



THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Dear friends,

At the end of this month, we have a chance to observe the holiest season of our church year. The events leading up to Christ's death and resurrection are mysterious, painful, grace-filled, and holy.

We will remember together how Jesus rode humbly into Jerusalem, amid waving palms and shouts of Hosanna! We'll wonder why the religious and political leaders start plotting for his arrest. What were they so afraid of? We will taste the bread, and drink the cup – sharing in his last meal with the disciples, as he gives them a “new commandment” – that they love one another. We will watch as Jesus is betrayed, humiliated, and killed. We may even want to distance ourselves, just as his closest friends did.

But then we'll rise early on a Sunday morning. And whether we have stayed by Jesus' side, or watched from a distance, or even felt ourselves totally removed – we will receive the same promise: “Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth...He has been raised!”

We will know again that God can bring life from death, joy from despair, beauty from brokenness. Join us for this season of renewal and hope: March 25 – April 1. Worship service details are included in this newsletter.

“See, I am making all things new!” Revelation 21:5

Peace,

Melissa McNair-King

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, March 12th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be studying lesson six of *Cloud of Witnesses: In Community with the Reality of the Present*. Scripture for this lesson is Hebrews 2:10-18, 10:34-35 and Mark 8:31-38. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

March 2nd is *World Day of Prayer* at Trinity Lutheran Church, 11 a.m. The service is *All God's Creation Is Very Good* and was written by the women of Suriname, a small country in South America. We will be collecting plastic bags for benches such as LDPE/HDPE Films, Newspaper Sleeves, Bread Bags, Product Wrap, Cereal Liners, Overwrap, Packaging Air Pillows, Food Storage Bags, Ice Bags, Produce Bags, Dry Cleaning Bags and Salt Bags. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share, and bring a friend.

March 4th we will be observing *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*.

From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, March 12th, 6:30 p.m. in the Manse. Our March service project will be filling Easter eggs for the church Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring a bag or two of small items (about 20 items per person if possible) such as Easter erasers, mini rubber rabbits, bubbles, Easter designed ink stamps, rub on tattoos, feely balls, jumping rabbits, or flavored chap stick. Please bring individually wrapped candies such as Jolly Ranchers, Starburst, Skittles, or mini wrapped jelly beans. Please avoid chocolate which melts. We will have a "green meal" so bring your favorite dish that has something green in it to share. Dianne will call you to coordinate a meal. Green tea and lemon lime beverage will be provided.

Presbyterian Women -
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The Church Women United of Pulaski will be hosting a special worship service to honor the *World Day of Prayer* on Friday, March 2nd, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. The theme for the service is: "All God's Creation is Very Good!" It will encourage us to evaluate how our actions affect the planet - one of our Lord's greatest creations.

COMMUNION will be served on Sunday, March 4th.

ON SUNDAY, March 4th, we will have a special service celebrating the gifts of women during our regular worship hour. Please come and join us.

YOUTH GROUP will meet on Sunday, March 4th, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Manse for dinner, discussion, and fellowship! We will also be cooking for Wonderful Wednesdays on Wednesday, March 7th. If you can lend a hand, join us in the kitchen at 4 p.m.!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 11th. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

EASTER LILIES: We will begin taking orders for lilies to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter in March. Please use the order form that will be in the bulletins.

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS to the church office for the April newsletter no later than Monday, March 19th.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 1st. The offering funds three programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA): Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



FREE INCOME TAX Preparation Service is available at Community Action next door to this church. It is for people who have an annual income of \$54,000 or less. Please call 980-5525 to make an appointment with Gil Vice.

THE LITERACY VOLUNTEERS of the New River Valley (provider of free literacy and English-language tutoring to area adults) is holding its 12th Annual Scrabble Tournament fundraiser on Thursday, April 12th, 2018, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Mall. Teams of 3 will play two games of Scrabble against two different teams with the scores from both games added together to determine the winner. The event will kick off with appetizers at 5:30 p.m.; the first game will be at 6:15 p.m. followed by a short break and a second game. You can sign up as a team of 3 (\$100) or as an individual who will be matched to a team (\$35). Please join us or spread the word. Contact Lisa Quesenberry at 540-382-7262 or lquesenberry@lvrnv.org to sign up or if you have any additional questions. Thank you in advance for your support of our programs!



CHECK IT OUT!



Our Lenten journey continues through the month of March. The month ends with Holy Week beginning with Palm/Passion Sunday on the 25th and ends with the Great Vigil of Easter on the 31st. Below is a list of resources in the church library that may help make this journey more meaningful. They will be on display in the church parlor through March. Check them out!

200 GWY Christ's Word to This Age by J. Harold Gwynne

226.09 VIO The Day I Met Jesus: The revealing diaries of five women from the Gospels by Frank Viola
You will go on a fascinating journey back in time as the authors retell the dramatic accounts of five women who met Jesus.

232 BEL 10 Things They Never Told Me About Jesus by John L. Bell - The author explores facets of the personal life, relationships and ministry of Jesus that are seldom the stuff of preaching or conversations, but which are all rooted in the Gospels.

232 MCK The Story of Christ by Scot McKnight - This compelling and fully Biblical introduction is for all who are curious to know more about the life and message of Jesus.

232.9 PAP Life of Christ by Giovanni Papini

232.9 STE The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ by James S. Stewart

232.97 MAR The First Easter by Peter Marshall

234 RIP The Insanity of God: A True Story of Faith Resurrected by Nik Ripken - Not only was Jesus persecuted, so are His followers to this day around the world. This is a heart-breaking, faith-stretching, insider's look at what it means to pick up your cross and follow Jesus.

DVD FIC SHA The Shack - Based on the best-selling novel, *The Shack* takes us on a father's transformative spiritual journey after a family tragedy.

DVD ONE The One Lamb - Jackson Price has everything a man could want until he makes a tragic mistake...and loses it all. Every life has a price. Yours has already been paid...in full.

DVD 232.9 RIS Risen - Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, Lucius (Tom Felton), are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus (Cliff Curtis), in the weeks following the crucifixion.

CH 398.2 TAL Tale of three trees - An enchanting American folktale about three trees whose wishes come true in a surprising way.

FIC DOU The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas

FIC SHE In His Steps by Charles M. Sheldon

FIC VEN Man from Cyrene by Frans Venter

YA 232.9 HE He Lived Among Us - Story of Jesus told in graphic novel form along with scriptures.

If there is a book you would like to read from our church library but are unable to get it, give Phyllis Vice a call (980-3106) and she will be happy to get the book to you. To check out a book write your name and the date you are taking the book on the card that is in the pocket in the back of the book. Place the card on the black and white spotted box (the card catalog) on the shelf nearest to the windows.

Holy Week Services

March 25 – April 1



March 25: Palm Sunday

- Neighborhood parade of palms. Meet at the Pulaski Train Station at 9:45 AM.
- Worship at 11:00 in the sanctuary

March 29: Maundy Thursday

- Worship with Communion at 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

March 30: Good Friday

- Community Prayer Service – Noon, First Presbyterian Sanctuary (hosted by the Pulaski Ministerial Association)

March 31: Holy Saturday

- Children's Egg Hunt and Activities, 10:00 AM – Noon in the Fellowship Hall.

April 1: Easter Sunday

- Potluck Breakfast at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- Worship with Communion at 11:00 in the Sanctuary

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

We start off with a family dinner every Wednesday night! Following dinner, there are activities for all ages.

Plan to make Wednesday church nights a part of your regular routine! It is a special time of learning and growing together as a church family. The suggested "offering" for dinner is \$4/person or \$15/family. This is anonymous, and give-as-you-can. Everyone is welcome regardless of your ability to give.

Thank you to those who are serving in March:

| Date | Cooking Team | Clean-Up Team | Program |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| March 7 | Youth Group | Joe, Michelle, Mary Catherine | Lenten Worship (all ages) |
| March 14 | Bella's Pizzeria | Larry, Phyllis, Bernice | Lenten Worship (all ages) |
| March 21 | Bruce & Dave | Ernie, Barbara, Ashley | Lenten Worship (all ages) |
| March 28* | N/A | N/A | OFF – HOLY WEEK |

*We will not meet on March 28. Instead, plan to join us for Maundy Thursday worship at 7 PM on Thursday, March 29 in the sanctuary.

In case of Inclement Weather:

We typically follow the decision of Pulaski County Public Schools – if they close for inclement weather, Wonderful Wednesdays does not meet.

Any cancellations of services or programs at First Presbyterian Church (for Wednesday evening or Sunday morning) will be announced in three ways:

1. **TV stations** (WLSL and WDBJ)
2. **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/FPCPulaski)
3. **Text message alerts.** To sign up for these messages, text @melissamk to the following number: 81010. You can also email Melissa and ask to be added to the list (melissa.mcnair@yahoo.com).



The Write Words

Some of you know me and some do not. I raised two of my children in this church and it's Logos Program, I love this church. I was also married and baptized in this church. I'd like you to know that I wrote a book and had it published in 2014: The Write Words...Journals by Connie McMillan. I've given a copy of it to Melissa for First Presbyterian's library, in memory of and to the outreach fruit of my son Chris Stevens. Chris loved the outreach from this church.

With Chasity's help, I now have a blog for my book so I can continue to write for God's work in me. I write to help others who may have the same needs or hurts or blessings, and in hopeful support and sharing. I need to write. My wish is you will look up the blog at: thewritewordsjournal.com. There are also pictures I've taken of my visual blessings from God. I hope you share it. I've included excerpts from the actual book as well.

As you read the entries I put on the blog, I pray it moves you to read my book also, then pass the word along. In hopes this may be a way of outreach – to share and reach others in hopes to help in some way.

In humble appreciation and in God's love,

Connie McMillan

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Finance Committee of First Presbyterian Church. First and foremost, our committee recognizes that all that we have is a blessing from God, and that nothing that we have is truly ours. Everything that we possess belongs to Him.

Having said that, I want to tell you that when I pledge to this church each year, I do so for purely selfish reasons. I pledge because I want First Presbyterian to exist and to thrive because if it didn't, there are so many things that I would miss!

I would miss having that chunk of time on a Sunday that I can spend listening to God's Word and reflecting on the sermons of our full time minister, Melissa McNair King. How blessed our congregation is to have her! I would miss being in a place where I feel accepted and loved. I would miss the community of friends and neighbors that I have developed through this church, some of whom I see not only on Sunday mornings, but also on Wednesdays as we share a family-style meal, Bible study, and children's activities. I would miss the music and the choir. I would miss the beauty and majesty of our Sanctuary where many of our loved ones have worshipped over the generations. I would miss the tiny voices of the children as they pray with Melissa after the Children's Sermon each Sunday and we all sing "Jesus Loves Me." I am truly a selfish person!

I am sure that each of you has your own list of things, events, and people that you would miss if First Presbyterian could no longer exist.

Many churches, including ours, are struggling because we have large facilities and fewer members than we did twenty years ago. We have financial commitments to our Pastor, our part time staff, and the valued ministries of our church. It was heartbreaking for the Finance Committee to reduce our giving to the missions of our church in our community by over 63% in an attempt to help to reduce our 2018 budget shortfall. We are a church whose members have always been philanthropic and instrumental in starting community outreach programs such as the Pulaski Free Clinic, Daily Bread, and the Pulaski Emergency Needs Task Force, to name a few. That is who we are!

Right now we need your help. In the last few years we've been unable to fully meet our budgeted expenses. In order for us to retain a full time minister, we need to be willing to increase our giving. The Finance Committee is asking each family to consider giving an additional \$5.00-\$10.00 each week. This can be done by increasing your pledge, beginning to pledge, adding a little more to the offering plate each week, or giving a one time special offering.

Please, make no mistake, we are truly an inspired community of faithful followers of Christ. We live beyond ourselves by sharing the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, and peace—as we worship, learn, and serve God together. It overflows as we nurture the young, feed the hungry, and bind up the sick and the broken-hearted in our church. That is, after all, what a family does. Now is the time to say, this is my church family. This is where we receive spiritual nourishment to live beyond the voice of culture to live a life of "freedom in our faith".

In closing, I wish to be clear that this letter is not a request for anyone to give what they do not have. We each have very different circumstances and events in life that impact our giving. However, if you believe in the Kingdom work that First Presbyterian Church is doing, and if you are able to shoulder even a very small part of the financial burden of that work, I ask that you share your resources.

In His service,
Carla Hallstead, Finance Committee Member



DATE:

LAY READERS:

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

3/4/18

Aubrey Vaughan

Debi Fox

3/11/18

Phyllis Vice

Ashley Hale

3/18/18

Ernie Wallace

Kathy Hale

3/25/18

Madison Williams

Lynn King