

First Presbyterian News

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M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
434-572-3581

First Pres. Family,

Isaiah 43: 18-21

¹⁸ "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

²⁰ The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water
in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my
chosen, ²¹ the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.



God is constantly doing a new thing in our world. Sometimes it is obvious, but often we do not perceive it. Isaiah 43 was a word of hope to the people of Israel held in Babylonian exile. God expressed intention to bring them home so that they may proclaim God's praise. As we celebrate Easter 2021, we also anticipate that God is doing a new thing in our congregation and the world.

In many ways our church has been held in exile during the past year by the COVID19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, we have been scattered to our homes. We have been blessed to be able to have limited in-person worship services and have even managed to have limited Sunday School classes. Many of you have been participating online. Still, we miss seeing many of our friends and the many fellowship meals and activities that help to bind us together in Christ.

The percentage of our members who have been vaccinated is growing. There is hope today that as more and more people are vaccinated that we will be able to resume some of those activities we love. God releases the captives so that they may proclaim God's praise. We pray that indeed God is going to do a new thing in our midst during the coming months so that more of us may gather to proclaim God's praise. But will everyone return?

Several people have expressed concerns about what the church will look like when the COVID19 threat is diminished, they fear that many of the members who have not been coming to church because of the pandemic will not return and the church will be diminished as well. It is indeed easy to get out of the habit of coming to Church on Sunday morning. However, I have talked to many people who have been unable to attend, and they are very motivated to return as soon as the threat of illness is sufficiently diminished.

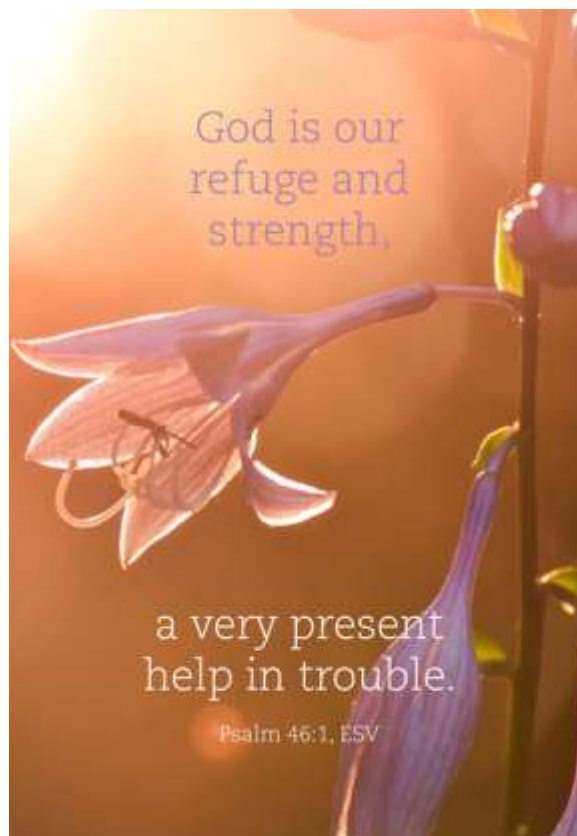


This pandemic struck at a difficult time for First Presbyterian Church of South Boston. The Church was already in a state of transition with the retirement of long-time pastor Russell Lee, then with the pandemic restrictions the church was unable to gather for in-person worship for months. The pandemic restrictions placed the church in a second transition. Transitions are temporary phases when we move from a past reality to a new reality. This could be an anxious time, but as we watch the hand of God at work doing a new thing our faith is deepened. We are comforted as God's love fills us with anticipation of the new thing God will create in our community.

~ Rev. Glenn Coleman, Interim Pastor

Easter 2021

A gift from our Savior whose blood set us free
 His suffering and agony, sadness for me.
 For we were the guilty, steeped within sin
 His death, Resurrection, victory He did win.
 Unworthy and broken we
 come to the Cross
 Remembering the sacrifice, anguishing loss.
 We gaze at His countenance, still filled with
 Grace
 We know we are forgiven, tears bathe our face.
 We cannot repay Him,
 His love gift is free,
 To accept Him as Savior is
 solace for me.
 So thank Him, give praise,
 Forgiveness is given,
 And on bended knee
 Thank God in His Heaven.
 Amen
 ~ By Pattie Grubbs



Rev. Glenn will be hosting some Facebook Live events for Holy Week. Watch for them especially on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/firstpressobo> to join our First Presbyterian FB page. The FB live events will be available for several days after they are posted. Enjoy the additional opportunities for spiritual moments by adding these posts to your day.



April 4 - Easter Sunday

Sermon Title: "Easter Identity"

Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9; Mark 16:1-8

April 11 - Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "In Our Midst"

Scriptures: Psalm 133; John 20:19-31

April 18 - Third Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "The Resurrection Body"

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

April 25 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "In Jesus' Name"

Scriptures: Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12

May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "Abiding in Him"

Scriptures: Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8



Ladies Circle meets again on Tuesday, April 6 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. Jim Luedtke will be our guest speaker. Come join us in fellowship.

Flower Calendar - The flower calendar is up for the 2021 year. Call or visit the church office door to request your favorite dates for providing flowers in the Sanctuary. Very few days have been reserved. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, special dates... all are wonderful reasons to beautify the sanctuary. Dates do not have to be on or close, they can look back at dates and recognize a special occasion that may have been missed.



Easter Holidays - As a reminder, the Church Office will be closed for Easter Monday. Celebrate the season, and remember if you need anything from the church office, we will see/talk to you Tuesday or later in the week.



Prayer List - Continued prayers for Freddie Collins, Donnell Corelle, Brenda and Larry McPeters, Richard and Judy Stotlar. New prayer lists include: Kim Albert, who ended up back in the hospital early in the month from a set back, she is home and doing better each day. Truitt family - Dr's. Terry and Tessie Truitt, and Dr. Tommy and Lita Truitt lost a brother, Butch Truitt to a sudden death.

Brittany Hazelwood tested positive for COVID and had minor symptoms related to the illness. She is doing much better. Her dance team, "We Got Rhythm" had 17 members test positive. Del Pool's mother was hospitalized with gall bladder issues and hoping to avoid surgery. Sam and Kay Lewis celebrated their 64th anniversary. Morgan Graves, a family friend of Chris Jones' passed away. Troy Johnson, Teresa McCullum's father needed to have surgery for his neck injury due to a fall. Carol Foster was dealing with BP issues due to med changes and side affects. Caroline Laughorne - having a relapse of illness. Her mother is also in need of prayers as she is dealing with Caroline's relapse, and also her mother, Nancy Hill has been very ill and having many difficulties. Doug Bowman, Meredith Burton's husband is ill due to an unknown condition. Dr's are trying to discover cause. Jack Horner, Sarah Helen Greenbacker's great nephew, and Ann Cabell Zimmerman's great grandson was diagnosed with Leukemia, he is only 4 years

Church Website - Please visit our website which is maintained by Don Cherry. The site is being updated consistently and is very informative. Pictures are changed frequently, sermons are posted. Find out the latest by visiting the site often. Go to 1stpres.cc.

Newsletters - Come see the church website at www.1stpres.cc/newsletters/ to see the monthly newsletters. Share this information with friends and family so they can enjoy and read the First Presbyterian happenings.



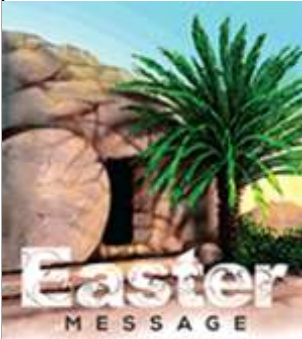
Middle and High School Retreat - There will be a Presbytery of the Peaks virtual retreat for Middle and High School students. This retreat will take place on Zoom from 10 am—12 noon on Saturday April 17th. Keynote speaker: Matthew Aldas. Music Leader: Cameron Moore.

Email sam@peakspresbytery.org for more information.



Christ is My Light

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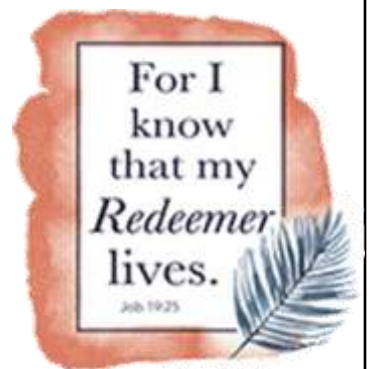
As we approach Easter, I cannot help but think about Christ and His sacrifice on my behalf and for all of us. As the pandemic has caused much commotion in the world, it seems that Christ is less and less in the conversations, and hearts of the people. People tend to be more fearful, hateful, and judgmental.

On the other hand, I personally have found more comfort and peace over the past year or two. In the scriptures we read "I am the way, the truth, and the life" John 14:6. He also has said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" John 8:12. I am ever grateful for my testimony of the divinity of Jesus Christ, for His life and example He set for me/us to know how to get through this life's struggles. He humbly pleads for us all to "Come unto [Him], all ye that ... are heavy laden, I will give you rest". What peace that brings my soul!

It is alarming to read studies that indicate the decline of Christianity over the past decades. One study reported that in the last 10 years, 30 million people in the U.S. have stepped away from believing in Jesus Christ, and the prediction is that twice as many will leave Christianity as embrace it. I know, and testify that Jesus is the Christ, He lives, He loves me and each one of us. He knows our trials and wants us to return to Him. But we must be diligent in faith and action.

I pray I will be more vocal and that my example will be more evident of my belief in Christ. I pray I will be a "light unto the world" and that all may recognize Christ in me. My desire is to follow the scripture that reads: "[I] talk of Christ, [I] rejoice in Christ, ... that [others] may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins." May my light shine, with the light of Christ and the joy and peace He brings.

May this Easter bring us all peace, joy and love one for another, as we celebrate Christ's triumphant victory over death. Let us bring Him into our lives on a daily, hourly, and minute by minute basis. He is the only way to the Father, and I personally am grateful for my testimony and knowledge of His divinity, and I know that He lives today, and watches over all. ~ Sherolyn



PNC Update - As I reported last month, we are in another "search cycle" with the Vanderbloemen Search Group. We hope to have some new candidates to review within the next month. To date we have received around 300 PIF's (resumes) from PCUSA and Vanderbloemen has screened nearly 3000 potential candidates. The COVID19 pandemic has also added further complexity to our search process. Through all of this, we continue to accept that God has already selected our next pastor and that He will reveal His choice to us in His time. We have to truly "wait on the Lord" even when we want the answer right now. We covet your continued prayers as we move forward with the work that you have entrusted to us.

Grace and peace,

Don Cherry

PNC Chairman





APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28—Palm Sunday 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	29 6:00 pm NA	30 12:00 PM NA	31 12:00 PM Lenten Lunches 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	April 1 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm—AA	April 2 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	April 3
4 - Easter 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	5 - Office Closed 6:00 pm NA	6 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle 12:00 PM NA	7 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	8 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	9 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	10
11 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	12 6:00 pm NA	13 12:00 PM NA	14 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	15 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	16 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	17
18 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	19 6:00 pm NA	20 12:00 PM NA 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Elders	21 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	22 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 - AA	23 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	24
25 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	26 6:00 pm NA <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i>	27 12:00 PM NA	28 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	29 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	30 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	May 1

- 1 Beth Bush
- 2 Del Pool
- 5 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
- 16 Buck Wilkins*



- 23 Jessica Lumsden Thompson
- 24 Jane Willis
- 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

* In Memory

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





Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

The Session met on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman updated the Session on congregational news.
2. The minutes of the February 16th Session and Diaconate meetings were read and approved as corrected by the Session.
3. Don Cherry and Rev. Coleman reported on the Virtual Presbytery Meeting held on March 4th.
4. The Session approved the purchase of a riding lawnmower. Avon (Church Sexton) will assume responsibility for lawn care.
5. We will continue to pursue the sale of the church bus and golf cart.
6. Brotherhood Mutual was approved as the church insurance carrier.
7. The Palm Sunday procession will take place on Sunday, March 28th and communion will be served on Easter Sunday, April 4th.
8. The Lenten Luncheon gatherings continue. A schedule of speakers has been posted.
9. A financial audit team conducted an audit of the church financial records. All was found to be in order. This fulfills the PCUSA requirement for an annual review.
10. The Shepherding Groups have been reorganized to incorporate the newly installed officers. Deacons were asked to contact the members of their assigned groups.



Upcoming :

Ladies Circle - Tuesday, April 6 at 10:30 am

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Deacons - Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00 pm.

Session - Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
South Boston, VA 24592