

Grace Presbyterian News

April 2023

Palm Cross Making and Game Night – Friday, March 31

“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.) On Friday, March 31, come at 6:00 p.m. to fashion palm crosses to be worn on Palm Sunday, April 2. Bring snacks if you like. Many hands make light work (once you figure it out), and then the food and focus will shift toward the regularly scheduled game night. So, come to one, come to both, eat, or don’t eat, and we hope a good time will be had by all. The palm crosses are given to worshipers to be worn about the neck on Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week if you so choose.

Masks Now Optional in Worship

The session voted at its most recent meeting to revise the mask advisory from “recommended” to “optional” in worship. On April 2 the friendship pads will return, and we will again pass the offering plates during the offertory in the worship service. That said, if you prefer to place your offering in the plates at the doors on your way into or out of the church, please do so. We will continue to pass the peace at distance by gestures of welcome but not handshakes and embraces. Please respect the decisions of those who prefer to continue to wear masks and give people space for safety. We continue to live stream the services. Go to our website www.grace-pres.org for the link to the live stream.

Palm Sunday, April 2; Maundy Thursday, April 6; Good Friday, April 7

Palm/Passion Sunday is April 2. 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 Matthew) with members of the church taking various parts along with several responses by the entire congregation.

On Maundy Thursday, April 6, the “sacrificial soup” meal returns for the first time since 2019. 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, April 7, 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 Is April 9 – We Host the Community Sunrise Worship at 7:00 a.m.

On Easter, April 9, the Bartlett-Ellendale Association of Churches’ sunrise service will be held at 7:00 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church. The sermon will be given by Dr. Jonathan McReynolds, recently called as pastor of Fullview Missionary Baptist Church.

Easter Worship, Lunch, Egg Hunt, Picture Taking – April 9

Easter service on April 9 at Grace Presbyterian Church is at 11:00 a.m. After worship there will be a potluck lunch and an egg hunt for the children. We hope to begin taking family pictures that day both for your personal use and for the publication of a new church pictorial directory very soon.

PW Gives Opportunities for April

Our PW Gives focus for April offers 2 opportunities:

Easter Sunday, April 9 - provide muffins or juice for the Community Sunrise Service that will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church. Your muffins or juice should be at the church by April 8 and labeled Sunrise Service and put in the church refrigerator. We need 10 dozen muffins, 4 half gallon containers of no pulp orange juice and 2 or 3 half gallons of apple juice. Please email or text Sandy Kehrli with what you will donate so that she can keep us from duplicating! sandy.kehrli@gmail.com or 901-550-8101

Egg Hunt - Candy and small prizes are needed for the Egg Hunt on April 8. Please bring these to the Palm Cross making on Friday, March 31, or on Sunday, April 2. Also, please sign up on the list in the Narthex for the other items needed for the lunch and for set up, clean up, and other activities on the list. This is also a chance to give to the community as the PreSchool children are invited with their families. Cristaldawn Smith is in charge of this event - revmiss2002@yahoo.com

Thanks in advance for your donations of items and time!

There will be several church social opportunities in the next few weeks, so our next PW Gives potluck will be in May. We will let everyone know soon about the date and the giving focus.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 8, at 11:00 a.m.

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, led by John Price, is studying the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. 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 April 2023. 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.

Presbyterian Women Circles at Church and on Zoom (Lesson 8)

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

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

If you have questions or need the Zoom link, email patsykrech@gmail.com

Thursday Night Study Group on Zoom – New Study Begins April 13

With thanks to LindaJo and Don McKim for their leadership during the study focus on Christ and the Church Year during Lent, the next study begins on April 13, with Charles Dickens' A Life of the Lord. This will be a two-session series, April 13 and 20. A new study, yet to be determined, will begin April 27. If you were not part of previous Thursday night studies, but would like to join this one, send Pastor Mike Krech an email at jmkrech@yahoo.com.

Game Night Friday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m.

We meet at the church for fellowship, games, and trivia. Bring snacks as early as 6:30 p.m.

April 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Palm/Passion Sunday</p> <p><i>Grace Lawson</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p><i>Sierra Fry</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Sacrificial Soup Meal</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Worship</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">1/8</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Choir (1&8) 11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt (8th) <i>Judy Rutkauskas (1st)</i> <i>Jean Markham (8th)</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>7:00 Sunrise Service 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Easter 12:00 noon Dinner, Egg Hunt, Pictures</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Night Circle in person and on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Day Circle in person and on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p><i>Brooks Keiser</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Charles Dickens' Life of the Lord Study on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Easter 2</p> <p><i>Chuck Walker</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Session Mtg. on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>Johnson Auxiliary 50th anniversary celebration</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p><i>Greg Elmore</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Charles Dickens' Life of the Lord Study on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">21</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Presbyterian PW Gathering at Idlewild 9:30 a.m. Choir</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship/ Communion In Person & Live Stream Easter 3</p> <p><i>Jere Lawson</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">24</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p><i>Linda Hunter</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Study on Zoom</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Game Night</p> <p><i>Bill McGoldrick</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Easter 4</p> | | | | | | <p>Names <i>in italics</i> on a certain day indicate that day is that person's birthday.</p> |

Scripture Readings for Worship:

April 2 (Palm Sunday): Isaiah 50:4-9;

Psalm 24 Philippians 2:5-11;

Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14-27:54

April 6 (Maundy Thursday):

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116;

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17,31-35

April 9 (Easter): Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118;

Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

April 16: Acts 2:14,22-32; Psalm 16;

1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 23: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19;

1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;

1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

A Prayer for Easter

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son, you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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