

TIDINGS

church office hours Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm
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Towards the Ascension



By the time this goes to print, we will have journeyed along with Jesus Christ through all of Holy Week. From his triumphant yet humble arrival in Jerusalem, through his betrayal, denial, arrest, desertion, torture, crucifixion and finally - His Resurrection! We saw him break bread with his disciples and were reminded that every time we take part in the Lord's Supper, we do so in *Remembrance of Him*.

We were also given the command on Maundy Thursday to love one another *as he loves us*. (The word maundy comes from the Latin word "mandatum" which means "command." The actual command was "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).

This Maundy Thursday Commandment is not just to love the people we find lovable. Or to love people who are without sin (none of us is). Jesus teaches us to love even our enemies. Jesus teaches us to forgive and to tread where others fear to tread, sometimes especially where others fear to tread. To love as Jesus loves is to do so even when we find it otherwise impossible (which is why we need his help).

The story of Easter has an amazing sequel (or a continuation - Easter is a season, not just a day - encompassing the Ascension and continuing to Pentecost). Now, it's possible that the Apostle's Creed can throw a person off when it says, "On the third day he rose again from the dead and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty ..." because it sounds as though Jesus rises and heads straight to heaven. But he doesn't, does he?

Jesus spends time with his disciples after his resurrection, in fact he spends another forty days (some of which is spent convincing them he has, in fact, risen). And those forty days are something we can think about as we head towards the day of Ascension on May 9th (See Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11; see also Mark 16:19-20.)

Much like the disciples, some followers need convincing that Christ did indeed rise from the dead. Some of the disciples actually walked down the road (to Emmaus) with Jesus at their side and did not even recognize that it was him. (Clearly Jesus had a little fun with that, see Luke 24:13-35.). In this Easter season, we can focus on recognizing that Christ is always by our side, even when we might not know it.

For those of you who are fond of "The Chosen" series, there is a movie called, "Risen" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3231054/>) which is very much in the same vein. It is a movie about Jesus after his resurrection, as seen through the eyes of a Roman military Tribune, who believes in Roman Gods, not Jesus of Nazareth. But his life takes a turn, as evidenced by his line, "I have seen two things which cannot reconcile: A man dead without question, and that same man alive again. I pursue Him, the Nazarene, to ferret the truth."

Ours is to share that truth.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.
 (Ephesians 6: 14-15)

Identity Statement

We are a loving family of God, following Christ by practicing our legacy of worship, education, and mission to neighbors.



April Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 – Leesa Hovey | 15 – Marilyn Jenkins |
| 04 – Victor Jenkins | 19 – Chuck Hunter |
| 04 – Sandy Smith | 21 – Michael Soeder |
| 06 – Linda McMahon | 22 – Robin Sandwick |
| 11 – Candace Edwards | 24 – Margaret Sollish |
| 13 – Matt McGivney | 26 – Erin Gruppe |
| 14 – Rheta Jenks | 28 – Ralph Cowdery |

Add your or a loved one's birthday or anniversary date to our list by contacting the church office.

2024 Board of Deacons

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Shane Adams* | Bea Boak | Peg Brussel |
| Marge Calkins | Andrea Ducharme | Tom Eckrote |
| Heidi Henderson | Joanne Rodriguez | Nancy Runyans |
| Matha Stevens | Barb Winegard | |
| | <i>*Moderator</i> | |

NEWS FROM SESSION

Another Clean-Up Day has been scheduled by Buildings and Grounds for Saturday, April 13th with a **Rain Date** of Sunday, April 14th. Please come out and join in.

Parents, bring your children and please join us **Easter Sunday for an Easter Egg Hunt** immediately following worship. Please meet at the entrance to the CEC Building located behind the church for the egg hunt, and then some fun inside the CEC Building. There will be discussions of the Resurrection, gift bags and maybe a game or two in the gym. Wear safe shoes and bring a coat just in case.

Nursery Workers Needed. We'd like to start scheduling people to assist in the nursery. Paperwork is required for a background check that we submit for each worker. If interested, please talk with Liz Bayer in the church office. We require two adults each Sunday.

The Mission Committee is applying for a grant from the Presbytery to enhance our church garden. Caring and nurturing plants and vegetables that can serve the community and bring us together in service is one of the many goals of this community effort.

A focus on digital platforms and security software is planned for the near future. Lots of discussions and planning to come.

-Stephanie Stine, Clerk of Session

2024 Session Elders

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Tricia Adams | Harry Boak | Kathy Bowen |
| Andy Brussel | Mark Chamberlin | Matt Ducharme |
| Jamie Gruppe | Victor Jenkins | Matt McGivney |
| Doug Russell | Stephanie Stine* | |

**Clerk of Session*

April Anniversaries



- 10 – Dan & Jodi Sheehan – 53 years!
 27 – George & Margaret Sollish – 50 years!



We will be serving a meal at the Samaritan Center on April 14, 12:30-3:30. We can have lunch after church and leave here at noon. Your help is needed. Please volunteer. Please contact Kathy Bowen at Kathyharp1626@gmail.com or 315 283 1338.

Clean-Up Day!

The Annual Spring Grounds Clean-Up will be at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 13. Join the crew to get some fresh air and exercise. We will reward ourselves with pizza and chocolate chip cookies after! A rain date is scheduled for the next day, Sunday, April 14, after worship.

The April Calendar

Sundays

9:15 – Choir practice in the Choir Room
 10:00 – Worship in the Sanctuary

Mondays

6:30 - Bell practice in the Choir Room

Tues., April 2

12:30 p.m. – Book Club

Sunday, April 7

10:00 – Worship & Communion
 2:00 – Worship & Communion at Buckley Landing

Mon., April 8

10:30 – Worship & Music, Media Center

Tues., April 9

7:00 – Session, Media Center

Sat. April 13

9:00 – Clean-up Day

Sun. April 14

11:00 – Clean-up Day rain date, after Worship
 12:30 – Serve a meal at the Samaritan Center

Tues., April 16

7:00 – Deacons, Media Center

Sun. April 28

Baked Potato Luncheon after Worship

A Note of Thanks from the Floral Committee!

We wish to thank everyone who contributed a Spring plant for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday. Making the sanctuary beautiful is our mission.



A floral calendar is on the wall in the church kitchenette with many open dates for you to donate flowers for a special occasion, in memory of someone or because you like to see flowers in the sanctuary. Choose a date and please feel free to sign up or contact a member of the floral committee.

Thank you.

-Peg Brussel for the Floral Committee

Remember in Your Prayers & Correspondence,

♡ HEALTH CHALLENGES

Pat Dickman
 Carol Hovey
 Nancy Runyans
 Howard Rose
 Sandy Smith
 Anthonia Todd

♡ GRIEVING

- Sandy Rabe and family upon the loss of her father, Bill Strife
- Janice Jenner upon the loss of her husband, Allen Jenner

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Generally, names remain on the prayer list for one month. Please let the church office know if you wish otherwise.

April 7 – John 20:19-31

April 14 – Luke 24:36-48

April 21 – John 10:11-18

April 28 – John 15:1-8

The Link to the Revised Common Lectionary is
[https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2024/2/4/Presbyterian Mission Agency](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2024/2/4/Presbyterian%20Mission%20Agency)



Nursery School News!

Spring offers opportunities to watch and learn about the changes that occur around us as winter (hopefully) draws to a close. Learning about the world around them is very beneficial for children this age. Spring themed lessons include kites, wind and flowers. When learning about the wind, kids will have an opportunity to make predictions about what items will blow away and what items won't. The class will test out their hypotheses using a fan to see if they were right!

-Jessica Newcomb, Director, PNS

Community Dinner

185 Corned Beef dinners were served at our March Community Dinner. Approximately 2/3 were takeouts and deliveries, with 1/3 of the dinners enjoyed in our very green dining room. We didn't have quite as many people as expected, and the Samaritan Center was delighted to get the leftovers! Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the dinner possible. We had many compliments on the cakes, the lean corned beef, the fresh Harrison Bakery bread, and the vegetables cooked to perfection by Tom Rogers and Matt McGivney.

