

First Presbyterian News

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Dear First Folks,

This newsletter contains many new thoughts about the vital ministry God does here through each one of us. Operation GROW covers everything from prayer to church attendance, the basic ingredients of where we begin to do the other ministries. As we approach, celebrate, and live the Easter miracle, let us be glad that God has made us a light on a hill. Be inspired to love, forgive, heal, and give to those in physical or spiritual need. Truly God in Christ has risen, and he lifts everything we do as Christians closer to heaven each day!

In Him,

-Russell



April 1 - Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Sermon: "They Looked Up"

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Mark 16:1-8

April 8 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "My Lord and My God!"

Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31

April 15 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "You Are Witnesses"

Scriptures: Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48

April 22 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "I"

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40; Col. 1:24-29

April 29 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Believe"

Scriptures: Isaiah 43: 10-19; 1 Thess. 2:9-13

May 6 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "In God"

Scriptures: Psalm 84:1-12; Acts 17:22-31

May 13 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "The Father Almighty"

Scriptures: Revelations 1:3-8; II Cor. 6:11-18

Apostles' Creed Sermon Series

Beginning in April, Dr. Lee will be preaching a series of sermons on the historic Apostle's Creed, as we examine just what we do believe about our faith. According to J.I. Packer, "the Apostles' Creed is the oldest, most beautiful succinct summary of Christian beliefs. Though often recited in unison during worship services, the creed begins with the phrase "I believe," making it a deeply personal profession of faith. But when was the last time you examined it closely?"



Patrick Cherry—Christ the Word Church

(A Presbyterian Ministry)

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Palm Sunday Devotional (Holy Week Day 1)

On Palm Sunday we often hear about, and even reenact, Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, having cloaks and palm branches waved and laid down by the gathered crowds shouting “Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”. These ancient Jewish traditions is the perfect telling of who Jesus is and what he means to us.

2 Kings 9:13—The parade Jesus is given is the parade given to conquering kings. (See for an example) Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords and as

Christians it means we recognize him as that and live differently from those that do not have songs and liturgies, “hosanna!”, which means, “God save us!” This cry comes from Psalm 118 and was part of Passover celebration. In this cry we are recognizing Jesus as the final Passover sacrifice and cry once more, “God save us!”

Abide with Jesus (Holy Week Day 2)

If you read the events of Holy Week chronologically from the gospels on Monday Jesus cleanses the temple and calls out the money changers and those that allow the temple to be misused (see Matt 21:12-17, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19: 45-48). In our devotion today we hear a more personal telling-off from Jesus. How many of us can sympathize with Judas? We just want to be good stewards. Jesus reminds Judas that it is not about the cost or the splash the money from the oil could have made in the community, instead Jesus reminds Judas and all those witnessing (including us) the event, that it’s about the focus Mary’s focus was on praise, honor and worship of her teacher, of the Lord, of Jesus.

~Patrick Cherry



Easter 2018

And so it was finished, the battle was won,
The price had been paid, Then God’s will was done.
When Jesus, our Saviour so dear Hung on a Cross,
where a crowd loudly jeered.

Beaten and scourged, and then left to die,
A grief stricken mother beheld Him on high,
As he offered forgiveness, in sadness and pain,
He knew at last breath, it would not be in vain.

I ponder so deeply my role on that day,
A sinner I am, a price I should pay.
Who was the guilty, who crucified,
In a heartbroken moment, I knew it was I.

But death came to life, the Lamb did arise
Bringing Hope and salvation, an undeserved prize.
The joy that is mine, my Saviour does live
He walks with me daily, My sins he forgives.

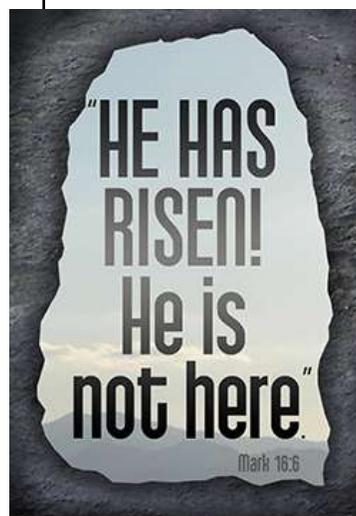
So I go to the Cross and then bend the knee
And thank Him through tears
For His love shown to me.
With Jesus holding my hand
In his own,
I rest in assurance, I’ll find my way home.

Amen

Pattie Perdue Grubbs

Resurrection Gardens-

If you have a picture of your resurrection garden that you would like to share, please send it in to the office so we can share it with others.





Bible Study for Women

Attention Ladies!! We have a few weeks left for our current focus on the book *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer. Our final class will be April 19th. Come join in our discussions, even if you haven't been to others. We can all fall prey to depression, anger, low self-esteem, condemnation and a multitude of other negative mindsets. We learn how to more effectively set our minds on God and find peace and freedom from these destructive behaviors. Come join us for this great class and time of fellowship. We meet each Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

The Ladies' Circle We will meet on Tuesday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the Philathea Room. Our study this year is taken from the book *Attitude is Your Paintbrush. It colors every situation* by James W. Moore. Our topic for this class will be: "The Attitude of Perseverance, Never Give Up". Ginny Troy will lead this chapter discussion.

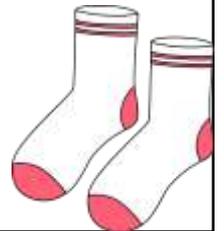
We invite all ladies to come and join us in learning and fellowship.



Sunrise Service -The Main Street Easter Sunrise Service will happen at 7 am on Easter in the prayer garden of the Main Street United Methodist Church. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this blessed time at the beginning of Resurrection Day.

Dr. Lee will be preaching at the Sunrise Service.

Good Samaritan – During the month of April we will have a special collection for Good Samaritan. This collection will be socks. Socks for men, women, children, of all types will be collected. Donations can be taken directly to Good Samaritan, or brought to the office. Sam Lewis is building a "Good Sam" box, which will be placed in the lobby for "Good Sam" donations.



Operation G.R.O.W- Worship At First Presbyterian

As we enter this new phase of ministry God Reveals Outstanding World, we will focus on the various ministries God has called us to as the church. The first phase is church attendance.

You may not realize that your attendance in church is good for both you and others in the room. God works through us all as we interact in worship. It is a jumping off place for contact, fellowship, and the world we do to save the world.

If a person comes to visit and there are a small number of people in the room, they will say, "I don't want to be here, because I don't see the vitality that I need as I look around." So they move on.

If there is a room full of people when a person visits, they will see you, you will get to see them, and God works His grace there. Never assume that worship attendance is optional, or that it is only for you. The CHURCH without U is always incomplete.

Look at worship as a way to grow and give, not as a time to analyze and correct. We get out of worship what we bring to it. Pledge to attend worship on a regular basis, and bring a friend "AOAP". God wants a willing, open, and giving heart in all of us. Are we there yet? No. But we are on the way!

We work to make sure that every single worship experience is one of quality and a sure venue for God's inspiration to each one present. So as we worship, look for additions, deletions, and honoring time-held traditions of faith in worship.

Finally, realize that the reason you have faith is to share it. One of the easiest and most vital signs of Christian faith is the regular sharing of it with others. The easiest and most effective way to share/grow is to invite/bring others to church, and be there yourself when they come to welcome them.

Operation G.R.O.W. is lighting the lamp, and doing things that amaze others in the name of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be blessed as you grow in the various aspects of worship and ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.



As we celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ, I can't help but think of all He has done for me. He went through so many trials, struggles, humiliation, pains and suffering, just for me! What a humbling thought! Like the Song "I Stand All Amazed" states *I tremble to know that for me he was crucified, That for me, a sinner, he suffered, he bled and died.*" My trials though seemingly great to me, pale in comparison to the great sufferings Christ went through on my behalf. I know that my trials are meant to make me a stronger, more

spiritual person; helping me to draw closer to my Father in Heaven and cleave to my exemplar, Jesus Christ.

Any who know me and see me driving around may know that my license plate is personalized. It reads RDIMNDF. (Take the R&F off and you get DIMND or Diamond add the R&F back for RuFf and you get Diamond in the rough.) This is what I strive to remember. I am a diamond in the rough. Diamonds are only made perfected and beautiful by the pressures and intense heat they go through. Steel is forged into beautiful and useful tools through the intense fires and I too, become a more perfected person, through the pressures, hammering, and fires of life.

I found a quote by George Q. Cannon that states it better than I can. "No matter how serious the trial, how deep the distress, how great the affliction, [God] will never desert us. He never has, and He never will. He cannot do it. It is not His character. He is an unchangeable being; the same yesterday, the same today, and He will be the same throughout the eternal ages to come. We have found that God. We have made Him our friend, by obeying His Gospel; and He will stand by us. We may pass through the fiery furnace; we may pass through deep waters; but we shall not be consumed nor overwhelmed. We shall emerge from all these trials and difficulties the better and purer for them, if we only trust in our God and keep His commandments".

We all are God's gems. We are more precious in His sight than gold. Peter said "The Trial of your faith being more precious than gold that perished, though it be tried with fire, might be found to praise and honour and glory...Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

As Christ set the example for me, it is my desire to become more like Him and follow deliberately. And say during my trials, as He said "remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). For this too shall pass, and shall seem as a short season and shall "give thee experience and shall be for thy good". It is my wish to be able to endure and see this promise.



~ Sherolyn

Save A Life Tour April 28-29



Various Churches are sponsoring a vital outreach ministry called Save a Life Tour. Going to one of the most crime-ridden and needy areas of the community, Grove Park, this outreach effort will happen on Saturday and Sunday April 28-29 from 1-5 Pm. During this time there will be Christian bands performing, sharing of testimony and a call to faith, free clothing, water, and hotdogs made available to those present. If you would like to contribute or help in any way, please contact the office for details. They need good used clothing, money, help for setup and takedown of tents and tables, and hands on people to help in praying for and with people. We are

helping with this ministry in the various ways we can. Be in prayer for God's work here. There is a video link to a previous year's event at <https://youtu.be/bCGv2LZCOTU>.

National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 3 at Halifax County High School. Starting at 6:30 pm. Featuring - Country Singer and Speaker—Jimmy Fortune— one of the original Statler Brothers. Come Pray for America at this special event!



April 16

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting

Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Women's Bible Study Thursday at 10:30am

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm



April 2018



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>April 1—Easter</p> 	<p>2 Office Closed</p> <p>12 pm NA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 Ladies Circle</p> <p>12 Noon NA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12 Noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30 am— Women's Bible Study 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NA—Women's Group 12-1</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12 noon NA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12 Noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30 am— Women's Bible Study 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>NA—Women's Group 12-1</p> <p>GS Troop 796 meets 2-4</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12 noon NA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12 Noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30 am— Women's Bible Study 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>NA—Women's Group 12—1</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12 noon NA</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>NA—Women's Group 12—1</p>
<p>29 5 cents a meal</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA</p>	 <p>10:30 Ladies Circle 12 noon NA</p>	<p>May 2</p> <p>12 Noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>May 3</p> <p>12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>May 4</p>  <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 Halifax NDP gather at HCHS 6 pm NA</p>	<p>May 5</p> <p>NA—Women's Group 12—1</p>

1 Beth Bush

2 Del Pool

4 Sunny Watkins

6 Will Dillard

6 Kim Albert

7 Joseph Roberts

8 Patricia Seat

10 Liza Farley

11 Carter Henderson

13 Mark Foster

13 Grace Elizabeth Adams

16 Frances Harrell



If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

Life Is a Gift



16 Buck Wilkins*

23 Jessica Lumsden Thompson

24 Matthew Fraser Freshour

25 Kaitlin Marvin Buchanan

25 Kirsten Marvin

25 Brian Raney

28 Beth Saunders

29 Daniel Roller

30 Debbie Roller

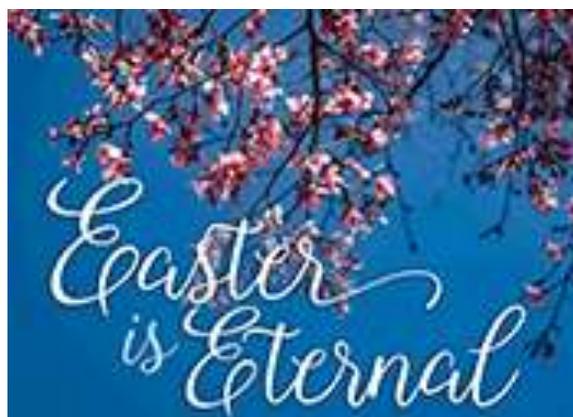
30 Mark Thackston



March Session Report

At our last session meetings, among other things, we:

- 1- Approved financials and minutes
- 2- Discussed security concerns.
- 3- Heard information about Save a Life Tour.
- 4- Adopted Operation G.R.O.W.
- 5- Shared goals coming out of officers' retreat.
- 6- Transferred Tommy and Susan Wilkinson's membership to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.
- 7- Heard updates on memorial garden project.
- 8- Heard updates on Stephen Ministry.
- 9- Made plans for updating and maintenance of church website.
- 10- Heard plans for missions conference with our missionaries.
- 11- Approved new lawn contract.
- 12- Prepared for and served Holy Communion.



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Here is your April 2018 Newsletter