

APRIL 2026

CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter

REVIVED

Join us this Easter for Revived. Does your soul need revived?

FREE - TAKE ONE

Holy Week

Your guide to navigating through Holy Week

FUELING A NEW FAITH

How A2C NXT fuels the faith of the next generation of believers

contents



FEATURES

3 FUELING THE FAITH

How A2C seeks to minister to the next generation
rooting them in Christ, church, and community.

BY STEPHANIE HOWARD

4 HEALTH BITES

Eggs aren't just for coloring this year, see the benefits
of eggs for your health

BY EMILY GENTIT

MINISTRIES

3 A2C NXT

6 WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL

11 UPCOMING EVENTS



When adults hear the phrase “kids ministry,” a variety of emotions often come to mind--some warm and nostalgic, others uncertain or even indifferent. For many, it brings back memories of brightly colored classrooms, energetic songs, and faithful volunteers. For others, it may feel more distant or unfamiliar.

But beneath those first impressions lies something deeply meaningful. Kids ministry is often one of the earliest and most formative parts of a person’s spiritual journey.

While our primary goal is to root children in the knowledge of God’s love and the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, our mission reaches even further. We strive to help each child understand that they are part of a loving church community; something greater than themselves. Through biblical teaching, we guide them in making moral and ethical decisions. We intentionally nurture their confidence and identity, reminding them that they are uniquely created with purpose and deeply valued. We also create space for emotional growth, encouraging kids to express themselves through prayer, storytelling, and meaningful conversations.

At times, it may look a little loud, a little messy, and full of energy, but there is purpose in every moment. There truly is a method to the madness. Thank you for supporting and praying for this vital ministry. Together, we are investing in and building the next generation of believers.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAYS

We’ve had some interest in having the Nursery available on Sunday mornings for our youngest families. If you’d be willing to be part of a Sunday morning rotation, please reach out to Stephanie.



| by STEPHANIE HOWARD



DAD SAID SO

BY PASTOR JASON VANDEMARK

If I AM says I am, then I am. You know, I really didn't want to get back into ministry and be a pastor. That's no secret either as I have expressed that many times before. I'm not big on titles and I'm not big on me having some "elevated" job position at church. **So, why am I a pastor?** That's an honest, good question; one I've wrestled with. I've had people attack my character, talk about me behind my back, criticize my leadership, and much more.

The fact is, I am no more of a Christian than anyone else is *called* to be. You have the same Holy Spirit that I have. You have the same Bible that I have. You have the same resources that I have. I wasn't meant to be more educated or some higher tiered Christian. In fact, according to the Bible, there's no such thing. There are positions and callings. That's hard for some to digest. Some will say, "but Jason, what about 'blameless and above reproach'?" The fact is, we are all called to live our lives that way. A pastor is called to lead the congregation in it. Teachers are called to teach in it, that's why they are judged harsher.

And yes, pastors and teachers stumble. James says we all stumble in many ways. So back to my question, why am I a pastor? Who would want to be?

The answer to the question is simple. Because I AM said I am. And if I AM says I am, then I am, regardless if I understand it. That goes for you as well. If I AM says you are something or someone specific, then that's what you are. It doesn't matter who attacks, and it doesn't matter what people say. You need to be who you are called to be. I need to be who I am called to be. Am I perfect at it? Nope. Are you? Nope. But it doesn't change who He says we are.

When you put it into the perspective that God said so, or better yet, because my Dad said so, it changes things. I begin to do what I do, or say what I say, or lead how I lead, or be who I am, because my Dad said so. I pray that's how you will live your life. You might find He's doing a new work in you. After all, it is Spring time and He does make all things new.

That's something to think about.



*“You have the same
Holy Spirit that I
have. You have the
same Bible that I
have. You have the
same resources that I
have.”*



| by PAULA ROTH

Women's Study
Thursdays at 10am
East Wing Classroom

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL

April 2026

Insights into Holy Week

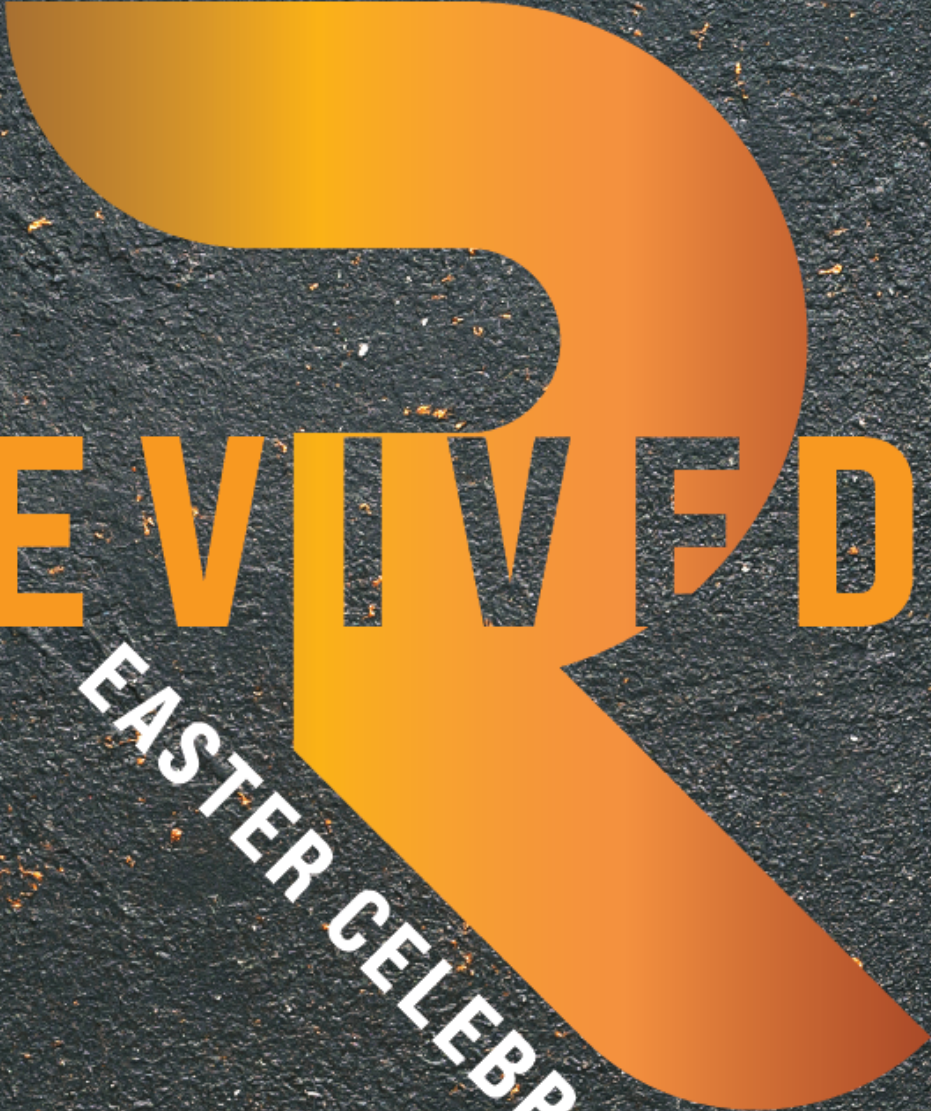
PALM SUNDAY: Did you know as Jesus was entering Jerusalem Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, entered from the West with a display of power intended to maintain order during the volatile Passover Festival. A display of Roman power and might. At the same time Jesus entered from the East. He rode a borrowed donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, symbolizing a kingdom of peace and humility with justice for the poor.

MAUDY THURSDAY: It's a time for Christians to reflect on events leading to Christ's crucifixion. Jesus established Holy Communion during the Last Supper. By washing the disciples' feet, He firmly showed humble service to others. And He also gave a new commandment: "Love One Another."

GOOD FRIDAY: The name "Good Friday" comes from the idea that the day represents the ultimate triumph of "good over evil." As we cringe at the brutality of Jesus' death and what He endured, we can praise God because we know "the rest of the story!"

HOLY SATURDAY: The final day of Holy Week, marking the quiet, solemn period when Jesus' body lay in the tomb after crucifixion and before Resurrection. It is a day of reflection and waiting.

EASTER – RESURRECTION: (quoted from the Resurrection Bible Study) "The resurrection of Jesus Christ changed everything. Creation has been transformed. History has been altered. Life was victorious. As people of the Risen Lord our identity and calling are rooted in the resurrection. As we experience our own transformation in Christ, we show His risen life to others."



REVIVED

EASTER CELEBRATION

APRIL 5 - 9:30a

Ayersville Community Church

27728 AYERSVILLE RD

HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN



PRAYER CONCERNS

Have any prayer concerns? The Bible says where two or more are gathered, the Lord is there. Let us stand with you in prayer.

My Name: _____

My Prayer Concerns: _____

Please put this on the prayer chain: Y N

Please contact me Y N

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*The effective
prayer of a
righteous man can
accomplish much.*

-James 5:16

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APRIL HEALTH BITES



We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has placed orders through our Azure Standard group. As the one of two drop-off points in the four surrounding counties, your orders play a vital role in supporting our ministry projects within the church. Azure generously contributes 2% of all orders back to the church—how wonderful is that! With so many items available, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. I'm here to assist you, and I can even help you set up your account! If you're unable to meet the semi-truck for pickup, we have alternative times available as well. To get started, I recommend checking out flour, baking supplies, and canned foods. And don't forget the snacks!



AZURE STANDARD DROP

AYERSVILLE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

27728 PLEASANT BEND RD,
DEFIANCE, OH 43512

EGGS



HEALTH FOCUS - EGGS

PROTEIN: 6 grams of complete protein.

HDL: Boosts "good" cholesterol

CHOLINE: supports brain function

WEIGHT: keeps you feeling full longer.

PROMOTES EYE HEALTH: protects against macular degeneration & cataracts



EGG TIPS

- Consider pasture raised and **LOCAL**. Studies show these are the best.
- Cook using low-heat & avoid over cooking
- Pair with veggies for added nutrition
- Hard boil for a healthy snack and a boost of protein

APRIL THOUGHTS

What an amazing time as Spring is here. We get to see new growth all around us as the flowers emerge and trees start to blossom. Don't forget my favorite past time of listening to those peepers sing. What an awesome God we serve to see how He plans things just right. My grandmother spent many hours in the spring airing out her house and starting her "spring cleaning". She would make it a habit to wash all the walls, clean all the windows and dust all surfaces. As we tackle these projects around our homes I encourage you to clean out those cupboards. Families, it is time to start buying those fresh veggies and fruits. Let us encourage each other as we teach our children how to nourish our bodies. Let's start this season on the right foot.



Emily Gentit

Emily and her husband, Ben, live just outside of Defiance. As parents of four, they lead a busy life filled with various activities. Originally from Cincinnati, Emily has lived in several states throughout her life. She is passionate about both education and maintaining a healthy lifestyle and serving our amazing Lord.



BIBLE

ON PURPOSE

with JASON & STEPHANIE



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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL '26

A2C NXT

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 -7:30PM

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS 10:00AM

**2 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
6:30PM**

**4 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
7:30-10:00AM**

**5 EASTER SERVICE
9:30AM**

**24 A2C KIDS: PAINT PARTY
6-7:30PM**

**26 FUNERAL DIRECT SEMINAR
6PM**

28 NOODLE MAKING

29 1PM

**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.
-JOHN 11:25**



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