

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

April 2021

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.” Mark 16:6b, NRSV

When Lazarus was ill his sisters Martha and Mary sent for Jesus. When Jesus arrived, He was told that Lazarus had died and was buried. It was then that Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live...” (John 11:25, NRSV).

Jesus Christ was raised from death to show us the power of God.

There are many Old Testament prophecies which speak to the coming of God’s Messiah. Jesus was the fulfillment of those prophecies.

While Jesus was alive, he spoke to the disciples about His death and resurrection. In His resurrection, Jesus showed that the prophecies were true. He showed that we have the promise of eternal life when we trust in Him, when we call Him our Lord and Savior.

In the resurrection we know that Jesus’ death is not the end. It is the beginning. When we acknowledge that Jesus Christ died for our sins, we are saying that we believe he died for our sins. In dying for our sins, Jesus gives us new life to live in the Kingdom of God.

The good news of the Gospel is this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Pastor Susi



April Birthdays

- 9 Brian Weinsheimer
- 10 Doris Swartz
- 18 Denise Pillow
- 24 Mackenzie Carter
- 27 Neal Lloyd
- 28 Hannah Pillow
- 30 Read Lunsford

By
his
wounds
we are
healed.

ISAIAH 53:5

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering: Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

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.

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be received Easter Sunday, April 4th. A special envelope in your offering box. Your gifts enable the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful giving.

-- Mission & Service Committee

Greetings

from the
Worship and Music Committee

This year our committee consists of Pastor Susi, Sandra Minter, Denise Pillow and Brenda Linkenhoker. We would like to invite anyone interested in being on the W/M committee to please join us.

By the time you read this you will be in the midst of Holy Week activities. Our team worked diligently with our expert filming crew to tape the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. I think they were very moving services.

We would like to thank Sue and Lon Rollinson for all the work on a sound system for the choir. Without their expert sound advice, you would not be able to hear us.

As YOUR Worship and Music committee, we are interested in YOUR ideas and comments. It is our hope to grow First Pres, but it will take all of us to accomplish this task. So, Please, give us your thoughts.

Our next communion service is April 18.

The Rev. Terri Slate will be our guest minister on April 25.

Special Dates

The following services will be virtual-only and streamed on our YouTube channel at 7 p.m.:

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021
Good Friday, April 2, 2021

The following service will be both in-person and streamed on our YouTube Channel at 11 a.m.

Easter, Sunday, April 4, 2021



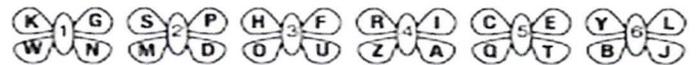
Tying Together the Testaments

In most non-English-speaking nations, the holy day of Easter is known by a word derived from the Hebrew word for Passover: *Pesach*. In Greek, it's *Pasch*; in Latin, *Pascha*; in Spanish, *Pascua*; and in French, *Paques*.

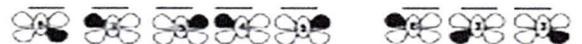
Each spring, Jewish people observe the Passover festival to commemorate how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Christian observance of the Lord's Supper (the Eucharist, Holy Communion or the Lord's Table) originated with Jesus sharing the Passover Seder meal with his disciples the night Judas betrayed him. Jesus connected the exodus story with his own mission: becoming a "Paschal Lamb" to save his people from the slavery of sin and its consequences.

Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



“ “ H



Answer: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him."

Pressing On

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

Dear friends and families,

I greet you all in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I give thanks to our God because He is our strength and all things are possible if we press on in our relationship with the Lord. We can take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of for us, as the apostle Paul said, "...But I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Phil. 3:12

I give thanks to God for each one of you. Your partnership with the PC(USA), the Greek Evangelical Church, and me affirms that together we trust God's power. Together we press on toward Christ Jesus' goal for us to bring his love to refugees, especially in Katerini, Greece.

Thank you very much for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support that make it possible for me to fulfill God's mission to reach many who are poor, hungry, sick, and strangers. We can believe in God's promise stated in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for one of the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I wish you all the best for the New Year 2021. As we press on, we walk closely with God and pray that God will perfect our imperfections. There are several special New Year's traditions in Greece. One has to do with the seeds of a pomegranate. The more seeds a pomegranate has, the luckier the family will be. On New Year's day many people serve a New Year's cake with a hidden coin inside. Whoever gets the piece of cake with the coin is considered blessed.

I thank God that several of my friends were able to relocate after many trials. A mother and her three children were able to leave Greece. After a long trip of 10 days, they reached a refugee camp in the country of their dreams. But within one week, they were informed that they had to move if the mother was not able to find a job at the camp. Thank God she found work in the camp's kitchen. The mother works six hours a day, five

days a week, and receives a stipend of 30 Euros per week. Even though this is not a lot of money, she agreed to this arrangement because she wants to stay near her relatives. They continue to write and call to check on me and tell me their news.

Health concerns are especially critical for the refugees. Specialists and hospitals are 1 ½ hours away in Thessaloniki. The restrictions due to the lockdown are difficult to understand for most refugees. Many do not leave their homes even for essential needs. On Monday, I visited a woman who is about to give birth but had not had any prenatal care. I contacted the social worker. She called the hospital and was able to make an appointment for the next day. Thank God she and her unborn baby are doing well, but she might need to go to Thessaloniki to deliver the baby.

I visited some new friends the Khorys who are Kurds from Syria. They had been introduced to Christianity in their travels and have now put their trust in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They asked me to visit them, share tea, and help their children with their English lessons. When I arrived, the father was baking Syrian bread. As soon as each loaf of bread was baked, he put some spread on it, and gave it to his children. In no time, it was gone. After an hour, he baked some bread for himself and sat down to eat it.

I told the parents a story of my family and our pastor Iskandar Abskhiron. One day he came to visit us when we were about to eat lunch. When he drew near, he saw that my mother had given each of us eight children our own loaf of bread. He suggested that it would be better to share each loaf by breaking each loaf of bread into pieces and to giving each child pieces of bread until all were filled. That way, each child could eat until they were satisfied, and no bread would be left over.

After telling the story, I suggested to the parents that they prepare all the food at one time and sit down together to eat after giving thanks to God. I then shared the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand from the Gospel of John, Chapter 6.

As we press on with our relationship with the Lord, he leads us to his goal for us and all brothers and sisters. I pray we continue to press on with the help of God, who strengthens us.

In Christ
Nadia Ayoub

**Presbytery of the Peaks
Two Cents-a-Meal Awards
2020**

Through the generosity of our congregations, \$33,836.64 has been awarded to community agencies, \$33,000.00 to regional, national and international agencies and \$1,500.00 to designated groups for a total of **\$68,336.64 in 2020.**

Local			
ACT (Area Churches Together) / Salem	\$ 1,000.00	Presbyterian Community Center / Roanoke	1,500.00
Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels / Amherst	1,400.00	Pulaski Daily Bread	1,700.00
Calfee Community & Cultural Center / Pulaski	1,400.00	Salem/ Roanoke County Food Pantry	1,500.00
Charlotte County Meals on Wheels	1,500.00	South Covington Care Pantry / Covington	1,300.00
Churches for Urban Ministry / Lynchburg	1,500.00	The Shelter / Radford	500.00
Clarksville PC Backpack Buddies	1,000.00	Urban Farm at God's Storehouse / Danville	1,400.00
Clifton Forge Area Food Pantry	500.00	Total Local Two Cents-a-Meal	\$33,836.64
COPE Food Pantry / Covington	1,200.00		
FACES / Farmville	1,500.00	Regional, National, International	
Feeding Pittsylvania Cty Summer 2020 Covid19 Relief	1,000.00	Christian Schools for Roma Children / Ukraine	3,000.00
First PC Community Breakfast / Martinsville	900.00	Cool Spring Leper Ministry /Uganda	2,500.00
Food for Kids / Bedford	1,036.64	Feeding America SWVA	11,250.00
God's Storehouse / Danville	1,400.00	Kalikumbi Feeding Program/Orphan Center / Malawi	3,000.00
Grace Network / Martinsville	1,500.00	Namulesa Evangel Rescuing Church / Uganda	2,000.00
Greene Memorial UMC's Summer Pack-A-Snack/Roanoke	1,000.00	Rise Against Hunger / Appomattox Prince Edward PC	1,000.00
Helping Hands Backpack / Narrows	1,000.00	Roma Mission Center / Ukraine	3,000.00
Lynchburg Daily Bread	1,500.00	Society of St. Andrew	6,250.00
Maysville PC Food Pantry	500.00	Smile of Joy Children's Center / Uganda	1,000.00
Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg	1,400.00	Total Regional, National, International Two Cents	\$33,000.00
Micah's Caring Backpack / Blacksburg	750.00		
Northern Pittsylvania County Food Center	1,000.00	Designated Gifts	
Northminster PC Blessing Box / Roanoke	750.00	Heifer Project	\$ 200.00
Northside Community Dinner / Blacksburg	1,200.00	Presbyterian Hunger Program	1,300.00
		Total Designated Gifts	\$1,500.00

Deadlines for Two Cents-a-Meal grant applications are April 1 and October 1. Applicants may apply one time each year. Contact Presbytery of the Peaks for more information: 1-888-557-3257 or office@peaksprebytery.org

"You give them something to eat." Mark 6:37

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Will Be Held In-Person and on Our YouTube Channel
 Devotions with Daniel Continue to Be Streamed on Our YouTube Channel
 Sunday School, Lenten Studies, Choirs and Meetings Are Held via Zoom

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Maundy Thursday Service on YouTube, 7p	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Good Friday Service on YouTube, 7p	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a EASTER	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Mission and Service Committee, 4p	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Worship and Music Committee + Staff, 11a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Finance Committee, 11a	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Session Meeting, 12:30p	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Newsletter Items Due, 10a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	

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