church family that cares enough to stand behind them. That kind of support matters more than we can measure. These moments, these camps, these seeds being planted... they don't just impact a week of summer, they shape lives. I believe with everything in me that this next generation will carry the Gospel further than we ever could. Our ceiling will be their floor, and long after we're gone, Christ will still be working in and through them.

We also held our first men's breakfast this month, and it was a strong start. A special thank you to Dave for making arrangements and having the coffee ready, Rusty for improvising and "Uncle George" for not only donating all the food but showing up and cooking it himself. That kind of servant hearted leadership sets the tone in this building and the community. We learned some valuable lessons and that's a good thing... it means we're building something that will grow, sharpen, and reach more men in our community as we move forward.

At the end of the day, we recognize this for what it is... grace. We are blessed to be used as vessels, to pour out the love God has given us into the lives of others. Our prayer is simple, to be faithful, to be available, and to point as many people as we can to Jesus for as long as He allows us the time.

