



# PRESBY BEACON



*"Shining the Light of Christ in the Mon Valley"*

April 2021

## From the Pastor

### Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

That is the cry from churches around the world this week and for the past 2000 years, as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. In our country some celebrated with Easter egg hunts, or with new clothes, or with special baked goods (yum), and some with attending church. Others simply enjoyed another day of life, not realizing or even caring what this special week was about.

I'd like to hear about your Easter traditions. How do you observe the season? When I was small my mother and grandmother would bake up until the day. On the Thursday before Easter, we went to St. Matthews for the service. The priest would wash the feet of the elders of the church, and we would remember Jesus' last meal. On Good Friday our Baba (grandmother) kept strict rules from 12 – 3 p.m.: No laughing, playing, radio, TV, etc. Jesus was on the cross those hours and we needed to be sad.

Then, on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter), they would fill baskets with their Easter food—part of a ham, a bowl of butter, rolls, decorated eggs, and lots of cakes—and head to the church to have their food blessed. I always wondered about this practice, but I'll tell you, the food always seemed to taste better after it was blessed!

Of course, in the midst of all of this we had to go down the street to buy our Easter outfits complete with hats and gloves and purses! You couldn't have Easter without a new dress and hat!

My, how things have changed. While some still dress up for Easter Sunday, generally we have

relaxed our dress code, and the busyness of our lives has squeezed out some of the services and practices of the season. But one thing hasn't changed: we see people in church on Easter Sunday (and Christmas Eve) that we haven't seen all year long. (I call them CEOs—*Christmas and Easter only*. If you are a CEO, we're glad to see you whenever you make it here!)

The lives of people in our society are so busy that church has to take a back seat. And with the restrictions of this past year, it is even harder (if it isn't your job to be there) to get up and out of the house for church. We can worship online from home, while doing the dishes, after all.

And yet, Easter still lives in our hearts. You see, it isn't the trappings of the season that makes a difference in our hearts and lives, but the Christ of the season. It isn't how many days you are in church that makes you a Christian, but how deeply the Spirit of God lives within your Spirit, redeeming and resurrecting you as God resurrected Christ.

Now that doesn't mean I don't want to see you at church. You see, although we worship together to be encouraged and strengthened, that isn't the only purpose. Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another, to serve one another as He served them. And that is what church is about. Since we are resurrected from the sin of death by the Spirit of God, we come to church so we can be the body of Christ to those who need to hear the message, to those who are hurting and need to know the love of the One who is risen. Alleluia!

Blessings!



Considering joining First Presbyterian? Just want more information about what it means to be a Christian, Presbyterian, or a “First Presbie”? Then join us after church on Sundays, April 18, 25, and May 2, 2021, as we explore those topics and learn more about one another. Whether you are a member of the church already, a long-time attender who hasn’t joined, or a newbie who thinks you *might* want to get involved, you are welcome to join us for these sessions as we learn about one another, the church, and Christ’s call to us.

After worship we will head downstairs for a light lunch and talk about our faith stories, experiences, and what the Bible tells us about the church. Attending doesn’t mean you *have* to join the church. It is truly a “seeker’s” experience, though we hope you will! The plan is to receive our new members during worship on Sunday, May 23rd.

***Register in church or call the church office to let us know you will be attending the series. We need to know how much food to prepare. This will be a COVID-safe event.***

If you cannot attend in person, let Pastor know. Pastor Mary Kay and one of the elders will be available to meet with you personally.

For more information, see Pastor Mary Kay.

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## **April Birthdays**



- April 6- Kristen Tetil
- April 7 - Kathy Rice
- April 14- June Exley  
Bill Kunca
- April 17- Susan Strenske
- April 21- Christopher Horan
- April 24- Chris Guess
- April 26- Mary Beth Burkley  
Bill Callaway  
Carin Rudolph
- April 28- Fred Exley

## **April Anniversaries**



- April 25- Dennis & Karen Lynn
- April 28- Fred & Linda Aten

***Does your special day not appear here, or that of another member? Contact the church office to help us update our records.***

## **Food & Fellowship Returns-- TAKE OUT**

In the past year we have missed our Food & Fellowship program, and the Hunger Fund that benefited from the donations has missed us! This April 20<sup>th</sup>, Food & Fellowship will return. The meal will be take out only, and if the weather allows, we may have opportunities for outdoor fellowship on the lawn. Watch the bulletin or contact Jane Bonari for more information.

## **Little Things for Little People**



This month First Presbyterian provided the volunteers for the Little Things for Little People distribution program. Thank you to those who could help with this! We were all touched with how appreciative the mothers are to obtain items they need for their babies. There were over 35 families who came. Most brought their little ones this month because there was an appearance by the Easter Bunny. Thank you to all who contribute to help keep this program thriving for families in need. For more information, see Diane Boatman.

## **April Communion Offering**

On the first Sunday of each month, we take an additional, special missions offering. The Mission Committee schedules these offerings to support varied ministries throughout the year.



April's Communion offering goes to **Pine Springs Camp**. **Pine Springs** is a summer program where each camper learns about Jesus Christ through several fun activities at camp.

Do you have a memory of time at Pine Springs? Send Pastor a note about your memories. Let's get our kids to camp this year!

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Around the world, 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.

As in the past, this year, you are making a difference! On Easter Sunday, when we received our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we as a church made a difference.

Your donations will change the world through these three different PCUSA programs. For an interactive map of what you accomplish through OGHS, go to [pcusa.org/oghsmmap](http://pcusa.org/oghsmmap).

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** Receives 32% of funds raised  
Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees

**PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)** Receives 36% of funds raised  
Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)** Receives 32% of funds raised  
Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues

Thank you for being a part of fulfilling God's word in Isaiah 58: "You shall be repairers of the breach." If you haven't submitted your OGHS offering yet, we'll be receiving them through next Sunday. *Together, we are the Church!*

## **Deacons' News**

Our deacon board met in February and elected their officers for 2021:

Moderator: Susan Aten

Vice Moderator: Marguerite Patterson

Secretary: Anne McCorkle

We want to thank these women for leading us as we minister in the congregation and beyond.

The Book of Order of the PCUSA tells us: *The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8–15) is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress (Acts 6:3, 5, 6.) Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.*

Thanks to each of our members who have answered the call to serve as deacons in our congregation. We pray for you as you serve Christ, this church, and our community..

### **Class of 2021:**

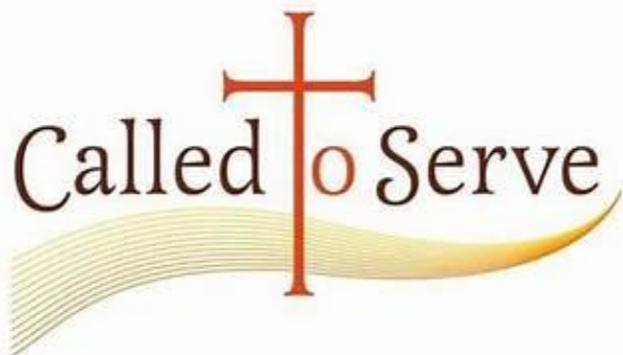
Diane Boatman, Janet Garlits, Judy Latchem

### **Class of 2022:**

Susan Aten, Anne McCorkle, Kerry McCorkle, Barb Peters.

### **Class of 2023:**

Marguerite Patterson, Dennis Peters, Patty Gillon, and Eileen Kunca



## **Leadership Retreat**

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

**9 am to 1 pm**

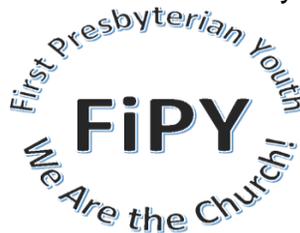
Deacons and Elders and other leaders in the church are asked to attend our annual leadership retreat. We were unable to meet last year because of the shutdown, but this year we are on track.

The annual leadership retreat is an important part of learning, planning, and visioning for the future of the church. It is also a time to build fellowship and relationships among our leaders.

We will have continental breakfast and snack items provided, as well as coffee, tea, etc. If you have a special request, please call the church office.

Attendees are asked to bring a Bible, a calendar for planning, a notebook, and any documentation they have for their position/committee in the church. If we need to do so, we will broadcast the meeting on Zoom, but we would rather meet in person.

Thank you for your service to FPC and to the Body of Christ. For more information, please contact Pastor Mary Kay.



**FPC Middle- and  
High-school Youth  
On the  
Move!**

Sundays at 6:30 pm  
fellowship hall.

**Youth Hand Chime chorus** meets at 7:15 p.m. Adults are invited to help and ring with us!

### **Items on our agenda in coming months:**

- ☺ Build and stock Blessing box on FPC campus
- ☺ Plan, build, and care for a community garden here at FPC
- ☺ Work on the labyrinth next to the Parish House as a place for meditation and prayer

**Adults, we need your help to accomplish what we believe God is calling us to do in our church and for our community. Watch for opportunities to pitch in!**

# Pine Springs Camp News

## **Time for Summer Camp!**

It's time to start thinking about summer camp. We are blessed in this area with an amazing campground, Pine Springs. Although it was canceled last year, they have rescheduled camp and reduced the number of campers by almost 50% to allow for social distancing and safe fun and play. Pine Springs is excited about sharing the love of God through Jesus Christ to hundreds of campers this summer!

You can view the 2021 summer camp brochure online at [www.flipsnak.com/pinespringscamp](http://www.flipsnak.com/pinespringscamp). Scholarships and assistance are available for children and youth wanting to attend. Register soon!

## **Kid's Retreat—Spring Fusion**

Plan now to bring or send your 4th to 6th graders to FUSION, May 1, 2021. This retreat at PSC will provide an amazing environment where campers can grow in their faith and have a "vital encounter with Jesus Christ." All safety protocols will be in place, and spaces will be limited to allow for social distancing. More information will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and the next newsletter.

*Pine Springs Camp is co-sponsored by the Redstone and Washington Presbyteries. The message of Pine Springs Camp has not changed in 70 years. Christ has changed the lives of thousands of children and adults through the ministry of Pine Springs Camp and we are committed to doing God's work for the next 70 years.*

*Come join us and be a part of the next 70 years of Pine Springs Camp's history.*

*Your support and participation makes a difference in the lives of every camper and retreat attendee.*



## **Women in the Woods Retreat**

Ladies, join us on Saturday, April 24th, at Pine Springs Camp for the Women in the Woods Retreat. This one-day retreat promises to renew your spirit and let you stretch your legs and shake off the months of lockdown! What a joy to gather together and reflect on God's faithfulness in the midst of a tremendously challenging year. Come prepared for great teaching, great food, and great fellowship. Bring your mom or sister, a "pod" of friends, or come solo. We will conduct all activities with recommended safety protocols. Because of protocols, attendees are limited, so register as soon as possible.

### **RETREAT DETAILS:**

**COST:** \$50 Can be paid online or at retreat. Scholarships may be available.

### **SCHEDULE for the DAY**

9:15 a.m. - Check in  
10:00 a.m. - First Session  
11:30 a.m. - Team Hike  
12:30 p.m. - Lunch  
2:00 p.m. - Adventure Activity or Garden Craft  
4:00 p.m. - Coffee Break- Small Groups (Refuge Deck)  
4:30 p.m. - Second Session and Campfire  
6:15 p.m. - Dinner Alfresco  
7:00 p.m. - Depart- Joyfully exhausted and replenished.

Pastor Mary Kay will be taking her van, which has room for six, if you want to car pool.

To register for the retreat go to

<https://www.pinesprings.org/women-in-the-woods-spring>, then click on "register now."

Create an account, then follow the instructions to register for camp. **YOU DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE ON THE MEDICAL RELEASE FORM.**

If you have any problems or need help, contact Pastor Mary Kay, who will help you through the process or register for you.

# April 2021

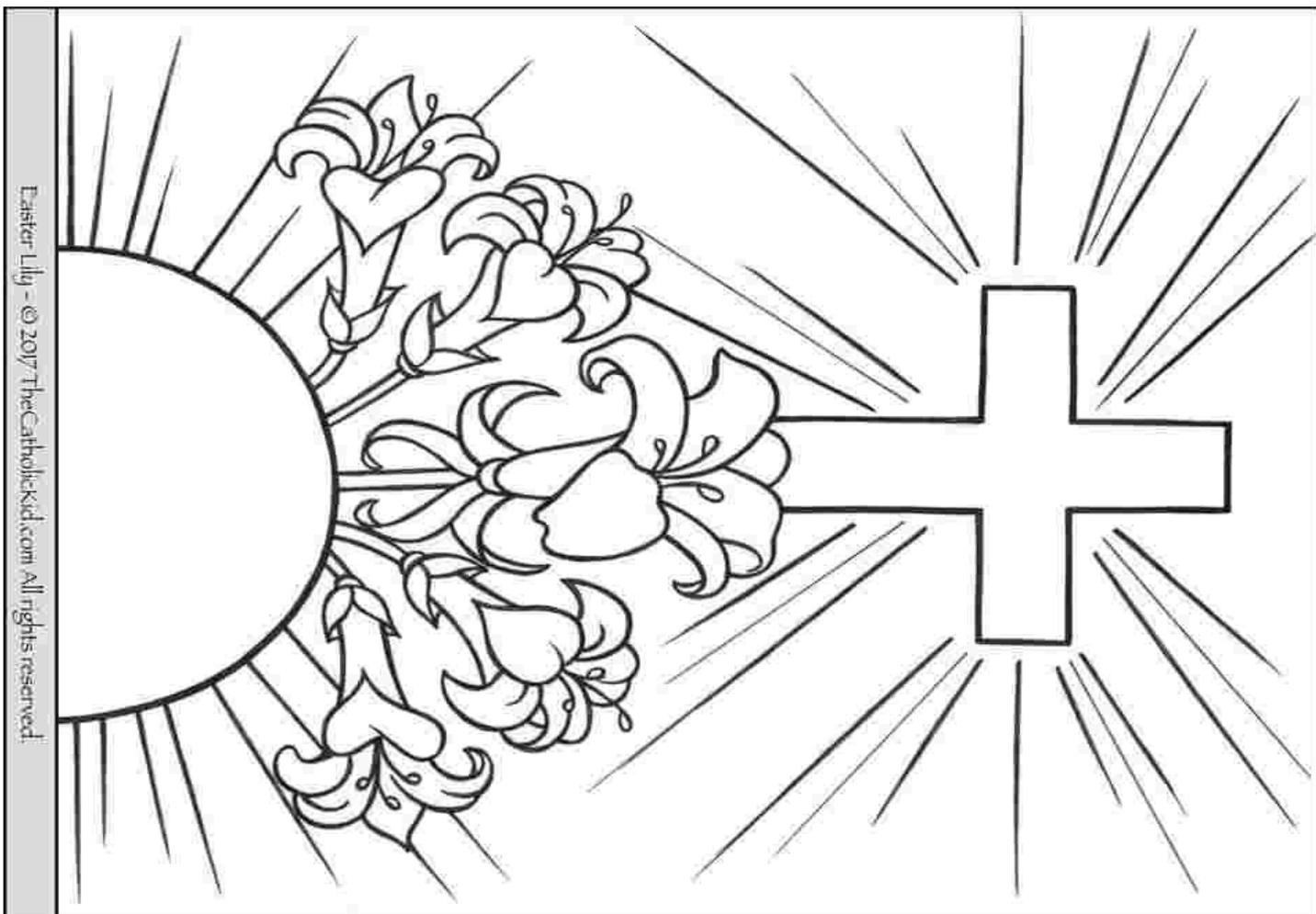
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Names marked with * = Birthday! ** = Anniversary!</p>						
<p>4 EASTER SUNDAY • Sunrise Service 7:30 am • Worship 10 am • No Youth Group</p>		<p>6 No Bible Study</p>	<p>7 Kathy Rice</p>	<p>8 Maunder Thursday 7 pm</p>	<p>9 Seven Last Words at (BVUMC) 12—3 pm</p>	<p>10 Fellowship Hall Reserved</p>
<p>11 • Worship 10 am • Youth Group 6:30 pm • Chimes 7:15 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Bible study 2 pm</p>	<p>14 *June Exley *Bill Kunca</p>	<p>15 Food Bank: Workers arrive 8 am Pick up 10:30—11:30 am Session meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Leadership Retreat 9 am to 1 pm (FH)</p>
<p>18 • Worship 10 am • New members luncheon • Youth Group 6:30 pm • Chimes 7:15 pm</p>	<p>19 Newsletter Articles Due Deacons Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>20 Take-Out Food and Fellowship Bible study 2 pm</p>	<p>21 Administrative Professionals Day Thank you, Gracie! *Chris Horan</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Women in the Woods One Day Retreat</p>
<p>25 • Worship 10 am • 2 cents a meal • New members luncheon • Youth Group 6:30 pm • Chimes 7:15 pm **Dennis &amp; Karen Lynn</p>	<p>26 *Mary Beth Burkley *Bill Callaway *Carin Rudolph</p>	<p>27 Bible study 2 pm</p>	<p>28 *Fred Exley **Fred &amp; Linda Aten</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

***Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World.....Together!***

## **Redstone Presbytery March Gathering Highlights**

- Led by Moderator Belinda Lambie (Colver), presbyters assembled both in Greensburg and from remote locations, *including some out of the area*. Inspiring music was provided by John Salveson and Robin Jennings of the host congregation.
- Interspersed in the meeting and connecting various parts was the use of the hymn, *"Each Christian Has A Calling"* by David Gambrell, associate for worship in the PCUSA.
- **Network activities and updates were reported from Healing/Prayer Ministry, Addictions Ministry and the newest network, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.**
- Rev. John Welch, from Pittsburgh Presbytery, proclaimed the Word, entitled "The Theology of a Climber" and based upon the story of Zaccheus reflecting the power of both sin and redemption in individuals and social groups.
- **Council encouraged consideration of the Matthew 25 initiative with a video offering where a few of the current congregations spoke of their experience and desire for other churches to join as well.**
- Eric Glisan was welcomed back into service as a ruling elder commissioned by the Presbytery to serve as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Masontown.
- **Rev. Philip Obang of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church brought greetings during the worship service. The offering was collected for this partnership.**
- Rev. Sylvia Carlson, on behalf of the Mission requested information from congregations on how they are extending local mission during this pandemic period.

***Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World.....Together!***



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501 Fayette Avenue  
Rostraver Twp. PA 15012

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Return Service Requested

*We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness. As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

**Church Offices:** 511 Fayette Avenue

**Office Hours:** M - F: 9 am to 1 pm

**Church Phone:** 724- 929-7616 **Fax:** 724-929-0209

**e-mail:** [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org)

**Web:** [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org)



Worship with us live or in person on

**Facebook:** **First Presbyterian Church Belle Vernon**

**You Tube:** **First Pres BV**

Copy of bulletin available on our website [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org)

**Sunday**

Sunday Worship: 10 am

Youth Group: 6:30 pm

Tuesday Bible Study: 2 pm