



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 13

April 2019

HE
IS
RISEN!

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

*And
God raised the
Lord and will also
raise us up by His
power.*

1 Corinthians 6:14



NOTE: The FPC Front Office Will Be Closed on Monday, April 22, 2019



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Palm Sunday Maundy Thursday Good Friday Easter

These are the special days and worship services we will be observing this Holy Week.

Each marks a special event in the week that culminates in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and a turning of the whole course of human history toward the ultimate Kingdom of Heaven. This is the week that brings into reality not only the salvation of the world, but our own personal salvation. To mark these events, as momentous as they are, there will be one or more worship services observing each one. I would strongly encourage you not to miss any of them. I know that you will find each one unique in itself and especially meaningful. Let me briefly describe them.

Palm Sunday is the day Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem to the joyful cries of the crowds, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* It is called *"Palm Sunday"* because in their joy the crowds, according to the Gospel of John, waved palms in celebration of Jesus' coming to establish the Kingdom of God's people that would last forever. We will be observing ***Palm Sunday April 14*** with a Palm Procession in both worship services. We will also be observing this very special day with Communion.

Maundy Thursday is the day that Jesus Celebrated the Passover with His Apostles in Jerusalem, telling them of His pending crucifixion and turning the Passover celebration into our Christian Sacrament. It is called *"Maundy Thursday"* because at this Passover Jesus said, *"A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another."* the first word of this quote in Latin is *"mandatum"*, from which we get our English word *"Mandate."* Maundy Thursday initiates the Easter Triduum, one worship service over three days, commemorating Jesus' Passover, His Death, and Resurrection (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter). This meal has been repeated billions of times over the past 2,000 years by Christians around the world. It is called by a variety of names such as Lord's Supper, Eucharist, Communion, the Mass and Blessed Sacrament, but Maundy Thursday was the first one and we will be celebrating it **April 18 at 7 pm**, with a soup supper at 6pm.

Good Friday is the day Jesus was crucified on the cross between two thieves. It is called *"Good,"* because it is the greatest gift that God could give us...Himself in Jesus Christ dying on a cross for our sin. We will observe Good Friday on two occasions **April 19**. First at **12 noon**, we join with other congregations at the First United Methodist Church to observe the 7 last words Jesus spoke from the cross.

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Then, **April 19 at 7pm**, that evening, First Presbyterian will be observing Good Friday in a most dramatic way with a very special ***Tenebrae*** service. ***Tenebrae*** is the traditional name of the worship service on Good Friday eve, a name coming from the Latin word meaning "darkness." This is a very moving service in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ. It is the reverse of Christmas Eve, ending in darkness with only one candle remaining lit, with the rolling sounds of thunder, noting the death of Jesus. What a way to prepare for Easter.

Easter is Old English, Eostre and continue into modern English as Easter and is derived from Proto-Germanic "austron" meaning 'dawn' or 'to shine' (modern English "East" comes from the root) and refers to the time of year that Christians have celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the last 2,000 years. We will be celebrating this momentous event of all time on **April 21** at 7am with a sunrise service on the Centennial Park Bridge, to be followed with two music filled services with brass, choir and the flowering of the cross at 8:30am and 11:00am.

These are the opportunities being offered at First Presbyterian Church to observe and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. You will not want to miss any one of these worship services. To further equip you to savor this Holy Week, I am including a day-by-day study in this newsletter. I would suggest that you, individually or with your family, begin each day of Holy Week reading the appropriate Biblical text, answering the questions and having a short time of prayer.

God Bless and Happy Easter,
Dr. Donald Baird

CHURCH MISSION

Our mission is to welcome all people, equip them for a deep and living faith in Jesus Christ, and send them into the world to share God's love.

First Presbyterian Church

www.fairbanksfirstpres.com

547 7th Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-452-2406 (office)

907-452-7205 (fax)

CHURCH VISION

Our vision is to be a beacon for Jesus Christ. With His love and joy, we will draw people into a safe harbor where they are welcomed, healed, restored, and nurtured, becoming radiant witnesses.

Holy Week Events

On each day of Holy Week, review the text citing the event of that day for Jesus. Ask yourself: How would you summarize the events of that day?

Who were the main characters and how did Jesus react to them and they to Jesus?

How did these events move Holy Week along to the cross and the resurrection?

How does each day's events impact/effect you?

SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)

Matthew 21:1-17

- Jesus marches in to Jerusalem.
- Jesus cleanses the Temple.

MONDAY

Matthew 21:18-22

- Jesus responds to 4 traps set for Him by Chief Priests, elders, Pharisees and Herodians.
- Jesus responds to 4 parables.

TUESDAY

Matthew 23:1-26:5

- Jesus confronts the scribes and Pharisees.
- Jesus teaches about the end of the world.
- Jesus teaches 4 parables about who the end is for.

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 26:6-16

- Jesus rests.
- Jesus is anointed for burial by the woman.
- Judas betrays Jesus.

THURSDAY (Maundy Thursday)

Matthew 26:17-75

- Passover is prepared.
- First Lord's Supper is held.
- Jesus prays in Gethsemane and accepts God's Will.
- Jesus is betrayed, denied and abandoned by his closest disciples.
- Jesus is arrested and tried by Sanhedrin.

FRIDAY (Good Friday)

Matthew 27:1-66

- Jesus is tried by Pilate.
- Jesus is tried by the crowd.
- Jesus is sentenced, crucified and dies.
- Jesus is buried in a borrowed tomb.

SUNDAY

Matthew 28:1-15

- Jesus rises from the dead.
- Jesus shows Himself to His Followers.

Session Meeting

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met for the monthly meeting on Tuesday March 19th in the church conference room. What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at that meeting.

The meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer by Elder Barb Page. Pastor Don's "Pastor's Study" was from 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17.

The Worship Committee moved to approve the painting of the sanctuary, before Easter, with funds from the Capital Account. The motion passed.

It was moved to hold both a Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 18th which will include Communion, and a Good Friday service on Friday April 19th. Both services will be held at 7 pm. The motion passed.

The Session received a copy of the Transitional Pastor Covenant, and in April will complete a three month review of the Transitional Pastor relationship.

Session received written reports from all the Ministry Teams, and updates on programs and work in progress.

The updated version of the Job Description for the Director of Children and Family Ministry has been finalized and was approved by Session.

Session approved a New Members Class, beginning Sunday April 28th, at 10 am, continuing on May 5th, May 12th, and May 19th. New members will be received on May 26th, at both services.

Session set the date for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting for June 2, 2019 at 12:30 pm.

The Session has begun the process leading to the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee. As the first step, Session has finalized a list of characteristics to be found in members of the committee.

Between now, and the April Session Meeting, elders will be prayerfully considering which members of our congregation have those characteristics.

The Sexual Misconduct Policy will be reviewed by an attorney, and staff members before being approved at the April Meeting.

Ruling Elder Mike Repasky and Clerk David Dreydoppel were elected as Commissioners to the May Presbytery Meeting.

Ruling Elders Barb Page and Mikki Holt were elected as Commissioners to General Assembly Meeting in June.

Holding the Elder's Corner after each Service has proved valuable, but the number of people stopping by with comments or questions has begun to slow significantly. Elder's Corner will continue, at least through the month of April.

The meeting was closed with a time of prayer.

If you have any questions about the actions of Session, please contact Pastor Don, or the Clerk of Session Dave Dreydoppel, who can provide you with information, or direct you to the Elder in charge of a Ministry Team. The next meeting of the Session will be at 6:00 pm on April 16, 2019.

Dave Dreydoppel
Clerk of Session



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week this year is filled with a variety of services inviting your participation including worship opportunities, fellowship opportunities, and celebration. At these varied services, special music will be provided by the many talented singers and musicians in our congregation. Expect surprises, worshipful music, and participation by lots of people.

Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday - Regular 2 services at 8:30am and 11am - A celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.
Thursday, April 18	Soup and Bread Supper at 6pm presented by the deacons includes a variety of delicious homemade soups. Everyone is welcome.
Thursday, April 18	Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm. This service commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. Communion will be served.
Friday, April 19	Tenebrae Service at 7pm based on the last seven words of Jesus.
Sunday April 21	Easter Worship - Regular 2 services at 8:30am and 11am - Celebration of Jesus' Rising from the dead.
Sunday April 21	Easter Breakfast Fellowship time, 10am, brought to you compliments of the Hospitality Committee. It will include scrambled eggs, ham, potatoes, OJ, and the famous Hot Cross buns provided by the Morris family and many helpers.

Please give serious consideration to attending all four services as we move through the week.

Worship Committee



FPC ROOTS

Roots (Bible Study and fellowship for grades 4-6) continues to meet on Sunday Nights from 4-6. We are averaging about 15 kids/week. If you would like to donate a dessert on a Sunday, we would love that! Contact Stephanie Rozell to pick a date.

Stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com or

907-687-3730

EASTER

EGGSTRAVAGANZA



Cupcake Decorating

Games

Egg Coloring

Activities

Crafts

APRIL 13th !!!

10am—12 noon

First Presbyterian Church

Event Held Indoors

Event for children up to 5th grade. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

What is Stewardship?

STEWARDSHIP

Noun

The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

– C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

The psalmist declares "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." (Psalm 24: 1 NIV)

In the first chapter of Genesis (see verses 26-30) we learn that God created everything. He made man in his image and told man to "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth; subdue it; rule over it; every seed-bearing plant and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

Moses, speaking to the people about the time when they would reach the "promised land", a land full of good things, where the people can settle down, build houses, have abundant food, fine herds, and accumulate wealth, reminds the people to remember the source of their good fortune. (Deuteronomy 8:17 & 18 NIV) "You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."

God created everything that exists. He gave us the responsibility to manage his creation.

Stewardship is the word we use to describe our responsibility to manage God's gifts.

Am I a faithful steward? How do I manage this physical environment in which I live? How do I manage this physical body? How do I manage this day of life I am given? How do I manage my material possessions, my money?

When I worship do I give a tithe of my wealth as a thank offering to God and as a reminder to myself that everything I have is really a gift from God?



First Presbyterian Church has a Cancer Care Ministry that operates as part of the church Congregational Care Ministry, led by an elder currently on Session. Our Cancer Care Ministry Team consists of eight individuals who have completed cancer care training to prepare them for this ministry.

In difficult times and trying times, God's answer is often a gift of **hope**.

Hope is God's plan for each of us. But cancer can bring fear and it tests everyone affected by it. The need for someone to bring them news of **hope** has never been greater than it is today. For those who are willing, God desires to give the ability to take His precious gift to the hurting and change their difficult road into a **journey of hope**.

This ministry is not a program. It is not a course. It's a ministry of **hope**, courage and compassion.

Currently the Cancer Care Ministry Team is working to provide support for four individuals and their families dealing with cancer. Three of these individuals are receiving care here in Fairbanks and one individual is receiving care in Arizona. The team has provided rides to treatments, helped with household chores, visited individuals in the hospital and in their homes, prepared meals, shopped for groceries, shared encouragement through phone calls, texts and cards. Some members of our congregation have contributed beautiful lap blankets/quilts, scarf and prayer shawls and other gifts of encouragement for our cancer patients. Team members have prayed with patients, their family and other caregivers.

Your support of this ministry is crucial. First, we need your prayers. You can also assist by letting the team know about individuals who could possibly benefit from this ministry.

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:9-13

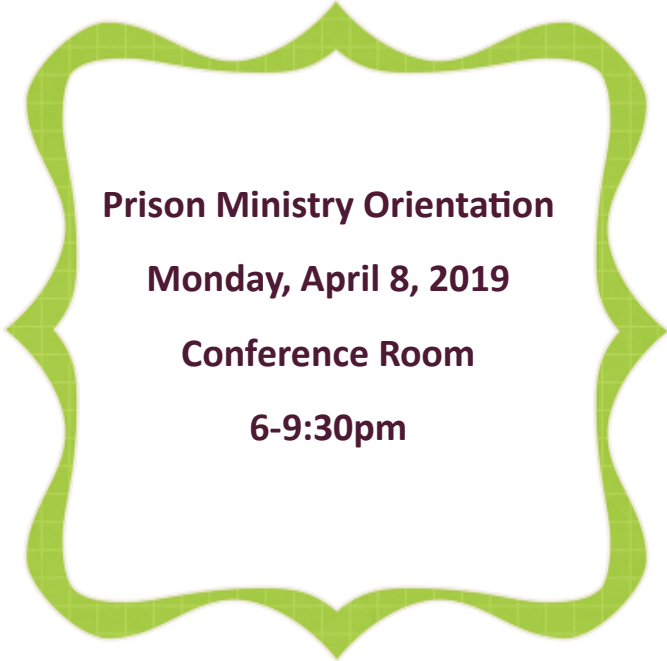
For more information about this ministry contact Elder Donna Brewer (378-3551 or 479-4426) or Ted Riggs Sr. (371-9254).

NEW MEMBERS CLASS
First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks
April 28, 2019, 10 a.m. in Pastor's Office

First Presbyterian would love to have you officially join us. With this membership comes the privilege to join with the other members of the congregation in electing all the elders, deacons and future pastors. Membership also brings the opportunity to join the leadership of this congregation in virtually every capacity. I look forward to seeing you at the next New Member Class.

Transitional Pastor
Dr. Donald Baird

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Titles</u>
April 28	10 am	Reformed Faith
May 5	10 am	Worship and the Sacraments
May 12	10 am	Mission and Form of Government
May 19	10 am	Meet with Session
May 26	8:30 or 11 am	Baptism and/or Join the Congregation



Prison Ministry Orientation
Monday, April 8, 2019
Conference Room
6-9:30pm



Northland Youth Choir
Dress Rehearsal
Monday, April 29, 2019
6-9pm

Northland Youth Choir Concert
Tuesday, April 30, 2019
6-9:30pm

Announcements

Mission Outreach

The Mission Outreach Committee meets each month on the last Wednesday of the month. Interested persons are welcome to attend the meeting.

The Point of contact is Jim Williams at jimw.101591@gmail.com.

Contribution Statements

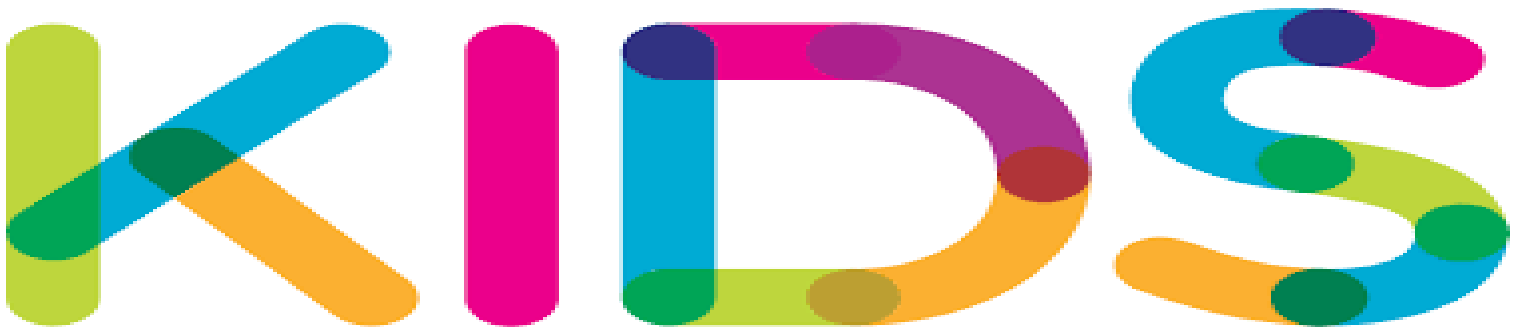
Quarterly Contribution Statements will be mailed during the month of April. Change of Address? Please contact Marta in the Front Office.

Flower Donations

If you have the desire to donate flowers in memory of someone or in recognition of a birthday, anniversary or any special occasion, please sign up. The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the atrium, or contact Marta at the Front Office at 452-2406. Flowers cost \$40.00 per week.

Volunteer Opportunities

The EggStravaGanza Ministry is seeking numerous volunteers to assist with the EggStravaGanza on Saturday, April 13 from 10-12noon. For more information, please contact Heidi Van Harper at 206-406-3736.



Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'

— C.S. Lewis

I'm a mom to four young kids and let me tell you, it can be isolating, frustrating, and elating...sometimes all in the same hour. Thankfully, we are doing this challenging and rewarding task in a community. God has provided us friends with shoulders to lean on and sometimes cry on. Sisters (and brothers) to love our babies and bring us coffee. Every Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm we moms roll in with yoga pants or skinny jeans, messy ponytails or high heels, no judgment and a trail of preschoolers. So pack a lunch or at least some string cheese and granola bars and join us to laugh, commiserate, and talk to another adult about something besides dinosaurs, Elsa, and sharks.

FPC playgroup meets in the church nursery from 10-12 each Thursday during the school year and rotates at area parks during the summer.

For more information please call or text Amber Sunderland at 970-497-9481 or e-mail her at amberbug@spu.edu

The Well

Each Wednesday, from 6-7pm, free warm meals are offered to our church family and to members of the local community. It offers a great opportunity for informal conversations, brief testimonies, and invitations to prayer.

***The
Elder's
Corner***

HAPPY**BIRTHDAY!!

April Birthdays

1 Bill Satterberg

5 Jake Johnson

Ivory Huffaker

Melissa Logan

6 Paul Bonnell

10 Bob Howard

12 Cora Wietgreffe

13 Jerry Cleworth

19 Marty Foster

Sean Williams

20 Robert Askelin

23 Stephanie Rozell

Sonia Brown

26 Patricia Fink

30 Susan Craft

