

May 2025



The Messenger

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Office Hours: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm Monday - Thursday

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

Serving Our Neighbors  Sharing Our Blessings!

Saturday nights at St. Peter's Church in Shipley, England, can be different from what most of us have experienced. At least once a month, the seats are rearranged, and the worship space is transformed into a pro-wrestling space and worship community "where body-slams would happen in the ring and baptisms outside of it." Wrestling Church began in April of 2022 at Fountain Church in Bradford, but they outgrew that space and relocated to their current home where they are still growing. Wrestlers are flipped, thrown, and slammed throughout the evening. Using some unconventional methods, they have baptized over 30 people in just a few years. All this happening with a wrestling ring set-up in a space that many refer to as "the sanctuary."

This month Resurrection will kick off a new ministry, "Bingo on High." The original plan had it at a nearby cannabis lounge. Because of additional licensing that would be required, it was decided to do it at church. Since we want to seat up to 50 people for the event, the decision was made to do it in our worship space. I'm sure that may shock some who are reading this. *"How can you have gambling in the sanctuary?"* I'll be blunt: that concern is based on a non-biblical understanding of "sanctuary." At some point over the past two millennia, Christians started seeing each big, ostentatious church as a version of the temple in Jerusalem. The worship space became "the Holy-of-Holies," the place where God dwells. Because of that, 'ordinary' people shouldn't approach the altar. Children shouldn't run in the space. The space should only be used for worship (which means – for most churches – once a week). Again, this isn't a biblical understanding of "sanctuary."

The concept of sanctuary is woven throughout the Bible, representing a space where believers can seek refuge, find solace, and experience the presence of God. It's a refuge for the weary, a stronghold for the oppressed, and a source of strength for the weak. In times of trouble and uncertainty, God invites us to seek refuge in our creator's sanctuary and find solace in God's loving embrace. Psalm 18:2 says, *"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."* When we understand the biblical significance of sanctuary, we realize that it goes beyond mere physical structures or religious rituals. It encompasses the very essence of our relationship with God and the intimate connection we share with God. That means that when we gather there for worship, it's a sanctuary. When I go in to pray at the start of my day, it's a sanctuary. On Mondays, it's a waiting area for the food pantry. Last year it was a hall for celebrating our 80th anniversary. Further in the past, it was a waiting area for an employment agency, a bike shop, and an auto repair shop. Soon, on Tuesday nights it will be a place for bingo. God's sanctuary is wherever God's presence resides, whether in a church building, nature's beauty, or within our hearts.

-Darryl Thompson Powell

Council Meeting Highlights 4/14/25

Today's Daily Prayer: Lord, thank You for this day. I ask that You would guide my path today and, more specifically, my thoughts, words and actions. Please be with me throughout the day and help me navigate whatever comes my way. Most importantly, help me to reflect and live out my life in a way that is honoring to You. **Amen**

Ministry Structure: We continued our discussion on changing the newsletter. We want to see more ministries contributing articles, especially around what they do, what their goals are for this year, and how members can support them.

Emergency Contact: Lauren compiled an emergency contact list of people. If something were to happen to anybody at Resurrection and they had to be taken away in an ambulance. We would want to let a loved one know that their loved one got carted away.

Bingo Update: We continued the discussion about Bingo Night. A motion was passed to give Lauren and Maddie the green light to proceed with Bingo on Tuesday nights. More details will be forthcoming.

Pastor Darryl's upcoming days away:

- a. April 21-28 (vacation)
- b. May 29-31 (Synod assembly)

c. June 2-6 (Hampton Ministers' Conference)

Next Council Meeting: May 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

We ended with our Mission Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jan Ramsson,
Council Secretary



Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

In March the food pantry served 139 families, which consisted of 311 adults and 107 children. We welcomed 13 new guests.

We received 58 donations from our members, companies and others in March.

We continue to invite our guests to pray with us.

We are so grateful for our volunteers. We have 24 volunteers of which 4 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 152 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful.

The Outreach committee is working on the description and goals of the committee per the request of council.

We are still in need of additional people to pick up donations from Costco on Sunday morning.

Thanks be to God.

Present Ponderings: Time to Get Busy!

It's Spring! The Earth has awoken from its Winter slumber and it's time for all living things to grow, flower, and reproduce. That sounds pretty obvious when you're a plant or animal, but how about us here at RLC? How do we as Christians follow the directives of Nature to increase, flourish, and bear fruit? We don't need to take it as literally as a rose bush making new growth and turning into flowers, or sparrows laying eggs and making new babies. For us it could be growing in the Spirit by listening to God and trusting in God's guidance. "Blessed are those that hear the word of God and obey it" (Luke 11:28). It could be by calling upon our status as mature adults to know that we don't have to be afraid of change because change happens no matter what. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2). It could also be by expanding ourselves outward, incorporating others into our circle—those that want to be a part of RLC on their terms and not just ours. "When (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36).

It's time to get busy planting seeds of love, taking care of them and giving them attention, and looking forward to a harvest of faithful believers, and in doing these things, our own faith and trust will multiply and increase.

In Christ, Lauren Obrzut

Financial Summary March 2025

	March	Year to Date
Income:	\$8,302.46	\$24,808.48
Expenses:	(\$12,433.07)	(\$37,490.31)
Income Shortfall:	(\$4,130.61)	(\$12,681.83)

March results show a gain in our investments of \$316.06. Envelope income was under budget by (\$3,434.42) for the month & under budget (\$12,458.25) for the year. Expenses were under budget by \$477.26 for the month & under budget by (\$1,240.69) for the year. Our cash position as of 3/31/25 is \$111,929.77 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD and Checking Account. Our envelope giving year to date is well under budget, but we have 9 more months to make up for the shortfall. Year to date we took \$10,000.00 out of the Money Market fund. Continue to watch for ways to give to our ministries!

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.
Wayne Molley, Treasurer

Thank you

Judy Hajek would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards and continued prayers.

Congratulations!

Pastors Darryl and Carl are first time grandparents to
Cameron Amari Powell
and
Wayne and Donna Molley welcomed their 5th grandchild
Clay Cypress Molley



Church Calendar

May 6	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
May 6	Bingo Meeting	7:30 pm
May 12	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
May 13	Bingo Rehearsal	6:00 pm
May 25	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Midweek Service	1:00 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon Meetings	7:30 pm

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In an Emergency

If you have an emergency outside office hours, you may reach **Pastor Darryl at 847-616-0537.**

