

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

In 1922 the poet T.S. Eliot wrote the poem entitled "The Wasteland" a poem exploring the malaise of civilization following World War 1. In that poem Eliot wrote: *"April is the cruelest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain. Winter kept us warm, covering Earth in forgetful snow, feeding a little life with dried tubers."*

Europe was recovering from the war that was to end all wars. Destruction and pain were still a reality for many people. Into that winter bleakness April brought hope, that Eliot believed would lead to disappointment. In Eliot's wasteland hope mocked the human heart; April was the cruelest month because it led us to believe that the future held new, positive, possibilities.



One hundred years later, April of 2022 seems to be trying to prove Eliot right. Once again Europe is on the verge of being consumed with death and destruction as Russia wages war on Ukraine. Sympathetic governments are weighing the possibility of entering the conflict on the side of Ukraine. Many see the conflict as a "proxy war" between Russia and the NATO allies. Though the alliance is doing everything it can to avoid direct involvement, they may be drawn into the conflict. It seems that evil has the upper hand and death and destruction on a massive scale will be the inevitable result.

But could this April be different? Does history have to repeat itself? Two thousand years ago it seemed that evil had the upper hand. The only sinless human being in history since Adam and Eve was falsely accused, convicted, and crucified. He died and was buried in a borrowed tomb. It seemed that evil had won. But three days after burial, he arose from the grave, a living breathing person. Son of God and Son of man, he was raised by the love of God and evil was defeated so that new life, (the kind of life promised by April) is a reality on the earth.



As we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death this month, pray for God's intervention in the Ukrainian war. Pray for an end to the death and destruction; that the world would learn from past mistakes and chart a new course of peace. May April's resurrection day bring hope and new life to this troubled world. ~ Glenn





Ladies' Circle – Our next meeting for the Ladies' Circle will be 2
 Tuesday, April 5 at 10:30 am - in the Philathea Room, Kim Albert will be our
 guest speaker. All women are invited to attend.

Palm Sunday Processional - our annual processional
 will take place again this year. We will be joining First Baptist, Main Street
 Methodist, St. Paschal Catholic at 10:00 am at the new renovated medical
 center on Main St. Processional will begin at 10:10 conclude about 10:30;
 the Deacons will then provide donuts before service.



Easter - Easter events will include a Sunrise Service where we will join
 Main St. Methodist's in the Prayer Garden at 6:30am. They are
 providing a pancake and sausage breakfast afterward.

Easter Service at 11:00 am will include beautiful music by our choir,
 then everyone is invited to go outside to Flower the Cross. Our annual
 event is enjoyed by member and neighbor alike. Bring flowers and
 greenery to help decorate and enjoy the opportunity to be outside and together flowering the
 cross.

Manse Fund- The Session has approved the collection of funds to help
 pay for the renovation and restoration of the Manse. There are monies
 that will not be paid by the insurance company, such as deductibles under
 our policy, and extra expenses incurred as a result of the fire, and it is
 these costs we are targeting with this fund. Once we know an estimate of
 costs, we will let you know the amount we will need, but funds can now be
 sent in and designated "Manse Fund" so we will be able to take care of
 these expenses. The Manse Fund will be a restricted fund only used for
 expenses caused by the fire and the restoration and maintenance of the
 Manse.



Lenten Luncheons - Lent is nearly over, but there are a few
 Lenten Lunches still to come.

We'd love to have more people come out and enjoy the remaining
 devotionals. We have had some wonderful devotionals, and all
 who have attended have been blessed. Here is a list of the last
 couple devotional schedules:

- April 6 - Pastor Dave Webb from South Boston Church of God
- April 13 - Rev. Glenn Coleman from First Presbyterian

Pack your lunch and plan to fellowship with us at noon and enjoy
 the spirit of the season as we receive a variety of devotionals from
 the community ministers.

National Day of Prayer - We are excited to again gather in prayer for our
 Nation and Virginia. Mark your calendars for Thursday May 5, come to the
 NDP celebration at HCHS Football Stadium. Event will begin at 6:30 pm.
 We are honored to have Jim "The Rookie" Morris as our guest speaker.
 His Cinderella story is a testimony to the power of dreams and their ability
 to inspire. His rise from school teacher to major league pitcher made his-
 tory and a wonderful movie "The Rookie". Come join us in prayer.



Prayer List - Luanna Daniel Jordan, Tricia Burton's daughter, recovering
 from her hospital stay and surgery, still has a long way to go to fully heal.
 Barbara Hazelwood, Terri Hazelwood's mother-in-law, received news that
 lung cancer metastasized to bones. Tammy Bates, Terri Hazelwood's
 friend, passed away from severe lung infection. Maelyn Fraser Freshour's
 friend, Journey Porter lost her brother, Zachary, in a car accident. Laurie
 Edwards Morris had a heart cath, good results but more tests needed.

Carol Foster still dealing with back pain; Bob Duncan is awaiting a kidney transplant; Sarah Helen
 Greenbacker's sister Ann Harber had heart surgery. Brian Thor; our Mission Team, Ukraine.



April 3 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sermon Title: "The Last Kindness"
Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

April 10 - Palm Sunday
Sermon Title: "The Valley of the Shadow"
Scriptures: Psalm 23; Luke 19:28-44

April 17 - Easter Sunday
Sermon Title: "His Victory is Our Victory"
Scriptures: 1 Cor. 15:12-26; Luke 24:1-12

April 24 - Second Sunday of Easter
Sermon Title: "Jesus With Us"
Scriptures: Psalm 150; John 20:19-31

May 1 - Third Sunday of Easter
Sermon Title: "Jesus on the Beach"
Scriptures: Psalm 30; John 21:1-19



The PNC Update - What is Lent? The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word "lengthen," which simply means "spring" — when the days lengthen and new life springs forth. It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. It is my prayer that as you journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, you would be reminded of the reality of our broken humanity, but as days grow brighter, you would experience with greater abundance the reality of God's redeeming grace.

It is easy to forget that this is also a time of preparation for the Jews. Passover is the holiest of times for the children of Israel. God gave Moses specific instructions for His people to follow on that solemn night when the angel of death visited Egypt.

"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it..." Exodus 12:7-8 (ESV)

The account of the Passover with which Israel begins its exit out of Egypt and slavery is in many ways the central story of the Old Testament. It is meant to speak profoundly to God's people. On the one hand, it is a reminder that unless God intervenes and covers us, we are in the same condition as everyone else: part of a rebel creation that stands under God's judgment and condemnation. That is always part of our identity as human beings and without it we cannot walk in humility either before God or others.

On the other hand, it is a reminder that the primary thing God wants from us is trust. He wants us to trust that he is merciful and that he cares for us. He wants us to trust that he desires to save and not condemn us. That is why he became incarnate in the person of Jesus. And he wants our lives to issue in the acts of obedience that manifest our trust in him — whether that is putting blood on our doorposts and eating the Passover meal as was the case for the Israelites or remembering Jesus' death which saved us when we celebrate the Lord's Supper and then living lives of forgiveness and generosity. Is your life being characterized by this kind of humility and trust?

Your PNC continues to search for our next pastor. Please keep us in your prayers.
Grace and peace,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman



For Love and Irony

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GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVETH
IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING
LIFE

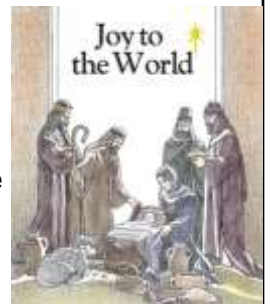
JOHN 3:16

As we approach Easter, I have been thinking about God's love for us.

In Hebrews 12:6 we read "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." Knowing this information should help us to look carefully and to the Lord in all our trials.

One of the most bitter forms of chastening may be through irony. It can challenge our faith and patience. I looked up the meaning of irony and found "An event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects." We can often feel and think "Why me?" or "Why would God allow such an event?" If we are not careful, irony can lead us to disappointment and bitterness. Sometimes life events seem so certain to be heading one direction, when suddenly they head in a totally different one; causing us to wonder "what happened?" Irony often involves unexpected and undeserved suffering. We can feel we deserve better but received worse.

Examples of irony – Dr's who have saved many patients, only to have a loved one die. An employee working hard, and all seems to line up for a promotion, but it is given to someone else. Someone working all their life to prepare for retirement, and once retirement comes, they suddenly pass on to the next life. During these times we can be disappointed and bitter. We have a great exemplar to turn to. No one has been more subject to irony than Christ Himself. He created the entire world, has promised that He is preparing a mansion for us, and yet, here on earth He had "no place to lay his head." "There was no room in the inn" and He lived in humble circumstances. He who loves all, was hated among men. His own people turned from Him. Then at the end, meek and lowly Jesus partook of the most bitter cup, without becoming bitter.



His life is meant to be an example for us. His life was paved with dramatic irony which assaulted His very divinity almost constantly. He paved the path for our journey here. He, who gave the commandment to keep the Sabbath Day, was accused of violating the holy day as he healed. I know I have thought to myself "No good deed goes unpunished." That statement is an example of irony. How often have we done something with the intent to help, just to have it turn and bite us? But those times should not keep us from doing good. In the very



act of saving the world all He heard was cries to release and rescue Barabbas. Though Christ was lifted up on a cross by man, He will lift us and help us through our difficult times. As we come to be more like Christ, He will help us to be more loving and patient. Prophets all through scripture told of His life, and how He would suffer all pains, afflictions, and temptations, ... that His bowels might be filled with mercy" for each of us. What love! Can we remain true even in times of false justice and accusations? As Easter approaches, I pray for better understanding and appreciation of His sacrifice for me! ~ *Sherolyn*

Why Good Friday


is Good -To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom.

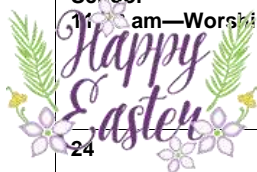


This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was "good." Good Friday. ~ Frederick Buechner - NewsletterNewsletter

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	28	29	30 12:00 PM Lenten Luncheon 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	31 8:00 pm - AA	April 1 12:00 PM AA	April 2
3 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	4	5 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle	6 12:00 PM Lenten Luncheon 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	7 8:00 pm - AA	8 12:00 PM AA	9
10 Palm Sunday 10:10 Processional 11:00 am Worship	11	12	13 12:00 PM Lenten Luncheon 6:00 pm—Choir	14 8:00 pm - AA	15 12:00 PM AA	16
17 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 6:30 am Sunrise Service 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	18 	19 6:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Elders	20 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	21 8:00 - AA	22 NewsLetter DEADLINE	23
24 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	25	26	27 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	28 8:00 pm - AA	29 12:00 PM AA	30



HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

April Birthdays

- 2 Del Pool
- 5 Sunny Watkins
- 6 Kim Albert
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 8 Patricia Seat
- 11 Carter Henderson
- 13 Mark Foster
- 16 Frances Harrell
- 16 Buck Wilkins*
- 23 Jessica Lumsden Thompson
- 24 Jane Willis
- 25 Kaitlin (Marvin) Buchanan
- 29 Daniel Roller
- 30 Debbie Roller
- 30 Mark Thackston



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

* In Memory

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

The Session met on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Rev. Coleman shared news of the congregation.
3. Officer Retreat was re-scheduled for Sunday, March 20th. Church Leadership Organizational structure will be worked on during the Officer retreat.
4. Joni Owens reported on the February 17th Presbytery Meeting
5. PNC Report – The committee continues in discussion with several candidates.
6. Lenten Luncheons are well attended and continue every Wednesday through April 13th.
7. Worship Committee - Next Communion – April 3rd and April 17th (Easter Sunday).
8. Work continues developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual.
9. Mike Rand gave an update on the manse fire and progress with the insurance company and contractor estimates. Rev. Coleman has moved into a one-bedroom apartment at Imperial Lofts.
10. In local missions Kim Albert reported: Souper Bowl of Caring updated results - \$356, 123 cans of soup and 23 other food donations.
11. Kim and Larry McPeters will be leaving for a mission trip being led by Beth Car Baptist Church to Kingsport, TN on Sunday, March 20th after the church service
12. Finance Committee – The financial reports were reviewed.
13. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Upcoming :

Ladies' Circle - Tuesday, April 5 at 10:30 am.

Lenten Luncheons - Each Wednesday at 12:00 - 12:45 thru April 13

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Deacons and Session - Tuesday, April 19 at 6pm & 7pm

Office Closed: Monday, April 18



First Presbyterian Church
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