

Grace Presbyterian News

March 2024

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter – All in March 2024

The five Sundays of March 2024 take us through the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays in Lent, Palm/Passion Sunday on March 24 and Easter, March 31. Other events for Holy Week are described below. It will be good to be together in person in worship, but we also plan to livestream all services from the link at our website www.grace-pres.org.

Pastor Mike Krech

Nursery Available During Worship for Children 5 Years Old and Younger

Childcare in the nursery is available during worship for children 5 years old and younger in Room 103.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School meets in person Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for children, youth, and adults. The adult class is studying First Samuel, as Matthew Smith leads us. Children and youth study lessons related to the day's lectionary readings.

Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Morning prayer on Zoom continues each Wednesday in March 2024. Email Mike at jmkrech@yahoo.com to receive the link to join us. You will get an email by Tuesday noon with the link to join the Zoom chat. We try to open the room by 9:20 a.m. so we can visit, start at 9:30, and end by 10:00.

Thursday Night Book Group at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Thursday night book group sessions on March 7, 14, and 21, we read *A Place Called Home* by David Ambroz. Becky Stirling will be leading this study. For more information or to be added to the list receiving the links by email, send an email to: jmkrech@yahoo.com

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 10

Most of the nation, including Tennessee, begins to observe Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 10. Be sure to note that as you plan to be part of Sunday School or Worship on that date.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings on Zoom (Lesson 7)

Night Circle meets Monday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. in person and on Zoom.

Day Circle meets Tuesday, March 12, at 10:00 a.m. in person and on Zoom.

Bartlett Area Chorus

Bartlett Area Chorus has resumed rehearsals in our sanctuary most Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. Their new director is Tom Machen. The spring concert is scheduled for May 30.

Palm Cross Making, Easter Egg Hunt Prep, and Game Night – Friday, March 22

“You got palm cross on my game night; you got game night on my palm cross.” Stop, stop, you’re both right (to mix a couple of lines from some old TV commercials.) So on Friday, March 22, come at 6:00 p.m. to fashion palm crosses to be worn on Palm Sunday, March 24. Bring snacks if you like. Many hands make light work (once you figure it out). We will also make goodie bags for the Easter Egg hunt, and then shift to monthly game night, held this month on the fourth Friday since the fifth Friday is Good Friday. So, come to one, come to two or all three, eat, or don’t eat, and we hope a good time will be had by all.

Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 24; Maundy Thursday, March 28; Good Friday, March 29

Palm/Passion Sunday is March 24. 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. We look forward to the children processing about the sanctuary waving their palm branches during the hymn. Palm Sunday is also Passion Sunday and the service on this day concludes with reading the Passion Narrative (this year from Mark) with members of the church taking various parts along with several responses by the entire congregation.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28, the “sacrificial soup” meal begins at 6:30 p.m. This meal follows the pattern of the early church’s evening fellowship meals or love feasts, held prior to their formal sharing of Communion. Worship begins at 7:30 p.m. This service celebrates the institution of the Lord’s Supper, and so we celebrate this sacrament. This service also incorporates some of the church’s ancient liturgy associated with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and concludes with the “stripping of the church,” in which worshipers remove items used in the sanctuary so that the church is bare and without decoration or adornment on Good Friday.

On Good Friday, March 29, we also worship at 7:30 p.m. This is the service of Tenebrae, a series of Scripture readings and the extinguishing of candles, emblematic of the gathering darkness surrounding the crucifixion, punctuated by three sung solos of Holy Week texts. This service also contains some ancient liturgy and practices, particularly the “loud knocking,” indicative of resurrection, the first glimmer of hope of Easter.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 30, at 11:00 a.m.

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 by donating candy and small prizes (we have plenty of plastic eggs). There is a donation box in the narthex as well as sign-up sheets for donations for items needed for lunch and for set up, clean up, and other egg hunt duties. This is also a chance to give to the community as the Grace Childcare children are invited with their families.

We will also have a small egg hunt after potluck on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

We will sort eggs and make candy goodie bags along with Palm Cross Making and Game Night on Friday, March 22nd at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Cristaldawn Smith at revmiss2002@yahoo.com

Community Easter Sunrise Worship, March 31, at 7:00 a.m. at Ellendale United Methodist

On Easter, March 31, the Bartlett-Ellendale Association of Churches’ sunrise service will be held at 7:00 a.m. at Ellendale United Methodist Church, 7217 Centralia Road.

Easter Worship, Lunch, Egg Hunt – March 31

Easter service on March 31 at Grace Presbyterian Church is at 11:00 a.m. After worship there will be a pot luck lunch and an egg hunt for the children.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship/ Communion In Person & Live Stream Lent 3 <i>Michelle Clifford</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Book Study Group on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Chorus</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1/8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2/9</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal <i>2nd:</i> <i>Patsy Krech</i> <i>9th:</i> <i>Casey Kehrl</i> <i>Linda Young</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Lent 4/LindaJo McKim</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Night Circle in person and on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Day Circle in person and on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Book Study Group on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Chorus</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal <i>Al Hayes</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Lent 5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Session Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom <i>Suzanne Wood</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Book Study Group on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Chorus</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Palm Cross Making Bring snacks if desired 7:00 p.m. Game Night</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Palm Sunday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7:30 p.m. Worship/ Communion <i>Anna Tate</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>Good Friday 7:30 Tenebrae</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt <i>Carmen Keenan</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Easter Day 7:00 Sunrise Service Ellendale UMC 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Easter Lunch and egg hunt following</p>	<p>Names <i>in italics</i> on a certain day indicate that day is that person's birthday</p>					

Readings to prepare for Worship:

Mar. 3: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Mar. 10: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 103
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Mar. 17: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Mar. 24: Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 24;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 11:1-11; 14:10-15:39

Mar. 31: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

A Prayer for Lent

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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Sent With Love To: