

FIRST PRESS

Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.

OUTDOOR
Easter SERVICE

11 a.m. Sunday, April 4

Bring a chair to sit on.

We hope to see you there!
Join us on the corner lawn on Ann and Bow Streets
**Please wear masks and maintain a safe social distance.*

A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

A writer I like, named Frederick Buechner, does a great job pointing out how Easter is not Christmas. Christmas has become so carefully scripted, so well-rehearsed, that if the original three kings and their camels came by our house, we'd know exactly who they are. Christmas holds much delight but few surprises.

Not so Easter. Buechner writes:

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights.

Easter is the unexpected surprise ending to a sad story that makes sense to nobody but God. In Mark's gospel we read that it simply happened. Nobody was counting on it. The few people that saw it weren't sure what to

make of it. Again, Buechner writes:

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death.

The Christian's final hope for our world's great pain, flagrant injustice, and desperate search for meaning is resurrection from the dead. No pageant can do it justice. No explanation is adequate. It is God's to give. It is ours to gratefully believe and one day receive.

We need to take Easter to heart and move on with hope. You'll notice we are relaxing some of our seating limitations in worship as favorable news concerning the

the pandemic continues. We encourage you, if you wish, to hold committee meetings and small group meetings at the church building. We continue to need masks for such events and to pay thoughtful attention to social distance. We will return to an in-person option for Sunday school – children, youth, and adult – beginning in May. Details will follow soon.

Most importantly, moving on in a tired, scared, and angry world means living our daily lives like people who have bet the farm on Easter hope. Our opportunities to do that are limited only by our courage and imagination.

He is risen!

Mike

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.



FIRST PRESS
First Presbyterian Church
102 Ann Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 483-0121
www.firstprez.com
Volume 33, 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.

PERIODICALS

A Word of Pastoral Care

by Rev. Mitch Watson

In the past month, I have been approached by several church members with the question, "Are you moving out of town?" The answer is "yes" with a "but." Donna and I are moving to my mother-in-law's home just a few miles away. I continue to serve the Lord here at First Presbyterian and hospice. In inheriting a home, we find ourselves more rooted and finally laying a foundation in one area after almost 28 years of marriage. It is an unexpected and bittersweet blessing to own a home after all that has shaken our life foundations in the past 15 months. The parable in Matthew 7:24-27 has resonated with me during this transition.

This historic COVID-19 pandemic has been a foundation shaking storm of epic proportions – a collective trauma that has

affected our health, national security, community, and even our own homes. Many foundations have cracked. We see emotional and spiritual weaknesses in society, and in ourselves. Yet the silver lining I offer in the midst of this extraordinary time is that there is no better time to repair the foundations. This week, the local news reported that obesity is on the rise because we are stuck at home, but are resolving to get off the couch and committing to healthier lifestyles.

Let's do the same with our faith walks. Focus on meditative time with God through prayer, Bible and devotional reading. Reaching out to others through social media, emails and traditional letters should not end when we remove the masks. New spiritual skills

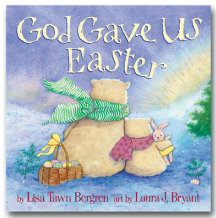
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Matthew 7:24-27

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

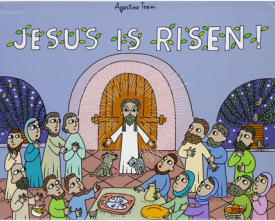
Easter Book Recommendations from Children's Ministry

"God Gave Us Easter"



Ages: 3 and up
The polar bear learns from his father about why God gave us Easter. Written by Lisa Tawn Bergren and illustrated by Laura J. Bryant.

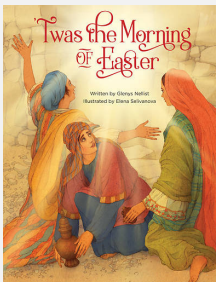
"Jesus Is Risen"



Ages: 3 and up
Renowned artist Agostino Traini wrote and illustrated this pop-up book that tells the Easter story in a unique way, chronicling the events

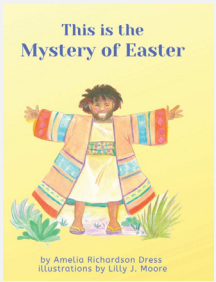
of Holy Week and Easter that span from the empty tomb, Jesus' appearance to the disciples and Jesus' triumph over death.

"Twas the Morning of Easter"



Ages: 4 - 8
This book is a celebration of the resurrection through the eyes of Mary Magdalene. Written by Glenys Nellist and illustrated by Elena Selivanova.

"This is the Mystery of Easter"



Ages: 4 - 8
Wonder together about the power of love to overcome injustice and fear, with the gentle refrain, "love God, love yourself and love everyone else," woven throughout. Written by Amelia Richardson Dress and illustrated by

Lilly J. Moore. Catch Ms. Angela reading this book on the private FirstKidz facebook group page on Wednesday. March 31 at 10 a.m.

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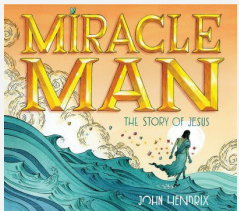
April Birthdays

2 Victoria Seufert	12 Kelly Sherrill	20 Jean Pridgen
3 Jim Soffe	12 Lewis Mason	20 Nancy Billman
3 Sylvia Bisbee	14 Charles Morris II	22 Madeline Baker
4 Jennifer Fincher	16 Russell Warner	23 Matt Howle
5 Maggie Hill	16 Felton Thomas	23 Kenan Stiehl
7 Karen Noland	17 Carol Conklin	25 Stacy Grooms Sr.
7 Rachel Dixon	17 Tina Baker	25 Autry Canady
8 Maggie McFadyen	17 Teagen Hurley	27 Whitaker Grannis
9 Mary Lu Enright	17 Graham McLaughlin	28 Quentin Smith
9 Bengie Hair	18 Stewart Butler III	28 Scott Bryan
9 Ronald Allen, Jr.	18 Nina Godwin	29 Kay Autry
9 Alice Ann Campbell	18 Anne Smith	30 Milo Megill
10 Jeb Cleveland	19 Delores Breswitz	
11 Dick Gill	20 Labinda Bryan	
12 Marcia MacKethan	20 Kellie Pfaff Perkins	

Easter

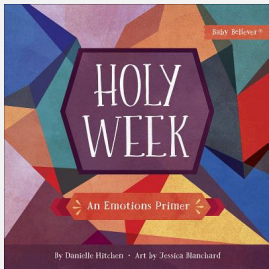
Book Recommendations, cont.d

"Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus"



All ages
While not Easter-specific, this book is a beautifully-illustrated biography of Jesus that focuses on Jesus' miracles and concludes with the miracle of Easter that changed the world forever. Witten by John Hendrix.

"Holy Week: An Emotions Primer"



All ages
This book introduces the reader to a wide range of emotions as they follow Jesus through the final week of His life. You will appreciate the art, theologically sound content, and helping your little one understand that emotions are good and created by God.

MEMORIALS

Willis Nixon

Carolyn Herndon

Hilda Rachels

A special friend

Louise Rahilly

Lorene and Milo McBryde; Fred and Eliza Williams; and a special friend.

Shelba Watson

Carolyn Herndon; Patsy Markham; and a special friend.

John C. Williams, III

Cil and Gary Adams; Joshua and Mary Jon Barkman; Ann and Anthony Cimaglia; Joanne B. Copeland; Winnie Cotton; Weyher and Elizabeth H. Dawson; Jason and Alison Draughon; Ann Eller; Genny Lou and Bob Exum; Winnie Grannis; Carol and Chip Haigh; Grace and Tommy Hall; Mary Harrison Hall; Sandra Herndon; Brenda Johnson; Ann and Buzz Loyd; Joe Mack and Inez Hatcher; Patsy Markham; Lorene and Milo McBryde; Kaye McRainey; the McRainey family; Samuel H. Meares; Brian Pearce; Joann and Benny Pearce; Jean and Edward Pridgen; Kathleen and Karl Rouse; Ann Rowell; Pam and Bill Senter; Judy Shelton; Carol and Sammy Short; Carol P. and William E. Smith; Charles and Pat Smith and Stephanie, Mark, and Garrett Stang; Beverly Stewart; Kay Strickland; Mary Ann Tally; Jewel and Brantley Vann; Earl Vaughan; Eliza and Fred Williams; a special friend; and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.

ALL ABOARD!

Save the date for 2021 Vacation Bible School!

JUNE 21-25 9 A.M. - NOON



This is the VBS that's just the ticket!

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!

On this faith-filled adventure, children discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

BIBLE LESSONS INCLUDE:

Jesus' power **helps us do hard things**. (Acts 9:1-19)

Jesus' power **gives us hope**. (Acts 27)

Jesus' power **helps us be bold**. (Acts 3:1-4:31)

Jesus' power **lets us live forever**. (Matthew 26:17-28:10)

Jesus' power **helps us be good friends**. (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35)

LIMITED CAPACITY
GET YOUR TICKET NOW!

USE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDEES AND FOR VOLUNTEERS*!

Visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/firstprezvbs> or scan the QR code!



Scan me

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

*VBS is never successful without the help of amazing volunteers. Roughly 20-25 volunteers are needed this year. Childcare will be available for volunteers with children infant through 3 years old.

COVID-19 UPDATE

We will continue to monitor and follow CDC recommendations and local guidelines. While we hope and pray that the coronavirus won't have a significant effect on attendance, we are prepared to make adjustments to how we run VBS to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

We will communicate those changes to you as soon as we make them, and if those changes affect your plans to attend, then please let us know.

We look forward to another exciting VBS! At this time children will be in small groups. Masks will be mandatory for all children and volunteers.

Did you miss the Easter celebration?

You can still create your very own resurrection garden at home!



Scan for instructions!



CLUB 543

2021 Meet-Ups: A First Presbyterian Church Children's Ministry program designed for 3rd-5th graders to promote discipleship, fellowship, and mission projects.
April 18
May 16

MEET US FOLLOWING THE 11 AM WORSHIP SERVICE



Next Mission Chat...



11 a.m. April 15
Live on Facebook

Crystal DePietro MSW, LCSW, CCM
Executive Director

f LIVE follow us at @1stprez

Were you busy at work during our last Mission Chats? Couldn't join us live? You can find our Mission Chat playlist on our Facebook page (@1stprez), and on our YouTube channel using the following link:

<http://bit.ly/FPCMissionChats>



Craig Morrison
Executive Director



Frank Dimmock
Africa Mission Specialist



Leon Dorleans
Founding Director



In-Person Sunday School

RESUMES
SUNDAY, MAY 2

We can't wait to see you!

Planning is underway! Be on the lookout for more details regarding hybrid (in-person and zoom) Sunday School options.

Tapestry

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Join the group!

10 A.M. THURSDAYS



See Ms. Ann Rowell for more information and for a copy of the book, "A Woman Who Doesn't Quit: 5 Habits from the Book of Ruth."

Tapestry meets weekly in the Activity Room in a safe, socially distanced and masked setting.

A Word of Pastoral Care

by Rev. Mitch Watson

continued from page 2

are unexpected blessings to be used for God's greater glory. Children of faith and a church of outreach should "serve and share," (sounds like a certain church motto), the old and new ways to bring Christ to a recovering world. In doing this, we are developing a strong spiritual foundation that will weather any future storms.

Go with God. He never fails!

Pastor Mitch, DoPC



Easter Music! by Dr. Marcia Mervin

Your church family is blessed with an abundance of musical talent, and as director of music ministry, I am so thankful for each person who offers that talent in worship to the Lord! What a joy to work with each and every one of you as you sing or play in all humility and gratefulness to give back to Jesus.

This Easter Morning, our All Church Choir members will join their voices in a beautiful anthem, "All Heaven Declares", by Richards, Richards and Fettke. The lyrics will be printed in the bulletin, and this anthem is certain to warm your hearts and lead you to a deeper sense of worship for our Risen Lord.

Joining the choir in the outdoor worship will be our very own brass and percussion players. On trumpet, Roger Holmes and his oldest daughter, Amanda Holmes, will be leading the quintet. Bruce McRae and Jamie McFadyen will supply the deeper tones with their trombones, while Hudson McFadyen completes the ensemble with his baritone. On percussion, our assistant pastor's wife, Corbin Thorley, will assist Zack Fegan, our percussion scholar, with timpani, suspended cymbal and various other percussive sounds. Alice Ann Campbell will provide the keyboard accompaniment for the choir and the Easter Hymns on the digital piano.

Join us for a wonderful Easter Celebration in music! Despite the fact that is rather impossible to move the organ outdoors for worship - we will have a wonderful service of resurrection together!

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.

Music Ministry Bible Study

Welcomes All to Easter!

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, and the recurring theme of how David loves to study God's word has lighted a great desire to study MORE of the Bible in all of those who participated in this study! David's heart for God's presence became our passion as well, and so - the group is now beginning a new RightNow Media offering in a 5 day study of "Easter" by J.D. Greear.

Join us on zoom Sundays at 4:30 p.m. to learn how you are personally embedded in the story of Christ's crucifixion. The first session was "Betrayed by me" where we became confronted with just how similar we are to Judas. Remaining sessions are: "Forsaken by me"; "Accused for me"; "Punished for me", and "Alive in me". Contact marcia@firstprez.com for information on how to join this study group. **While it is led by the music ministry, the study is open to all who may be interested. Won't you join us?**



SUNDAYS | 4:30 P.M.
MUSIC MINISTRY STUDY
ZOOM FORMAT
EMAIL [MARCIA@FIRSTPREZ.COM](mailto:marcia@firstprez.com)



CHRIST-CENTERED MISSIONS

OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JUNE 6-11

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME!

EMAIL PASTOR MATT FOR DETAILS
MATT@FIRSTPREZ.COM

Statements of Faith

from our 2021 Confirmands

Amelia Chan

I believe in God, our creator, our teacher, our loving & forgiving father, who sent his only son, Jesus, to die on a cross & be resurrected in order to forgive all sins. Through him, I have been redeemed and cleansed through baptism. The Holy Spirit has thus guided me in every aspect of my life, while also allowing me free will in all my decisions. He has been a listening ear through all my hardships & times of joy, and has been my safety net when I was afraid to fall. The Lord has not only taught me to love him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, but to love others. Through his church, I have found not only a place, but a family of love that gathers and worships together in the Lord. The Holy Spirit is clearly seen in them, and they've helped me grow as a person. I hope to continue to grow in my faith and serve Christ through his church.

Flora McRae

I believe in a loving, understanding, and forgiving God. God sent Jesus Christ to spread the word of God, for which he was persecuted. Christ died on the cross so that our sins may be forgiven. He rose again and sits on the right hand of God in heaven. Growing up in the church, I determined that the church is a place to worship and serve. The Holy Spirit has provided me with strength and guidance in my journey through confirmation and becoming a member of the church. I hope to grow my relationship with the church and with God.

Bruce McRae

God is God, and God is all-mighty, all-powerful, and incomprehensible. Jesus was a man who was hungry and thirsty as we are, and he was also God. The Holy Spirit is the hand of God through which our souls are moved, and it is also God. God is manifest in the mathematical perfection of the universe, in the great sacred music and art that has been passed down through history. The Bible is an anthology of writings about God, culminating in God's final sacrifice of His Son. We are called today to live in service to God by acting to spread His word and to better the lives of those around us.

HONORARIUMS

Carol and Sammy Short
 Special friends

Rev. Earl Vaughan
 Brian Pearce

MEMORIALS

Bobby Bunce
 Ann Eller

Robert Buroker
 Patsy Markham; Ann Rowell; Carol and Sammy Short; and a special friend.

Brett Ciccone
 Judy and Bob Bleecker; Bonnie and Leighton Blue; Myers and Kristen Coggin; Travis and Happy Hibler; Jan, Glynn, and Lynn Jernigan; Perry Olive; Mary and Mark Rice; Beverly Stewart; Lou and Lyndo Tippet; and a special friend.

Mike Coover
 Patsy Markham; Carol and Sammy Short; and a special friend.

Margarette Dunn
 Patsy Markham; Lorene and Milo McBryde; Carol and Sammy Short; and a special friend.

Alric Gonzalez
 Patsy Markham

Harry Hooks
 Jean and Edward Pridgen; and a special friend.

Betty Herring McDonald
 Winnie Grannis