



Dear Friends,

For a minute, let us consider Christ; the mystery of His Resurrection and the mystery of our faith. How difficult is it, really, to believe what our faith calls us to believe? Is it more risky to believe or not to believe? I mean...is it worth the chance not to believe and then one day find yourself standing before God with nothing more than your failure to respond and to have noticed Him in your life? Maybe, perhaps, it's easier just to "eat, drink, and be merry" and then let the chips fall where they may. Do you think it's easier or more difficult to live your life without the worry about any eternal consequences?

An Arab chief tells a story of a spy who was captured and then sentenced to death by a general in the Persian army. This general had the strange custom of giving condemned criminals a choice between the firing squad and the big, black door. As the moment for execution drew near, the spy was brought to the Persian general, who asked the question, "What will it be the firing squad or the big, black door?"

The spy hesitated for a long time. It was a difficult decision. He chose the firing squad. Moments later shots rang out confirming his execution. The general turned to his aide and said, "They always prefer the known way to the unknown. It is characteristic of people to be afraid of the undefined. Yet, we gave him a choice."

The aide said, "What lies beyond the big door?" "Freedom," replied the general. "I've known only a few brave enough to take it."

Often our faith tells us to journey into the unknown. Faith will often lead us to choose between that which is certain against that which is uncertain. Believing in Christ and His Resurrection is, indeed, a "leap of faith." But if it comes down to whether I choose for myself certain death as in standing before a firing squad or choosing to trust and believe, through faith, that there is something better in the unknown...I'll choose that any day of the week. My prayer is that the Easter story and the message that it tells might more often impact the choices we make in life. I hope that we all might embrace Easter, embrace the unknown, take that "leap of faith" that lands us into the Father's loving arms.

Happy Easter! Hallelujah! He is Risen!

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

The words "Christ Risen!" written in a large, elegant, gold-colored cursive script. The letters are thick and flowing, with a slight shadow effect. The background is a light cream color.

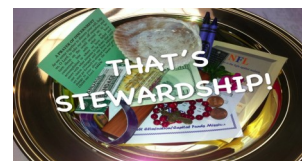
Mark Your Calendars

Facebook Devotions 8:00 am..... April 1st
 Facebook Devotions 8:00 am.....April 2nd
Worship Facebook Live/Communion/Easter 10:30 am....April 4th
No Facebook Devotions April 6-8
 Facebook Devotions 8:00am.....April 9th
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am.....April 11th
NO Facebook Devotions April 13th-16th
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am.....April 18th
 Facebook Devotions 8:00 am.....April 20th
 Facebook Devotions 8:00 am.....April 21st
 Facebook Devotions 8:00 am.....April 22nd
 Facebook Devotions 8:00 am.....April 23rd
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am.....April 25th
 Facebook Live 8:00 am.....April 27th
 Facebook Live 8:00 am..... April 28th
 Facebook Live 8:00 am.....April 29th
 Facebook Live 8:00 am.....April 30

CURRENT EXPENSES



Amount pledged \$140,352.00
 Anticipated monthly contributions \$11,696.00
 Contributions should be \$35,088.00
 Contributions to date \$40,453.00
 Over/Short: + \$5365.00



PLEDGES: If you have not turned in your 2021 pledge cards, please do so as soon as possible. This helps with creating a budget for our church. We thank you for your continued support.



First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell; Directors of Music, Peter and Julie Stevenson;
 Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
 Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Fellowship Time: 10:00 a.m.

May issue will be published on **April 30th**. The deadline is **April 19th**. Please submit articles to the church office or by email to: office@washingtonfpc.com

Historic Preservation Committee is a new Ad Hoc committee for the purpose of preserving, archiving and unveiling the history of our church. We will be going through closets, boxes, filing cabinets, etc to reveal many important documents and items that might otherwise be discarded or forgotten. (We have already found meeting minutes from the 1700 & 1800's). If you are interested in helping, please contact Leslie Schott at 908-689-4741 or cell 908-283-3682. Any amount of time you might give, is much appreciated.





To the Deacons: Thank you so much for the lovely card. It was very thoughtful of you, and much appreciated. You are doing a wonderful job in this very trying time.

God Bless,
Doris Carswell



To all my friends & church members,
Many thanks for all the lovely cards, prayers and well wishes. They brought a lot of comfort to me. I feel very blessed to have such a loving church family who cares for me. I appreciate you all so very much.

God Bless & Keep you well,
Love,
Ruth Dilts



Clothing drive coming soon to support the Mission Team! Keep an eye out for details...



PRAYER CORNER



God of holiness and light, in the mystery of dying and rising with Christ, you have established a new covenant of reconciliation. Cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world. In the spirit of Easter, let us remember that our living Lord is faithful in hearing all our prayers. Let us come to him now as we lift up to Him all those who are on our hearts and minds...

those ill or recuperating at home: Karen Happel, Alfred Bowen, Ruth Dilts, Dj Pesaniello, Carley Miller Heatley, Esther Wasser, Grace Sweet, Sue Wiedman, Bob & Joan Anderson, Tempe Schramm, Vickie Brown, Nancy Penman, Bob Schuch, Ralph Martin, Charlie Wright, Marion Kingsbury, Kerry Webb, Peggy Westlake, Grace Murphy.

relatives of church members: John Westlake, Roberta Kugelmeyers niece, Maddy Pennello's son Kristofer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Bob & Joan Anderson's son Robert Scott, Tami Phelp's cousin Jimmy, George Van Veldhuisen's brother Bill, Peggy Westlake's brother Dave, Elaine Boreman's mom Florence, Jean Scovell, Sarah McLeod's son Lawrence Lewis, Barbara Miller's cousin Kayla Norvis, Jolene Foley's cousin Dan, Stacie Ullrich's husband Rick, Martha Kenny's cousin Bob, Eleanore Jensen's son and daughter-in-law, Phyllis & Warren Kearns' son, Joan Miller's brother & sister in-law, Cindy & Rich Reilly's son Kevin, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Ken Dirkes' wife & great grandson, Betty Ann Roseberry Wright's sister, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece;

those in care centers: Connie Allen.

friends of the church Ruthann Lambert, Marion Hoskin's daughter Michelle, Joan Miller's friend Sarah Armbrecht, Philip Hagemann's mother Florence Hagemann, Joan Miller's friend Patty Fratticcioli, Joan Miller's friend Charlotte Olsen, Christine Otto, Jason Ford, Michelle, Lisa Groff, Ostrander Family, Hoskins & Gerard Families, Anna Leyburn, Bill Trachin, Fred Mosher, Gale Soler, Ellen Gulick, Bob Best, Markie DeVoe, Vlossak family's friend Hallie, Shirley Pulsinelli,

also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, D.J. & Bob Pesaniello's grandson Ryan, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Bob & Barbara Schuch's, grandson Adam, Elaine Boreman's nephew Drew, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.





BIRTHDAYS

THIS MONTH



April 1	Jeanne Bowlby Laura Housman DJ Pesaniello
April 11	Melinda Fazzari
April 14	Sylvie Errickson Gail Scovell
April 16	Douglas Wiedman
April 17	Grace Murphy
April 24	Eleanore Jensen

April 20	Sharon Fargo Sarah Hanshaw
April 22	Tami Phelps
April 26	Kat Errickson
April 27	Ashley Sozanski
April 28	Penny Atkinson



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

MUSIC NOTES

EASTER season is upon us and with it comes new life all around us. You need only to notice the flowers budding, trees starting to turn green again and the freshness of the air to realize that the world seems “different” than before. The only thing constant is **change** and if we learn to accept change and “go with the flow” of life, there will be an unending pleasure of experiencing our world.

The life and death of Jesus Christ so many years ago changed our world forever. Every year during Lent and Easter we revisit the life of Christ on this planet and the meaning behind his every word and action and our hearts are changed. Yes, it is the same story each year but we can experience it differently every time because **we** have been changed.

Sometimes I think the smartest people are young children who wonder about everything. In their innocence they are in awe of every experience: every sight, sound, smell touch is awesome to them. WONDER is truly a wonderful gift! Something happens when we grow older. We think we know more, we become cynical, we stop looking at things with WONDER. This is so sad...as if little pieces of our souls die off (if we let them).

One of the books I am currently reading is A WALK IN THE WOOD by Dr. Joseph Parent and Nancy Parent. It is a book of meditations on mindfulness with “a Bear Named Pooh”. I think of Pooh Bear as a role model! Pooh is a master of slowing down, observing and being present. He has perfected the art of *simply being*. “Just two things to do to truly be Pooh - just be present and kind,” he says.

I challenge you to try to live at least one day this month in total WONDER. Imagine that you are Pooh Bear and observe and appreciate, without judgement, the people and beauty of our world all around you.

Blessed Easter!
Julie Stevenson



One Great Hour Of Sharing February 17 – April 4, 2021

**In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression
Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources,
clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please consider giving a donation to **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**. Your contribution can make a difference.

Checks should be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in the Memo.

Thank you,
The Stewardship Committee



Mission Mart & Vendor Sale, Benefits Mission Teams. Sat. 6/12 9am-2pm. Indoors and Outdoors Vendors with new items as well. Everything from household goods to toys and more. First Presbyterian, 40 E. Church St, Washington. See Pauline or call 908-763-1954 for more info.

Vendors, Crafters Wanted for our church's Huge Mission Mart & Vendor Sale, Sat. 6/12 9am-2pm. Don't miss claiming your outdoor location! \$35 for more information please contact Karen Wilson at vendorFirstPres@gmail.com.

Can you help out? We could use people to help set up, clean up, work the sale on June 12. We set up indoors a few days ahead as well. Work inside or out/ one hour or a few. Contact Pauline 908-763-1954 or paulineandnevin@gmail.com to help out.

Got stuff? Good, gently used items wanted for Mission Mart. Sports equip, household goods, toys and more. Everything must work. No computers, no books, no junk, no big furniture, please. Only flat screen tvs/no others! Please bring your great stuff on Thursday 6/10 or Friday 6/11 from 9am-noon or 6-8pm to church; drop off in Fellowship Hall. To make other arrangements, please contact Pauline 763-1954 or paulineandnevin@gmail.com



Pentecost Offering April 5 – May 23, 2021

Investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By contributing to the Pentecost Offering, you will be nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

your impact

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. **40% of the** Pentecost offering will be retained by our congregation to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please consider giving a donation to the Pentecost Offering. Your contribution can make a difference.

Checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church Washington" with "Pentecost Offering" in the Memo.

Thank you,
The Stewardship Committee



Minute for Mission:
Ministries with Youth

BLOOD DONATIONS

ARE
Essential



American
Red Cross

Blood Drive **First Presbyterian Church of** **Washington**

Fellowship Hall
40 E. Church Street
Washington, NJ 07882

Saturday, May 1, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Appointments are encouraged. To schedule an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor keyword: **ARC FPCW**

For a limited time, the American Red Cross will test all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service to our donors.

On day of donation eat a healthy meal a few hours before, drink extra water and bring your ID!

Use Rapid Pass to save 15 minutes on the day of the drive, go to redcrossblood.org/RapidPass

send to church, attn Ellen Kalnins



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass



Scan to schedule
an appointment

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

©2021 The American National Red Cross | 329801-4

[45] • Order ID: 1984341 • Item ID: 3621089 • Qty: 1 of 1 • 02/25/2021 • ANZ1 • 214910

Need help navigating the sign up for a Covid vaccine?



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
NATURE • HISTORY • DEVELOPMENT
Minute for Mission

Maybe we can help!

The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church are offering assistance to those who are eligible for the vaccine and would like help in getting an appointment.

If you could use help in signing up for a vaccine appointment, please contact Pauline Albrecht at paulineandnevin@gmail.com or text/call 908-763-1954.

You will be assigned to a Deacon who will do his/her best to assist you.

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Facebook Live 8:00am	2 Facebook Live 8:00am	3
4 Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am HAPPY EASTER! 	5	6 No Facebook Devotions Deacon's Meeting 7:00 pm	7 No Facebook Devotions	8 No Facebook Devotions	9 Facebook Live 8:00am	10
11 Worship In-Person/ Facebook Live 10:30 am	12	13 No Facebook Devotions	14 No Facebook Devotions	15 No Facebook Devotions	16 No Facebook Devotions	17
18 Worship In-Person/ Facebook Live 10:30 am	19	20 Facebook Live 8:00am	21 Facebook Live 8:00am	22 Facebook Live 8:00am	23 Facebook Live 8:00am	24
25 Worship In-Person/ Facebook Live 10:30 am	26	27 Facebook Live 8:00am	28 Facebook Live 8:00am	29 Facebook Live 8:00am	30 Facebook Live 8:00am	

