

Grace Presbyterian News

April 2017

Holy Week Events – Palm Sunday, April 9, through Easter Day, April 16

Easter arrives Sunday, April 16, 2017, and the week preceding it is properly known as Holy Week. (“Easter Week” is the week which begins on Easter Day.) Holy Week is holy because of the events in the life of Jesus that are pivotal for our faith in him as Lord and Savior. The Palm Sunday “parade,” the Triumphal Entry, finds Jesus entering Jerusalem to the shouts of people who may or may not have known all they were saying in hailing him as Son of David. On Maundy Thursday, betrayal is on the mind of Judas Iscariot and Peter dissolves into tears when he denies Jesus. Faithful women stand at the cross on Good Friday, to witness the death of their teacher, healer and Lord, the Savior of the world. Some of those same women make the early Sunday morning journey to the tomb, but, finding it empty, hear from a heavenly messenger that Christ is risen. These women then have the first evangelical burden – to tell a doubtful world the good news that sin is conquered and death has died. We re-live these events through worship, Word, Sacrament, music, and holy fellowship with one another. I hope that you will make it a priority to attend and actively participate in the events of Holy Week and Easter.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, we sing “All Glory, Laud and Honor” to the Jesus who comes to save us from sin (though not in the way we might have imagined.) Children and families from Grace Presbyterian Day School have been invited to worship with us this day and join the Palm Sunday procession. Please linger after worship to welcome our guests. The service on this day concludes with the responsive reading of the Passion Narrative.

On Maundy Thursday, April 13, we gather at 6:30 p.m. for a meal of sacrificial soup. At about 7:30 p.m. following our simple meal, we worship as though in the Upper Room, with choral anthems, congregational hymns, Scripture, sermon, the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, as well as some of the historic liturgy for Holy Week and concluding with the “stripping of the church,” in which we remove the paraments and other objects normally used in worship, so that Good Friday finds the sacred space bare.

On Good Friday, April 14, the beloved service of Tenebrae is held in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. This simple but powerful service of Scripture, music, and the extinguishing of candles, is a church liturgy of long standing, which helps put us in mind of the depth of God’s love for us in Christ.

On Easter morning, April 16, the community sunrise service will be held at 7:00 a.m. at Bartlett First Assembly of God, 7981 Summer Avenue (Highway 70). At our 11:00 service, we praise, pray, preach and proclaim the joy of the resurrection in our 11:00 worship. A fellowship lunch and a “mini” egg hunt will follow the worship service.

Game Nights – Friday, March 31, and Friday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering – Saturday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. at Cordova Church

Tuesday at the Cross concludes April 4, at 5:30 p.m.

Young Adult Outing – Saturday, April 22, at 5:00 p.m.

May 7 – Lunch after church at Pinecrest Camp in Fayette County

Palm Cross Making Pot Luck – Saturday, April 8, at 6:00 p.m.

Many of us have come to enjoy and benefit spiritually from the palm cross making pot luck on the night before Palm Sunday. It is good to eat together and then to shape the palm fronds into the cross shape. These are then given to and worn by worshippers on Palm Sunday. We start the meal at 6:00 p.m. in order to have more time for the palm cross making.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 15, at 10:30 a.m.

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Children up through 5th grade are invited to hunt for eggs, and families are invited to stay for a light lunch after the egg hunt. Please help us fill up enough eggs by donating non-chocolate candy to fill eggs with. There is a donation box in the hallway as well as a sign up sheet for donations for lunch and egg hunt duties. We will have an egg-stuffing gathering on Sunday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m., to which all are welcome. We will also have a small egg hunt after the potluck lunch on Easter Sunday, April 16. Questions? Ask Cristaldawn

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings in April

The Night Circle meets Monday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

The Day Circle meets Tuesday, April 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

Youth Earth Day Flowerbed Project - Sunday, April 23rd

We will gather after worship to work on putting in a flowerbed outside the middle entrance of the building. Any willing adult volunteers are welcome to join us. Lunch will be provided. Please consider making a donation toward the purchase of flowers and supplies.

Let's Go to the Memphis Redbirds Baseball Game – Friday, April 28

We plan to go as a group to the Memphis Redbirds baseball game on Friday, April 28. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. The cost is \$16 for the ticket, and a hot dog, and a drink, and a cap. What a deal! Please sign up on the Friendship pads and check the posters on the doors of the church and bulletin board for more info.

Confirmation Class

Pastor Mike Krech is offering a confirmation class for children and youth in the church family age 10 and over. This is an opportunity to learn and think about what it means to profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become a full, active member of the church. The meeting schedule can be flexible, tailored to the needs of those interested in attending. We would meet four times in the period between Easter and Pentecost (April 16 to June 4).

The Ringing Collection for Memphis Youth Mission

Loose coins placed in the offering plates during the offertory in worship April-June will be used for Memphis Youth Mission (MYM), a new ministry that brings college, high school and middle school youth from around the country to serve Christ in Memphis. MYM is based at First Presbyterian downtown where the groups will stay during a week of community service work. MYM partners with local nonprofits that work with some of Memphis' most vulnerable people and neighborhoods. The groups will tutor kids in reading, work in community gardens, share meals with homeless people, run summer camps, meet St. Jude patient families and learn about Memphis' Civil Rights and music heritage. This is a new and exciting way that our Presbytery is helping young people develop their faith and equipping them for the church's future. Your giving will help subsidize scholarships for those whose families struggle to afford summer activities as well as supplement MYM's hospitality of popsicles and cool drinks for people living on the streets during the hot summer months. MYM is very grateful for Grace Presbyterian's support. Please cultivate the habit of bringing some coins to put into the offering regularly for mission.

Weekly Events at Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday Prayer and Praise begins at 9:30 p.m. We sing and pray by name for those on the prayer list

Sunday School, for all ages and 2 adult classes, led by John Price and Bob Gammon, at 9:45 p.m.

Sunday Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

Bell choir rehearsal is held most Sundays after worship at about 12:00 noon.

Chapel for the Extended Care is held on Mondays at 4:15 p.m.

Choir rehearsals are held in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

GrandPals read to children in the preschool on Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Mustard Seed program for children in the day school meets on Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					March 31 4:00pm Mustard Seed 6:30 p.m. Game Night <i>Ken Hathaway</i>	1 9:30 a.m. Presbyterial PW at Cordova
2 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship/ Lent 5 12:00 Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal <i>Grace Lawson</i>	3 4:15p Chapel for Extended Care <i>Sierra Fry</i>	4 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Cross <i>Jojo Benassi Katherine Fitzgerald</i>	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7 11:00 am GrandPals read to pre-schoolers 4:00pm Mustard Seed	8 6:00 p.m. Palm Cross Making Pot Luck <i>Jean Markham</i>
9 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship/ Palm Sunday Fellowship w day School visitors 2:30p Easter Egg Stuffing	10 No chapel 7:00 pm PW Night Circle	11 10:00 a.m. PW Day Circle	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Brooks Keiser</i>	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Soup Dinner 7:30 Worship/ Communion	14 Good Friday No GrandPals 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service	15 10:30 a.m. Egg Hunt
16 7:00a Community Sunrise @ Bartlett Assembly of God 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship Easter Day Dinner and egg hunt following <i>Chuck Walker</i>	17 4:15p Chapel for Extended Care 5:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	18	19 No Choir Rehearsal <i>Greg Elmore</i>	20	21 4:00pm Mustard Seed 6:30 p.m. Game Night	22 5:00 p.m. Young Adult Outing
23 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship/ Easter 2 <i>Jere Lawson</i>	24 4:15p Chapel for Extended Care	25	26 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28 4:00pm Mustard Seed 7:05 Redbirds Game first pitch <i>Bill McGoldrick</i>	29
30 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship/ Easter 3/ Communion <i>Kris Benassi</i>		<i>Linda Hunter</i>				

Elders Serving Communion

April 13 (Maundy Thursday):

**Ken Hathaway, Bob Harrold, Harold Howard,
Mary Korowin, John Price**

April 30:

**Ruth Ellen Cox, Sandi Kehrli, Emily Mayne,
Janet Vawter, Marilyn Wilson**

Usher Schedule

April 2: Jim & Susan Pickren

April 9: Ken Hathaway & Harold Howard

April 13 (Maundy Thursday):

Bob Harrold & Ruth Ellen Cox

April 16: Ken Hathaway & Harold Howard

April 23 & 30:

Hugh Bishop & Frances Kitterman

Closing Elder:

April 2: Jean Markham

April 9: John Price

April 16: Bob Harrold

April 23: John Gordon

April 30: Paula Bishop

Scripture Readings for Worship:

April 2: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 9: Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 24;
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

April 13 (Maundy Thursday):

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116;
1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17,31b-35

April 16 (Easter): Jeremiah 31:1-6;
Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

April 23: Acts 2:14a,22-32; Psalm 16;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 30: Acts 2:14a,36-41; Psalm 116;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

A Prayer for Palm Sunday

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who today entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Grant that we who bear our palm branches may follow him in the way of the cross and that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory everlasting. Amen.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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Sent With Love To: