

# FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



## A Pastoral Message

FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

No one was expecting Easter, except Jesus, and it sounded like even he had his doubts. His cry, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?", uttered from the cross, wasn't just for dramatic effect. It was Jesus' humanity calling out from under the weight of all that is dark, broken, and sinful in this world. Is God up to rolling away such a horrendous burden from our lives?

God's Easter answer was, and is, yes! Against all odds, in a tomb shrouded in darkness, death was deprived of the last word over life. How do you speak about such a thing? The ultimate weapon surrenders its power. God speaks life over you and me, the nations, the planet, and even the cosmos. If Easter is true, nothing can finally remain the same.

All of our Easter explanations fall short. The truth makes a home in our hearts through worship, wonder, and faith. This is your invitation to gather with our brothers and sisters in the faith to celebrate once again the miracle of Christ's resurrection from the dead, and ours too.

There will be a Community Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. in Cross Creek Park across from the church building. First Presbyterian will be joining with other downtown congregations as we celebrate Easter together. Be sure to bring a lawn chair if you

plan to attend. We will hold a congregational Easter Breakfast in the fellowship hall beginning at 9 a.m. Please remember to sign up in advance so we can prepare enough food. At 11 a.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday Worship. It should be a wonderful day of worship, music, and fellowship.

Our Palm Sunday Cantata at 11 a.m. on April 2, will turn our hearts toward both the cross and the resurrection. We will hold a special Good Friday Service on April 7 at noon in the Chapel as we pray through The Stations of the Cross in preparation for hearing the good news of Easter. Don't forget our custom of flowering the cross on the front porch of the church for Easter. You can bring cut flowers to place on the cross beginning on Saturday.

**Some of Jesus' first words to his disciples on Easter morning were, "Don't be afraid." I need to hear those words again, and I suspect you do too.** In a time when fears abound, the God of Easter promises the ultimate answer to the ultimate fear. Come and hear the good news, one more time!

Blessings,



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# Palm Sunday Celebration

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried,

## Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12:13.



**9 a.m. Worship Service**  
Communion Service in the Chapel

**11 a.m. Worship Service**  
"Journey To Hope" Palm Passion Cantata.

The children will process in waving palm branches & sing for the call to worship.

**12 p.m. Congregational Potluck Meal**

Fried Chicken & BBQ provided. Bring a side dish to share!  
followed by the Children's Easter Egg Hunt

To register in person, sign up in Eller Hall or call the office (910) 483-0121.

To register online visit [bit.ly/FPCPalmSunday](http://bit.ly/FPCPalmSunday) or scan the QR code.



## "A Journey to Hope"

a Palm-Passion Cantata inspired by spirituals at the 11 a.m. Worship Service

Won't you journey with us to the cross on Palm Sunday, April 2, as the Celebration Choir presents Joseph M. Martin's "A Journey to Hope"? And then continue beyond the cross to the Joy of Easter Sunday, April 9, as the choir concludes the cantata with "Great Day! The Lord is Risen!" May your hearts be opened to the Great Love of Jesus this Easter Season.

*Blessings, Marcia*

"The journey begins. One step of devotion, and the waters clap their hands in worship, splashing joy on the hearts of the faithful. Another step and Christ calls His disciples to service and ministry. A little further now, and Jesus calls to the sick, weary, and burdened. Together they begin a parade of life, marching across the dusty landscape of Galilee.

The road delivers the pilgrims to the walled city of Jerusalem, filled with palms and psalms and shouts of "Hosanna!" Just beyond the city walls, the winding path finds an upper room. The road weary warriors of peace realize a moment to rest, refresh, and reflect. In the hushed and mysterious chant of the ancient rituals of Passover, they learn of a new Way; a thoroughfare paved with grace and mercy that leads through the wilderness and to the Promised Land.

The road will not be easy for the Savior, for it rises to a walled garden where despair meets conviction. The inner battle won, the cup gripped and drained, He rises to walk another weary trail. Walking, falling, stumbling and bleeding, the Savior takes the Way of Sorrows, and the journey ends in gasps of forgiveness.

The path to a borrowed tomb is thought to be the final destination. But joy breaks free with the morning sun, and is greeted with rolling stones and rising hopes, as Jesus walks again, in the garden with His creation. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is the journey, and He is the journey's end. Amen."

*Joseph M. Martin, MM, Composer and Director of Publications, Shawnee Press.*



**Children's Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> following the Potluck Meal**

Bring your Easter Basket & a friend!



## Good Friday Worship Service

**April 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. in the Chapel**

"Praying the Stations of the Cross: Meditating On Christ's Sacrifice"  
Childcare will be provided.



# Easter Sunday

## April 9<sup>th</sup>

"He is not here; for He is risen ..." Matthew 28:6

6:30 a.m.  
Community Sunrise  
Worship Service  
in Lafayette Park

*Remember to bring  
your lawn chair!*

9 a.m.  
Congregational  
Breakfast

*A fully catered pancake breakfast.*

*Please register by Thursday, April 6th.*



To register for breakfast in person, sign up in  
Eller Hall or call the church office (910) 483-0121.  
To register for breakfast online, scan the QR code  
or visit [bit.ly/FPCEaster2023](https://bit.ly/FPCEaster2023)

11 a.m.  
Unified Easter  
Worship Service with  
Communion in the  
Sanctuary

*Remember to bring your flowers  
for the Flowering of the Cross!*

## Easter Music

**"Resurrection Trilogy", "In Christ Alone" and "Rejoice! He Lives!"**

*Church Orchestra leads worship on this special Easter Day.*

**"Great Day! The Lord is Risen!"**

*The conclusion of "A Journey to Hope"  
Celebration Choir and Church Orchestra*

**Easter Communion: "Come to the Welcome Table"**

*AND your favorite Easter Hymns!*

## Flowering of the Cross

This beautiful tradition continues at First Presbyterian! The bare cross will be moved to the Sanctuary porch on Good Friday and will remain until Easter Monday. Beginning Saturday, bring your fresh flowers, and together we will transform the barren cross into a beautiful 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](mailto:nichole@firstprez.com) for possible inclusion in future publications.



## Home & Hearth Holiday Fellowship

**Easter Potluck Luncheon**  
**April 9th at 12:30 p.m.**

You may bring your food to the Fellowship Hall before the 11am service and put it in the Fellowship Hall refrigerator. The luncheon will start at 12:30pm, following the Easter Worship Service. A double-sided buffet will allow everyone to be served promptly, but the luncheon will be leisurely. The Congregational Care Committee will provide ham and drinks. Please sign-up to bring sides, salads, and desserts. These food items can be purchased or homemade, your choice. **Please sign up & let us know what you plan to bring to the Potluck Easter Luncheon by April 5th to avoid duplications & allow us to order enough ham.**



To register in person, sign up in Eller Hall or call the church office (910) 483-0121.

To register online, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/H3FEaster](https://bit.ly/H3FEaster)

SCAN ME





## An offering to "Mature Adults" from Pastoral Care

April 4th 8:30 am - S.A.L.T. Fellowship Breakfast with Pastor Nick and Ark Encounter Trip Interest Meeting

***Sometimes the best pastoral care is to remove oneself from the familiar and enjoy new adventures!***

S.A.L.T. Members & "Mature Adults" are invited to join us at JK's restaurant with Pastor Nick Smith to learn about the joint First Prez & Village Baptist three-night trip from Sept. 11th -14th to see several Cincinnati, Ohio attractions.



The attractions are:

- The Ark Encounter ([www.arkencounter.com](http://www.arkencounter.com))
- Ohio Riverboat dinner cruise with entertainment
- The Cincinnati Aquarium
- A guided tour of the city

The trip includes first class motor coach, lodging, all meals in the city for \$689! (out-of-pocket costs are two meals on the road to and from Ohio).

Village Baptist's Mature Adult Pastor, Nick Smith, looks forward to a time of fellowship and sharing about this trip on April 4th!



## The Methodist University Chamber Singers

will provide special music at the  
11 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
This group of eight singers is directed by Michael Martin.



Michael Martin, Director



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

## Does the Joy of Easter Seem Far Away?

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside but full of pain on the inside, and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are

ready to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our pastors or Lorene McBryde. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

## Kingdom Kidz & Youth Calendar

Sundays 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Apr 2 & 9 No Kingdom Kidz & Youth

Apr 16 Nature Walk & Painting

Apr 23 Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

Apr 30 Bowling - *See info below!*

## LET'S GO BOWLING!

Kingdom Kidz & Youth  
Bowling at B&B Lanes  
Sunday, April 30th 2 - 4pm

Cost is \$5.

For more details & to register online  
visit [bit.ly/KingdomBowling](http://bit.ly/KingdomBowling)  
or scan the QR code. Register by 4/27



SCAN ME



## Congratulations

Lilly, William, Sutton,  
Reese, Olivia, & Colt for completing  
Get Ready! Get Set! Worship!



## YOUTH SUNDAY MAY 7TH

Please join us in support of our next generation of leaders as our youth guide us in worship during this 11 am service ... with a twist! Preparations for Youth Sunday will be ongoing during our normal Kingdom Youth gatherings on April 16th and April 23rd, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, with a full run-through on the 23rd. To participate, please contact Ms. Kimberhly at [youth@firstprez.com](mailto:youth@firstprez.com) as soon as possible.

## Club 543 will meet

Sunday, April 23rd

12-1:30 p.m. in the Activity Room

Sunday, May 7th

12-1:30 p.m. in the Activity Room

End of Year Fellowship Party!



## KINGDOM YOUTH:

We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's VBS (June 26-29). Most of you have experienced the fun, learning, and fellowship this incredible week offers. Now it's your turn to help other kids do the same!

**If you're interested, please contact Ms. Kimberhly for more details.**



## VBS Registration is open!

June 25 | 4:30-6 p.m. & June 26-29 | 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Family Kickoff Celebration  
with music & food!

Vacation Bible School for kids

Open to all kids who have completed Pre-K to 5th grade. Join Daniel—torn from his home and forced into the king's service. Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar!

**Day 1** - When things change,  
God is with you. (Daniel 1)

**Day 2** - When you're afraid,  
God is with you. (Daniel 3)

**Day 3** - When you're lonely,  
God is with you. (Daniel 6:1-16)

**Day 4** - When you're thankful,  
God is with you. (Daniel 6:16-28)

VBS is successful because of amazing volunteers. Roughly 20-25 volunteers are still needed. Childcare will be available for volunteers with children infant through three years old.

If you are interested in volunteering,  
please let Brittany Spivey or  
Andrea Horosko know.

Volunteers & children register for VBS online!  
Scan the QR Code or visit [bit.ly/FPCBabylonVBS](http://bit.ly/FPCBabylonVBS)



SCAN ME





**WOW! 930,999**  
**TOTAL MEALS PACKAGED**





# April Birthdays

1 Caroline Horosko  
 2 Victoria Seufert  
 3 Jim Soffe  
 3 Sylvia Bisbee  
 4 Jennifer Fincher  
 5 Maggie Hill  
 6 Graylee Viverette  
 7 Karen Noland  
 7 Rachel Dixon  
 7 Aidan Baileys  
 8 Leighton Blue Jr.  
 8 Maggie McFadyen  
 9 Mary Lu Enright  
 9 Bengie Hair  
 9 Ronald Allen Jr.  
 9 Alice Ann Campbell  
 10 Jeb Cleveland  
 11 Dick Gill  
 12 Marcia MacKethan  
 12 Wil Godwin  
 12 Kelly Sherrill  
 12 Zoe Hublitz  
 12 Lewis Mason  
 13 Katherine Nordwall  
 14 Charles Morris II  
 16 Russell Warner  
 16 Felton Thomas  
 17 Carol Conklin  
 17 Tina Baker  
 17 Ethan Hunter  
 17 Teagen Hurley  
 17 Graham McLaughlin  
 18 Stewart Butler III

18 Anne Smith  
 18 Carly Canady  
 19 Delores Breswitz  
 20 Labinda Bryan  
 20 Kellie Perkins  
 20 Jean Pridgen  
 20 Nancy Billman  
 20 Mark Strong  
 21 Becky West  
 21 Anna Bullock  
 22 Will Clarke  
 22 Madeline McFadyen  
 23 Matt Howle  
 23 Kenan Stiehl  
 24 Theodore Atkinson  
 25 Stacy Grooms Sr.  
 25 Autry Canady  
 27 Whitaker Grannis III  
 28 Quentin Smith  
 28 Scott Bryan  
 29 Kay Autry  
 29 Emily Nordwall  
 30 Milo Megill



# Memorials

**Barbara Lepper**

Allyson & Donald Wherren  
Mary Jon & Joshua Barkman

**Beth Player**

Patsy Markham

**Merle Prewitt**

Mary Jon & Joshua Barkman

**Judye Bleecker**

John McFadyen  
 Gordon Rose  
 Joyce Sorensen  
 Melanie Strickland  
 Eli Maness  
 Ann Rowell  
 Ann & Buzz Loyd  
 James Kizer  
 William Bass  
 Carol & Sammy Short  
 Eliza & Fred Williams  
 Gerri & Frederick Spach  
 Mary Jon & Joshua Barkman  
 Bonnie Blue  
 Carol & Chip Haigh  
 Lynda & Clayton Deaton  
 Janice & John Burgess  
 Allyson & Donald Wherren  
 Elizabeth & Brian Cook  
 Janet Holt  
 Vicki & Timothy Richardson  
 Scottie & Bill Bryan  
 Julianne & Bill Hussey

## SCHOLARSHIPS for Graduating Seniors

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE NOW, AND ARE DUE APRIL 15TH.

Contact Bengie Hair at [BMH4954@aol.com](mailto:BMH4954@aol.com) for an application. Submit your application via email or by placing your printed submission in Bengie's mail box in the church office.



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.



Scan the QR code, visit [bit.ly/April5Dinner](http://bit.ly/April5Dinner) or call the church office to register.

### \*4/5 Registration Required

*Nursery provided for young children.  
Study hall & social time provided for school age children.*

Join our group on Facebook by visiting [bit.ly/3rvhgz](http://bit.ly/3rvhgz)

**\$20 family cap.**

**4/5\* – Taco Bar with Beef & Chicken**  
p.m. Bring a dish (serving 8-10) to share, or pay \$8 for adults and \$3 for kids.  
Third of Life" with Dr. Mike Garrett and the Historical Small Group at 6:30  
Education Class based on the Calvin Lectures - "Flourishing in the Third  
Enjoy a meal with potluck sides at 5:30 p.m., followed by an Adult Christian  
Thank you for participating!

*We look forward to resuming in the fall.  
This concludes our All In Fellowship Meals for the spring.*

### 4/12 - Sesame Chicken with Rice

### 4/5\* – Taco Bar with Beef & Chicken

## All In Fellowship Wednesday Evening Meals

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PERIODICALS

## A LOOK AHEAD...

- Apr. 1 • Journey to Hope Rehearsal
- Apr. 2 • Palm Passion Cantata
- Congregational Potluck Meal
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr. 3 • PW Coord. Team Meeting
- Cong. Care Committee
- Mission Committee
- Apr. 4 • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's
- Apr. 7 • Good Friday Service
- Apr. 8 • Easter Orchestra Rehearsal
- Apr. 9 • Community Sunrise Service
- Unified Easter Sunday Worship
- Flowering of the Cross
- Apr. 11 • Martha Circle
- Apr. 13 • Hannah Circle
- Apr. 18 • S.A.L.T. trip to Wilmington
- Apr. 23 • Methodist University Chamber Singers
- Club 543
- Apr. 30 • Kingdom Kidz & Youth Bowling
- May 7 • Youth Sunday
- May 18 • S.A.L.T. trip to Seagrove Pottery
- May 21 • Graduate Sunday
- June 25 • VBS Kick Off Celebration
- June 26-29 Vacation Bible School