



THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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APRIL 2019

Dear friends,

It probably comes as no surprise that Easter Sunday is one of our most well attended worship services of the year. That's as it should be – because it is our most important day, the day we celebrate God's power over death and the resurrection of Christ!

Maybe you have also noticed that in contrast, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are our two lowest attended services of the year. If you think about it, this really comes as no surprise either. These are the hardest, darkest days on our calendar. And sometimes life is hard enough already. We all prefer the celebrations over the suffering. Give me the joy of Easter over the pain of Good Friday.

But there is so much good news in “Good” Friday. Because yes, God is with you in the celebration. But God is also with you in the muck. God is in the quiet upper room, washing feet and feeding the ones who will deny him. God is in the courtroom, receiving an unjust sentence, feeling the pain of humiliation and betrayal. God is on the cross – God intimately knows the pain of death and loss. There is **no place** where God is unwilling to go with you and for you. That is holy good news. You are never alone.

This year I would like to encourage you to consider attending one of these “harder” Holy Week services, either Maundy Thursday or Good Friday (if not both). Take a pause before the Easter celebrations to remember the depth of God's love for you. We will be here, gathered as those who deny, betray, and sin, trusting that God will pick us up once again and surprise us with an empty tomb.

In Christ,

Melissa McNair-King

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, April 8th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be on lesson six: *God With Us Through Our Trials*. Scripture for this lesson is: Isaiah 41:8-13, 43:1-7; Psalm 46:1-11. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

Looking ahead: PW will be collecting our annual Birthday Offering in May. There are four recipients this year:

- Disaster Response Team*, Presbytery of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
- Effingham Child Development Center*, Inclusive Playground, Effingham, IL
- Presbytery Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc.*, Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center, Phelps, KY
- Wings of Refuge*, Restoration Home, Iowa Falls, IA

From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, April 8th, 6 p.m. in the Manse. Our April program and service project will be filling Easter eggs for our church Easter egg hunt. We already have more than enough stickers and a few other items.

Please bring small items such as character band-aids, coins, pencil top erasers, small party favors like bouncy or feely balls, rubber bugs, bendable rabbits, washable tattoos. Flavored chap stick and small bottle bubbles fit the larger eggs, although lesser in quantity. Also, please bring individually wrapped candies such as mini-packaged Jelly Beans, Caramel Creams, Jolly Ranchers, Marshmallow Bunnies or Chicks & Eggs, Skittles, Starburst, and Sours. It is recommended that chocolate not be used because of potential melting.

For the meal, bring a food that starts with A, P, R, I, or L. Dianne will be in touch with each of you to coordinate the APRIL dinner and a variety of fillings for the Easter eggs.

Presbyterian Women -
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

YOUTH GROUP: The youth group will meet on Sunday, April 7th, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Manse. Join us for study, food and fun together! All youth in 5th - 12th grade are invited to participate.

EASTER LILIES: We are now taking orders for lilies in memory or in honor of someone to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter. Lilies will be \$15 each. Please fill out the order form in the church bulletin and give it to the office with your check made out to the church. The deadline to order is April 7th.

EASTER EGG HUNT NEEDS: Each year we host an egg hunt for the children of First Presbyterian Church, our preschool, and their friends and families. Please invite your neighbors to join us in this celebration of Christ's resurrection! We will enjoy story time, crafts, snacks, and of course the egg hunt on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 AM – Noon. You can help us by collecting the following items:

- Plastic grocery bags
- Patterned or Colored Socks (new or used, as long as in good condition – we do NOT need matching sets)

A collection box will be placed in the vestibule/entryway on the southern side of the church (closest to the bell tower). Please bring any contributions by Sunday, April 14!

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS to the church office for the May newsletter no later than Monday, April 15th.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through OGHS to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, April 22nd, in observance of Easter.

Hello, dear friends.

It's hard to believe that Dick retired there in 1993. After 10 years in Blacksburg, we moved to Sunnyside Retirement Community in Harrisonburg. We are close to our 3 daughters; we ask prayer especially for our daughter Anna, 59, who has been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, after having taught French for 30 years. Virginia has had a full-blown harp career here, having produced 9 CDs, some singly and some with other musicians. Dick has assisted her in many ways, having built 8 harps; these have been used in classes for a total of 250 students! Recently Dick, 88, entered Health Care due to decreased ambulation and memory loss. We are so happy to have recorded his beautiful tenor voice 20 years ago! We send blessings to each of you.

Virginia and Dick Bethune



CHECK IT OUT!



We are now in the season of Lent. This time is usually spent on reflection of the sacrifice of Christ ending with the glorious revelation of His resurrection. Most Sundays we, as Christians, recite the Apostles' Creed, which ends with the phrase, "life everlasting". Though we don't want to admit it, many of us struggle with the concept of life after death. It is really so? The following books may help you come to terms with your doubt. They will be on display through Lent. Check them out!

133.9 DUR The Hand on the Mirror, A true story of Life beyond Death by Janis Heaphy Durham - The author chronicles how - after intense paranormal activity in the wake of her husband's death - she launched into an investigative spiritual journey.

133.9 BUR Heaven is for Real: A little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back by Todd Burpo - This true story, retold by his father but using Colton's uniquely simple words, offers a glimpse of the world that awaits us.

133.9 DUB Don't kiss them good-bye by Allison DuBois - In this stunning book, Allison shares fascinating stories of her encounters with people who have passed and her adventures as a profiler for various law enforcement organizations.

231.7 BRI Kingdom of God by John Bright

238.11 DUB We believe: A study of the Apostles' Creed by Henry Wade DuBose

238.11 ROS This we believe: Meditations on the Apostles' Creed by John A. Ross

CH FIC YEO Jubilee by Ellen Yeomans - Depicts a warm view of heaven as families and friends gather to celebrate the Jubilee.

Dear Session and First Presbyterian Church,

Reading your March newsletter I was struck by how much attention you give to caring for people in your community. You are also clearly doing what is necessary to build up and equip the members of your congregation. It's encouraging to read about your church.

I am writing to express my gratitude for your faithful financial participation in the Presbytery of the Peaks. Your \$350 per month makes ministry possible at many different levels. Very personally, you make my ministry possible as a pastor to pastors, a problem-solver within the presbytery and our congregations, an itinerate preacher within our bounds, and a spiritual leader. You are giving to expand other Presbyterian congregations, offer support to youth and college students, and to resource the smaller congregations of our presbytery, not to mention what we do through the Synod and General Assembly.

So thank you – for being an active part of the Peaks.

Blessings,
Carl Utley, Transitional General Presbyter

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PRESCHOOL

Preschool had a wonderful trip to The Ratcliffe Transportation Museum on March 1st. I want to express sincere thanks to Ron Walters and Ernie Wallace for all their help with the field trip. I sure could not have done it without their help, and the preschoolers loved them! Preschool will be having an egg hunt on April 17th! Preschool will be closed for Easter break April 19 - 23. Thank you all for your support and kindness to our wonderful preschool.

With love,
Jessie Brockmeyer

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays! 6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

We are finishing up another great year of Wonderful Wednesdays! This year the adults studied the Parables of Jesus in the Fall and Religions of the World in the Spring. Children have enjoyed a mixture of choir and Bible studies.

We will continue our study of Religions of the World until we reach Holy Week. Then we will take two weeks off before rounding out the year with a Picnic at Randolph Park!

Thank you to those who are serving in April:

| Date | Cooking Team | Clean-Up Team | Program |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| April 3 | Barry/Violet/Carla/ Mardia | Bernice, Brenda | Islam |
| April 10 | Chasity, Melissa, Julie | Jessie, Ernie, Larry | Islam |

Save the Date! Spring Picnic Wednesday, May 1 – 6:00 PM Randolph Park (large shelter)

We'll bring meat and drinks – please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Holy Week

April 14-21, 2019

April 14: Palm Sunday

- 9:45 AM – Parade of Palms, Meet at the downtown Train Station with our neighboring congregations. (Sunday School will not meet)
- 11:00 AM – Worship (Sanctuary)

April 18: Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 PM – Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)

April 19: Good Friday

- Noon – Worship service hosted by Pulaski County Ministerial Association (First Presbyterian Sanctuary)

April 20: Holy Saturday

- 10:00 AM – Children's Egg Hunt and Activities (Fellowship Hall)

April 21: Easter Sunday

- 9:45 AM – Potluck Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 AM – Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)



Montreat Worship and Music Conference

June 16 to 22, 2019

Come and Join Us!

Come and join us for a week of fellowship and relaxation in the mountains of western North Carolina! We still have 5 bedrooms available and can accommodate 8 or 9 more people for this conference.

For over 25 years our church has rented the Hickory Lodge in Montreat, NC for the 1st week of the annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference. This lodge is located in very close proximity to the Anderson Auditorium, where daily worship services are held during the conference. The Lodge is about a 5 minute walk to the Anderson Auditorium and all choir classes and other seminar lectures and classes which are in nearby buildings.

We now have only about eleven persons planning to attend this conference. But, we still have room to accommodate eight or nine more people. You must have registered to participate in choir and other classes, but you do not have to register to enjoy the conference and some good fellowship. The daily worship services are open to all in Montreat. This year's conference theme is Not as the World Gives. *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*" -John 14:27. More information about registering for the conference may be found on the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) website.

The conference concludes with a Friday evening concert in which the adult choir (typically over 600 members), the children's, middle school, and senior high school choirs participate along with several hand- bell choirs. A Tuesday evening talent show, Wednesday evening hymn sing, and Thursday evening performance by the adult and high-school Chamber choirs are highlights of the week at Montreat. (All of these events do not require registration to attend.)

We have the lodge rented for Sunday night, June 16 through Friday night June 21, returning to Pulaski on Saturday June 22. But, you do not need to stay for the entire week if you would like to come to Montreat for a shorter visit. The group takes turns preparing the evening meals and we eat very well all week for about \$30 per person (including breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day). Beds are available in two person rooms for \$200 per person for the entire week.

Please contact Mardia Long or Phyllis Vice for more information about this year's Montreat Worship and Music conference.

For many who return each year, Montreat is a special place where their faith is strengthened and their spirit is renewed.



DATE:

4/7/19

4/14/19

4/21/19

4/28/19

LAY READERS:

Chasity Stevens

Phyllis Vice

Ernie Wallace

Jessie Woods

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

Aubrey Vaughan

Peg Vaughan

Mary Catherine Williams

Bernice Brown