

# FIRST PRESS

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2022  
First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.

# Easter

*A pastoral message* FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

It's hard to separate Easter from the beauty of Spring. We probably shouldn't try. That natural optimism that comes from warmer days, budding trees, and blooming flowers is nothing to take lightly. The great protestant reformer Martin Luther wrote long ago:

*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.*

When it's cold and rainy, or the world's pain is plain, holding to the promise of God's Easter is more of a challenge. I have always appreciated the Apostle Paul's clear eyed, almost un-sentimental faith in Easter. To those in his church who found the resurrection of the dead too much to swallow, he wrote:

*If there is no resurrection from the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith...If only for this*

*life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Cor. 15:13-14, 19)*

That is an unflinching explanation of the importance of Easter by a man who hammered out his faith on the anvil of a hard life. Easter was for Paul life triumphing over death, the Kingdom of God prevailing over the kingdoms of this world, and the down payment on God's promise that one day all will be well. Paul bet the farm on Easter.

## What is Easter for you?

I hope it is the bedrock of a tough-minded faith in God's promise of resurrection that holds not only on a beautiful Spring morning, but also on much harder days as we seek to live by faith. I hope it keeps you faithful to the way of Christ, following the light when it would be easier to believe in the darkness. Our faith is faith in a God who raises the dead and heals the world.

For you early risers our celebration of Easter will begin with a **Community Sunrise Service in Cross-Creek Park at 6:30 AM**. In the event of rain, the service will move to the First Presbyterian Chapel. Several of our downtown congregations will be involved in leading the service.

**Easter breakfast will be served for our congregation beginning at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall.** Sunday school will follow at 10 AM. We'll gather for a **service of celebration at 11 AM in our Sanctuary.** We'll have beautiful music featuring our Sanctuary Orchestra!

It will be a great day! I hope you will join us in person. If you can't, please remember to worship with us online at 11 AM.

**May Christ's resurrection sustain you today and always.**

Sincerely,

*Mike*

# Palm Sunday Easter Celebration

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship Service featuring Palm Passion Cantata in the Sanctuary

12 p.m. Celebration Meal in Fellowship Hall

Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow the meal

Please invite your friends and bring your Easter baskets!

To help us with planning, please register by Tuesday, April 5th.



Register  
online here

## PALM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

ADULT MEAL: Sliced Turkey with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans.

VEGAN/VEGETARIAN/GLUTEN-FREE: Entre Salad, Dressing on the side.

KIDS MEAL: Hot Dogs, Chips and Applesauce.

Donations will be accepted.

Children's Ministry is making Easter baskets to donate to the Children's Center at Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation to distribute to children in the Hospital around the Easter Holiday. Our goal is to make 5 baskets for the NICU and 15 baskets for children ages 3-18. **Please bring brand new items to the church by Wednesday, April 6th.**

### NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Newborn Socks / 0-3 Months size Socks

Onesies

Baby Blankets [30" x 30"]

Baby Wipes

\*Please note that any size clothing newborn size and larger is fine.

### PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND

### PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Blankets [40" x 60" for toddlers or larger]

Light up and musical toys

hair ties or hand bands

Socks [children & youth sizes]

Stuffed animals (small)

Books [appropriate for all ages,  
including middle & high school students]

Journals/ Coloring books & Crayons

Character action figures

Hotwheels

Legos/Duplo



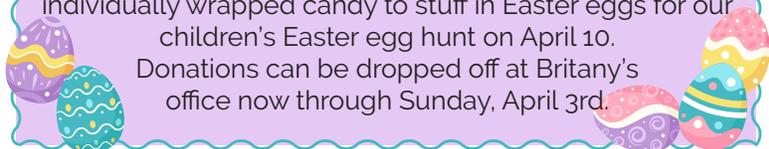
## "A Journey To Hope"

by Joseph Martin

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 11 a.m. worship

The Celebration Choir and the Youth are presenting a beautiful and moving Palm Passion Cantata on Sunday, April 10. Accompanied by a chamber orchestra including flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, piano, organ and percussion, the "Journey to Hope" is based on traditional spirituals. The Sunday will begin in a traditional manner, with the children processing in with palms and end with us sitting at the foot of the cross. You will not want to miss this amazing "Journey to Hope". Following the service, there will be a fellowship dinner for all and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

We're collecting donations of pre-stuffed eggs or individually wrapped candy to stuff in Easter eggs for our children's Easter egg hunt on April 10. Donations can be dropped off at Britany's office now through Sunday, April 3rd.

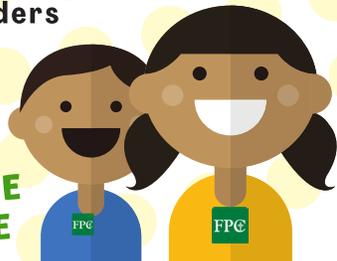


# CLUB 543

April 3rd, 12-1:30pm

Club 543 kids will be making Easter gifts and cards for homebound members in room 210

A First Presbyterian Church Children's Ministry program designed for 3rd-5th graders to promote discipleship, fellowship, and mission projects.



MEET US FOLLOWING THE 11 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

## FAMILY SKATE NIGHT!

Sunday, May 1, 5:30-7pm

Skating, Pizza & Family Fun

Round-A-Bout Skating Center  
880 Elm Street



## Scholarships for graduating Seniors

Contact Debra Chesnutt at

Debra@chestnutt.com or 910-818-8006

Deadline for Scholarship Applications is May 1

# s.a.l.t.

Seasoned Adults Learning Together



Monthly Fellowship  
Breakfast & Excursions

Fellowship breakfasts are on the first Tuesday of every month! Join SALT's next breakfast:

Tuesday, April 5, 8:30 a.m.  
at JK's Deli, 125 Owen Drive

Call Nancy Billman to RSVP and with any questions at (910) 916-5994.



## Monumental VBS At First Prez

June 13 — June 17, 2022

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Give kids an amazing new perspective! Go off-road at First Prez for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. Open to all children who have completed Pre-K (entering Kindergarten) through completed 5th grade.

Registration Deadline: May 31



## Dinner For Sixish

Dinner For Sixish is now gearing up for our second session that runs from April 1 to June 30. We recruited some new participants in the last session and would LOVE to add more new people! Bring your neighbor, your cousin, your aunt or uncle, they don't have to be First Prez members.

If you want to sign up or wonder what this is all about, Eller Hall desk has the bright yellow registration forms and a FAQ sheet. If you have any questions, please contact us: Lou Brooks (lobpt01@verizon.net), Ann McRae (arm\_3@yahoo.com) or Madeline Baker (madelinebakerg@gmail.com) or you can call Lou at 804-928-5057.

## A Look Ahead...

- Youth Sunday, May 1
- Fellowship Night Out at the Woodpeckers, May 13
- Graduate Sunday, May 22
- Presbyterian Women Award Recognition & Reception, May 15
- Volunteer Appreciation, May 15
- VBS, June 13-17, 2022
- Music Ministry Trip to Carnegie Hall, June 24-28  
Email marcia@firstprez.com for info.
- Mission Trip to Mexico, June 26 - July 3
- YouthWorks Mission Trip, July 10-15



Our Volunteers packaged 20,000 meals on Saturday, March 19th.

**Totaling 890,000 meals**



# FPC Mission Conference 2022

March 19-27

## 1 FLOCK SHEPHERD

**"I HAVE OTHER SHEEP THAT DO NOT BELONG TO THIS FOLD. I MUST BRING THEM ALSO, AND THEY WILL LISTEN TO MY VOICE. SO THERE WILL BE ONE FLOCK, ONE SHEPHERD."**



ABOVE: Sunday Evening Lecture Presentation.



LEFT: Guest Speaker George Pendergrass, Associate Director of Frontier Fellowship



RIGHT: Guest Speaker Pamela Pendergrass, Associate Director of Frontier Fellowship



LEFT: Sunday School Presentation with guest speaker from Better Health



BELOW: Sunday School update with guest speakers from Missions.





# Flowering of the Cross

The beautiful tradition continues at First Presbyterian! The flowering cross will be placed on the Sanctuary porch on Good Friday and will remain until Easter Monday. Bring your fresh flowers, and together we will transform the wooden cross into a beautiful, new and live celebration of the Resurrection of Christ!

Feel free to take photos at the cross and post on social media using the hashtag #Easteratfirstprez. Tag @1stprez on Facebook and @firstprezfay on Instagram. You can also email them to nichole@firstprez.com for possible inclusion in future publications.

## Holy Week Calendar of Events

### April 13th

6:45 p.m. Cross Creek Worship Service  
in the Chapel

### April 15th

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship  
Service in the Chapel

### April 17th

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service  
in Cross Creek Park  
9 a.m. Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall  
10 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary



## Easter Orchestra Worship

Sunday April 17, 2022 at 11 a.m.

The Easter Church Orchestra will be featured in worship on Sunday, April 17 at the 11 a.m. worship service. Playing beautiful arrangements of resurrection for Prelude and Postlude, the hymns will also be vibrant with the sounds of "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!"

The Celebration Choir will also sing the final selection from "A Journey to Hope" - "Great Day! The Lord Is Risen!"

### Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 17th at 9 a.m.

**Breakfast includes pancakes,  
sausage, eggs, and beverages.**



Please register by April 10th. The meal will be provided at no cost. Donations will be accepted. You are welcome to join without registering, however additional meals may not be available. Scan the QR code to register online.



*Come celebrate  
the Risen Lord on  
Easter Sunday with us!*

# A shared word from Pastoral Care

FROM REV. MITCH WATSON

We see it on TV and even at the gas pump. The Russian invasion of Ukraine with newsbreaks of changes by the minute shows the horrors of war, a world on edge. Sanctions have created a much-stressed economy and so are we. Coping is something we did with COVID. Now we have to deal with it again! Having a world return to an ongoing state of near world war that appeared to be at an end in 1989 with the end of the Cold War era.

How we deal with these historical times will vary as much as God uniquely made us. We can be mad, sad, depressed, angry, indifferent at what we see even though we live thousands of miles away from the conflict. So I'd like to offer general coping strategies to help. These come from Noel MacDermott, founder of Psych and Consult, and Dr. Samir Parikh, the director of Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences, and my own personal experiences

## 1. Manage what you watch

We live in a media-saturated world with world news at our fingertips. The Ukraine war is a topic of daily conversation. If a friend keeps on talking about it say "it is hard for me to take much more of this topic" right now.

## 2. Embrace the mundane

Even in the Ukraine war people are trying to do the same. Keep at the everyday tasks that are needed or do something simple but supportive of the effort. Go take a walk, go do your household chores, keep some of the routines.

## 3. See someone you love/hug a pet

Being able just to be embraced by talking with those you love most and the unconditional love a pet can give is a healthy thing to do. (Fluffy and Leah our cats have gotten spoiled)

## 4. Do not rationalize it away/Avoid seeking your worse fear

Avoiding a world in hurt is to avoid seeing the hurt in yourself. Learning to deal with it in a healthy way is spiritually maturing. Avoid mentally overreaching to fears which we need to understand so we can be functional and able to help others in need. I grew up in the Cold War era and coping with the idea of immediate world destruction was part of life.

## 5. Be transparent with children at their emotional and knowledge level

A great challenge I offer that one can fall back on, especially when talking to young children, is that war is one of the greatest failures for not loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

## 6. Make every opportunity to use this as a spiritual growing time not regressing

In these troubled times it seems easier to regress in our faith when this should be a time to draw near. I know by missionary friends that Ukraine is an evangelical Christian nation and people there are drawing closer to their faith. We should also seek Christ's strength and wisdom.

In closing, I strongly encourage that we should not avoid knowing we are living in a world that is hurting' As Christians,

we are called to be a light in this world! It is ok to be fearful but not afraid! It is a darker time. Remember this passage from John 14:27

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

God Bless, Pastor Mitch  
Director of Pastoral Care

Join

## PATHFINDERS

Pathfinders is a fellowship group for active adults to gather for monthly excursions and short adventures. Together, the Pathfinders will explore God's natural and historical world that abounds right here in our local area. FRIDAY, April 29, 2022 We will meet in the morning to walk our own Cape Fear River Trail. More details to come! Contact Andrea Horosko at [ahorosko@aol.com](mailto:ahorosko@aol.com) with any questions and to RSVP.

Do you enjoy the "Today" devotionals we pick up from church? This one from Monday, March 7th, "Keeping Up Hope In The Long Storm" spoke to many as our Stephen Ministry group is currently studying hope, with a recent speaker and a book study. Based on Acts 27, the devotional connects our pandemic struggles with Paul's storm while a prisoner on a ship. The storm lasted several weeks, and those aboard had given up hope. It ended in a shipwreck and a safe landing, adding a prayer asking God to show us the hope that is found in Him.

Stephen Ministers are here for our members and community to partner with adults facing struggles, doubts, losses of many kinds, and life situations that appear hopeless. A trained, caring Stephen Minister can walk alongside you in a confidential relationship as you weather your storm. To inquire about our ministry, contact Dr. Mike Garrett, Pastor Mitch Watson, or the church office.



We invite you to join us for  
a fellowship cook out before  
Cross Creek Worship Service on  
April 6th, 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

brought to you by David's Mighty Men

**Invite your friends!**

Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chili, Baked Beans, Chips and Ice Cream



David's Mighty Men have a meeting  
scheduled for Monday, April 25th, at 6 p.m.  
in the Activity Room.

# April Birthdays

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Caroline Horosko    | 17 Tina Baker            |
| 2 Victoria Seufert    | 17 Ethan Hunter          |
| 3 Jim Soffe           | 17 Teagen Hurley         |
| 3 Sylvia Bisbee       | 17 Graham McLaughlin     |
| 4 Jennifer Fincher    | 18 Stewart Butler, III   |
| 5 Maggie Hill         | 18 Anne Smith            |
| 6 Graylee Viverette   | 18 Carly Canady          |
| 7 Karen Noland        | 19 Delores Breswitz      |
| 7 Rachel Dixon        | 20 Labinda Bryan         |
| 7 Aidan Baileys       | 20 Kellie Perkins        |
| 8 Leighton Blue, Jr.  | 20 Jean Pridgen          |
| 8 Maggie McFadyen     | 20 Nancy Billman         |
| 9 Mary Lu Enright     | 20 Mark Strong           |
| 9 Bengie Hair         | 21 Anna Bullock          |
| 9 Ronald Allen, Jr.   | 22 Will Clarke           |
| 9 Alice Ann Campbell  | 22 Madeline Baker        |
| 10 Jeb Cleveland      | 23 Matt Howle            |
| 11 Dick Gill          | 23 Kenan Stiehl          |
| 12 Marcia MacKethan   | 24 Theodore Atkinson     |
| 12 Wil Godwin         | 25 Stacy Grooms, Sr.     |
| 12 Kelly Sherrill     | 25 Autry Canady          |
| 12 Lewis Mason        | 27 Whitaker Grannis, III |
| 13 Katherine Nordwall | 28 Quentin Smith         |
| 14 Charles Morris, II | 28 Scott Bryan           |
| 16 Russell Warner     | 29 Kay Autry             |
| 16 Felton Thomas      | 29 Emily Nordwall        |
| 17 Carol Conklin      | 30 Milo Megill           |

# Memorials

Paul DeSessa

Hannah Circle  
Jewel Vann  
Ann Rowell

Barbara Dobbins

Ann Rowell

Ruth Hooker

Ann Rowell



# Sanctuary Flowers

April and May 2022  
Schedule a Sunday  
honorarium or memorial  
flower arrangement  
by contacting  
Debra Chestnutt  
(910) 818-9006 or  
[Debra@Chestnutt.com](mailto:Debra@Chestnutt.com)



# COAP

## CAREGIVERS OF AGING PERSONS

FPC

**This support group meets the  
last Tuesday of each month at  
6:30 PM. To find out more  
information contact Janice Luce.**



# Welcome

our newest church member  
**Jennifer Godman,**  
who joined  
First Presbyterian Church  
on February 20, 2022.

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, Nichole Russ. She is our Director of Communications. Feel free to reach out to her at [nichole@firstprez.com](mailto:nichole@firstprez.com)

**FIRST PRESS**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
102 Ann Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301  
(910) 483-0121  
www.firstprez.com  
*Volume 34, Issue 4*  
First Press (USPS915-720) is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 569, Fayetteville, NC 28302. PERIODICALS Postage paid at Fayetteville, NC. Postmaster: send address changes to First Presbyterian Church, 102 Ann Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301.

Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to **serve** Jesus Christ and **share** His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.



**PERIODICALS**